



2022/2023

Annual Report

Welcome to the Hobart Women's Shelter

We provide safe, emergency accommodation, housing and support to women and children affected by family violence and/or those experiencing homelessness.



www.hobartws.org.au

Message from the Chair and the CEO

It is with pride and gratitude that we present our Annual Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2023. While our service continues to be challenged due to the number of women and children seeking our support, we have much to celebrate.

The upcoming year marks a significant milestone for our organisation as we mark 50 years of commitment to our Mission. Through the years, our dedication to providing safe spaces for vulnerable women and families has only grown stronger.

Year in review:

Data and Impact

Over the past year, we have continued our efforts to support those in need. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, we provided crisis shelter and assistance to 240 women and children. Despite this, we were unable to accommodate a further 853 women and children who sought our help. This equates to turning away 8 out of every 10 women and children. This alarming statistic is more than double the national average of women who are turned away from crisis accommodation. This trend has been consistent over the last three years, further emphasising the pressing need for expanded resources and support.

Land Acquisition and building of our first 2 homes

We have made significant progress in our goal to build long-term homes. We are pleased to announce that we have secured additional land, providing further options for those in need of shelter.

Service Evolution

We have observed a trend of women and children staying longer in our Shelter, and we are committed to adapting our services to better support their diverse needs. Guided by our trauma-informed practice framework, we seek opportunities to implement place-based services, ensuring that we provide holistic care to those who seek our assistance.

Innovation and Expansion

We are embracing trauma-informed design, recognising the importance of creating safe and healing spaces for those we serve. Our infrastructure has also grown. With thanks to Homes Tasmania we have increased our transitional properties by 3, with plans to potentially increase our crisis units, allowing us to accommodate more women and children during their time of need.

Advocacy and Partnerships

Our work has continued to deliver Mentors in Violence Prevention workshops throughout

Tasmania, funded by the Tasmanian Community Fund and in partnership with Women's Legal Tasmania, Women's Health, and Engender Equality. In addition, in partnership with Women's Legal Tasmania, we have a lawyer based at our Shelter providing access to justice support for our families.

Earlier in the year, we were invited by the Minister for Social Service, the Hon Amanda Rishworth MP to meet with like-minded leaders from across the country, to talk about how the upcoming Safe Places funding can have the most impact.

Acknowledgments

None of our achievements would be possible without the continued support from the community and the dedication and tireless efforts of our staff, and volunteers. We also acknowledge the contribution of our Board members. We extend our gratitude to all who have contributed their time, resources, and expertise to further our Mission, and in particular to the generous philanthropic support we have received.

During our 2022 Annual General Meeting, Miriam Moreton, our Chair, stepped down from her role. Miriam has dedicated a remarkable 10 years of service on our Board, making invaluable contributions to our organisation's governance, strategic direction, and growth. We also bid farewell to Liz Gillam, who served on the Board for 7 years and chaired the Governance Committee. Liz played a pivotal role in collaborating with the Board and our management team to ensure the fulfillment of our governance responsibilities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Miriam and Liz for their outstanding dedication and contributions to our cause.

In closing, as we look forward to the future, we are reminded of the critical work that lies ahead. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing safe spaces, empowering individuals, and advocating for change. Together, we can build a brighter, safer future for women and children.

**Julia Hickey, Chair, and
Janet Saunders, CEO**



Our Year in Highlights

Interior and exterior renderings of our inaugural homes, created by Core Collective and Christopher Clinton Architects, encapsulating the trauma informed design principles of safety, flexibility, pet-friendliness, and sustainability, as emphasised through the use of materials and colours.



Creating Long-term Homes for Women and Children

In early 2022, we embarked towards an aspirational goal of building 25 new long-term homes for women and children by 2024. This is in addition to the Shelter's existing 25 emergency accommodation units – creating a total of 50 homes to mark 50 years of service. Whilst we have achieved so much already towards our goal, there is still a long way to go. We will continue our work beyond 2024 to build/create these homes.

Based on discussions with women and children with lived experience of family violence and/or homelessness, we are aiming to create homes that are uniquely designed to ensure safety, respect, and connection to community. Together with Core Collective and Christopher Clinton Architects, we have developed an architecturally- designed two-bedroom home. The design incorporates trauma-informed design principles.

Our Year in Numbers

1093

total number of women and children who sought assistance from the HWS - 508 women and 585 children

240

total number of women and children who received crisis assistance - 126 women and 114 children

853

total number of women and children unable to receive assistance - 382 women and 471 children

Total number of Accommodation Units

25 crisis units

7 transitional

properties (stays up to 2 years)

10 families

were supported in Transitional Accommodation

44%

of women had a long-term housing outcome

over **63%**

of women and children presented to the Hobart Women's Shelter due to family violence and housing stress

61 days

average stay time



Janet and Ruby from the Hobart Women's Shelter celebrate breaking ground at Herdsmans Cove with Chris Clinton, project architect, and the St Joseph Affordable Homes team in June!



Our First Two Homes at Herdsmans Cove

In April 2022, we purchased a block of land in Herdsmans Cove using donations from our supporters to build our first two homes. In June 2023, we commenced construction with our building partner St Joseph Affordable Homes. We anticipate our first two homes will be completed in December 2023 and ready just in time for two families at Christmas!

Our learnings from this prototype build will inform future development and strategy for the Shelter.

Due to the generosity of the Isabel Sims Endowment, the Elsie Flood Foundation, the Danks Trust, the Merridew Foundation, and all the individual donors, businesses, and consultants who have supported this project we are now two homes closer to our goal, and ready to deliver our prototype at scale.



The framework of our two homes at Herdsmans Cove

Kingborough Council Land Donation

In February 2023, Kingborough Council made a landmark decision to gift the Hobart Women's Shelter a significant parcel of land that will now be developed for up to 9 homes for women and children. Gifting of land is one of the main mechanisms identified for councils to support the development of social housing. This partnership with Kingborough Council is transformative in not only significantly helping us to achieve our goal, but also contributing to improving the educational, socio-economic, and health and well-being outcomes for women and children in the Council area.

Geeveston Land Donation

In June 2023, we spoke with an incredible donor who wishes to remain anonymous, who had aspired to build tiny homes for women and children on a block of land in the Geeveston area.

After hearing about our ambitious goal, the landowner decided to donate this significant block of land (over 8,500m²) to the Hobart Women's Shelter, for us to develop and/or sell to reinvest in long term homes for women and children facing homelessness. In determining which way to proceed, our assessment of this land will encompass the University of Melbourne's Transforming Housing Partnership principles.

We share our gratitude to this donor.

We look forward to exploring the opportunities that this donation may provide for either building more homes or providing a means to fund other builds.

2nd Women's Working Meeting

In March the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, hosted the 2nd Women's Housing Working Meeting at Government House. It was another incredible event, attended by over 90 leaders from national, state, and local government, philanthropy, and business. We came together to discuss the current state of housing for women and children in Tasmania and put out a call to action to rapidly increase the number of permanent homes available at the scale required. We heard from guest speakers:

- Emma Grey, Economics Manager at Impact Economics and Policy, about the economic impact and benefit of investing in new social and affordable housing for women and children fleeing violence, and
- Samantha Donnelly, Architect, Researcher, and Scholarly Teaching Fellow at the School of Architecture at the University of Technology Sydney, who demonstrated the importance of including Trauma Informed Design into crisis shelters and long-term homes.



Our First Fundraising Event

In June, Her Excellency offered the Hobart Women's Shelter the opportunity to use the annual celebration of the Birthday of his Majesty The King to raise funds in support of our Buy a Brick campaign. Together with 160 members of the Tasmanian community, we raised over \$26,890 towards building long term homes for women and children facing homelessness.

Thank you to Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC Governor of Tasmania and Emeritus Professor Don Chalmers AO and the team at Government House Tasmania for hosting a spectacular evening – and for your ongoing support, advocacy, and generosity to our organisation.

Bon Iver's Harmonious Support for the HWS

In February, we were asked by the incredible team at Bon Iver, to be the charity partner for their Hobart Concert as part of Mona Foma – and what an incredible event it was! With a stunning display table right in the centre of all the action, we took the opportunity to engage with hundreds of new supporters and raise over \$2,700 for our Buy a Brick campaign! The team met 5 or so individuals who themselves expressed that they had either stayed at the HWS previously or at other Shelters across Australia. To have those individuals purchase one of our clay houses and share their story was very powerful. Furthermore, we received a very generous donation of \$5,500 USD from Bon Iver and their #2ABillion Campaign.





Trauma Informed Design Proposals for the Hobart Women's Shelter created by students from the University of Technology Sydney: Interior Architecture Spatial Agency 2023. Partners, Rick and Anna from the Tasmanian Community Fund, Keirran and Ruby from the HWS, Samantha Donnelly, and Mohammad from Variety Tasmania, celebrating the launch of the project in March.

Pioneering Trauma Informed Design

With thanks to the support and generosity of the Tasmanian Community Fund, we have received \$180,000.00 of funding to modify our Therapeutic Programs and Recreation Rooms and improve our shared outdoor spaces and playground area. Guided by trauma informed design principles, we aim to make these areas feel calmer, safer, create a sense of home, and support more opportunities for socialising and recreational activity to better support the wellbeing of a micro-community of women and children who have experienced significant trauma by offering stabilisation and healing. Variety Tasmania and their partner, Hobart Airport have together generously committed an additional \$25,000 to support purchasing the trauma informed finishings and furnishings for the project.

This project is a unique collaborative partnership between the Hobart Women's Shelter, the Tasmanian Community Fund, Variety – the Children's Charity Tasmania, Hobart Airport, and Homes Tasmania. It is a partnership that seeks to pioneer the importance of trauma informed design for those who are working with, and who have experienced significant trauma, and to transform the provision of crisis accommodation in the sector.

Furthermore, this project has been generously supported by experts in trauma informed design and inclusive play, including Samantha Donnelly author of the 'Design Guide for Refuge Accommodation for Women and Children', Kim

Becherand – Head of Inclusive Play at Touched by Olivia, Dr. Ceridwen Owen – Associate Professor in Architecture and Design from the University of Tasmania, and architecture and design students from the University of Technology Sydney, and University of Tasmania.

We anticipate that this work will be completed in 2024.

Shelter-Based Specialist Lawyer

The Hobart Women's Shelter is a part of Tasmania's first Health Justice Partnership, Just Healthy Families. Supported by the Estate of James Simpson Love, we partnered with Women's Legal Services Tasmania to employ a place-based specialist Family Violence Lawyer who supports both women staying at and approaching the Hobart Women's Shelter with their legal and property matters.

In the first 15 months of service, Just Healthy Families has assisted 2,871 women and children at community-based health and social service locations across Tasmania – and the Hobart Women's Shelter has had the largest number of direct lawyer/client consultations, i.e. 148, for 59 clients. This has also resulted in 60 secondary consultations, whereby the Hobart Women's Shelter's Family Support Team is engaging directly with the lawyer to seek advice and/or referral. This proven place-based service model has been so successful; we have secured additional funding from the Isabelle Sims Endowment for another year in 2024.

Therapeutic Programs

We offer a holistic range of therapeutic programs for women and children that offer an opportunity for capacity building and empowerment through individual and shared experiences.

This year, we delivered 110 group, family and individual programs including: communal meals with the support of Government House, art therapy, skin care and beauty sessions, clay workshops, social circus, self-defence, literacy support, and tailored family and individual counselling.

Highlights included:

- This year, we tried something new – a client led program! A talented resident who was working towards starting her own Kokedama (a Japanese bonsai ornament) business ran a workshop for fellow residents and staff, sharing her skills and passion for Kokedama.
- With great thanks to the continued generosity of Government House Tasmania's Executive Chef, Ainstie Wagner and her team, we celebrated our largest communal meal to date! A delicious winter feast was made even more special and festive with the ingredients and decorations foraged from the grounds of Government House. We also had the opportunity to distribute goodie bags filled with self-care products, toys and games to the women and children, courtesy of our generous donors. It was a wonderful afternoon celebrating great food and community.
- Kindly supported by Libraries Tasmania, we trialed onsite computer literacy support for clients who have trouble accessing laptops, filling out forms and/or completing tests or payment claims. Those clients who managed to overcome barriers to attending the session found it very valuable.
- Our Children's Therapeutic Worker also organised Afternoon Kids Book Club and Crochet Club for women and their children to establish connections with their inner selves. The Hobart Women's Shelter also sent a magnificent collective work to the Minds Do Matter art exhibition.



Christmas Festival

This year, with the support of Variety - the Children's Charity Tasmania, we held a Christmas Festival for the women and children staying at the Shelter. Designed to enhance opportunities for community engagement and creating family memories, the Festival featured activities like henna, face painting, a quiet zone, outdoor games and a gift shop – where children could select a gift for mum and have it wrapped by Mohammad and Elyse from the Variety Tasmania team! Catering included wood fired pizza, plus pre-pizza nibbles made by Government House Tasmania's Executive Chef, Ainstie Wagner. The poor weather didn't stop Santa and the Christmas Fairy from making an appearance!

Individuals and families received gifts from Santa, including gifts requested by children on their personalised Wish Lists, and women each received a voucher to use at a local hairdresser. Gifts disbursed on the day were generously funded by Variety, and supplied by Variety partner, Abundance on Quay.

Mentors in Violence Prevention

For the past three years, in partnership with Women's Legal Tasmania, Engender Equality, Women's Health Tasmania, and the Tasmanian Community Fund, the Hobart Women's Shelter has been delivering the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) program across Tasmania. MVP is a community leadership program that views all participants as empowered bystanders who can confront, interrupt, and/or prevent violence. Over the course of this three-year project, we have exceeded all KPIs, and successfully delivered 49 workshops, engaging 735 men and women from across Tasmania – all the way from Smithton to Nubeena. Now that the project has been completed, our partnership is exploring opportunities to continue and/or expand on this work.



Our Supporters

Our supporters play a critical role at the Hobart Women's Shelter, and we thank all our individual donors, trusts, foundations, schools, organisations and businesses for your support in FY23. Your generosity supports our service delivery and therapeutic programs, and helps fund strategic projects such as building long term homes. With your support we can create opportunities for women and children to lead independent and fulfilling lives. We wish to give a special thank you to:

Our Philanthropic and Business Supporters:

- The Merridew Foundation
- Isabel Sims Endowment
- The Estate of the Late Simpson Love
- Elsie Flood Foundation
- Myer Community Fund
- The HMAS Hobart III
- The GP and MD Farrell Foundation
- KPMG
- ABC Giving Tree
- Bon Iver
- Danks Trust
- Give2Asia
- Variety Tasmania
- Tasmanian Community Fund
- Hobart Airport
- Hobart Ionian Club
- Miss Haidee Millinery
- Johnson Winter Slattery
- Bunnings Glenorchy
- Knight Frank Hobart
- Document Management Tasmania
- Impact Economics and Policy
- The Calvert-Jones Foundation
- Master Builders Tasmania
- Robson Jackson Foundation
- Gourmet Patch Workers
- The Hutchins School
- Guildford Young College
- Huon Aquaculture
- Inner Wheel Club of Clarence
- Full Moon Hash House Harriers
- Collective Tasmania
- Motor Yacht Club of Tasmania

Our Community Supporters

- Office of the Governor of Tasmania
- Moreton Group
- Tassie Mums
- Betty Basics
- Two Good Co.
- Foodbank
- Share the Dignity
- Loaves and Fishes Tasmania
- Thread Together
- Libraries Tasmania
- University of Technology Sydney
- University of Sydney
- University of Tasmania

Our Building Project Supporters

- Kingborough Council
- Brighton City Council
- Christopher Clinton Architects
- Core Collective
- Enviro-dynamics
- Exsto Management
- Gandy and Roberts
- Gray Planning
- Howarth Fisher and Associates
- Law and Development Partners
- Lee Tyers Building Surveyors
- Red Sustainability
- Tierney Law
- Veris
- Ta Ann
- Corian
- Reece Plumbing
- Southern Lighting and Distribution
- Austral Bricks (Brickworks)
- Lymesmith Polychromy
- Entura
- Stu Gibson Photograph



For more information, scan the QR code to our website and Buy a Brick today.



Contact Us

www.hobartws.org.au 03 6273 8455 **Connect with us on social media**



The Hobart Women's Shelter values the diversity and the unique contribution of all. We acknowledge and pay our respect to the traditional owners of lutruwita, the palawa/pakana people.

