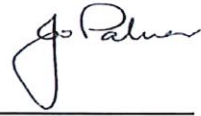


Appendix 2



Question on Notice

Tasmania Legislative Council – Session 2024

Question Number ~~22~~ of 2024

tabled & incorporated
into Hansard
J. Palmer
28.11.24

23

Asked by: Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC

Answered by: Hon. Jo Palmer MLC, Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence

Question 1: With regard to support for and services available to children and young people who are living in relationships where they experience intimate partner violence, and noting the Government's contribution to the debate in the Legislative Council of 29 October 2024 noting Dr Carmel Hobbs' paper, *Young, in Love and in Danger*, apart from the presence of the partnership with Our Watch:

- a) what concrete actions are in place to address cultural norms and values that normalise and/or condone violence and abuse in Tasmania that go beyond school-based education; and
- (b) does the Government have any intention of following the lead of New South Wales and implement a standalone primary prevention strategy?

Answer question 1 (a)

(Portfolio – Women and the Prevention of Family Violence):

The Tasmanian Government is committed to various initiatives and actions to address cultural norms and values that condone and/or normalise violence and abuse. These initiatives and actions beyond school-based education initiatives and our partnership with Our Watch includes:

- **Actions under Tasmania's Third Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan: Survivors at the Centre (2022-2027)** focussed on prevention and early intervention:
 - **Step-Up Adolescent Early Intervention Program** – to be expanded to statewide program to provide early intervention for adolescents that use violence in their families and with intimate partners.
 - **Workforce Equality and Respect Standards in Tasmanian Government Agencies**, aimed to support the Tasmanian State Service to ensure that gender equality and respect are at the centre of all workplaces.

- **Prevention, Assessment and Support Program (PAST)** to address Harmful Sexual Behaviours.
- **Men's Referral Service** a telephone counselling, information and referral service (No to Violence) for men taking responsibility for their violent behaviour.
- Statewide community awareness campaigns:
 - **Tell Someone campaign**

The 'Tell Someone' campaign, released during Children's Week (held between 19 October – 27 October 2024), recognises that all children deserve to be safe from child sexual abuse.

Children need to be confident that they can speak up if something isn't right and trust that they will be heard and believed.

The 'Tell Someone' community awareness campaign creates opportunity to provide information to the Tasmanian community about where to get support and report child sexual abuse.

The Tell Someone Campaign has been informed by the **Tasmanian results of the national Child Sexual Abuse Attitudes, Knowledge and Response Study**. This study provides an indication of the current status of community attitudes in relation to child sexual abuse. The Tasmanian Government provided funding to the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse to oversample in Tasmania to provide us with specific data to inform local strategies to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse and track our progress in addressing problematic norms and values over time.
 - **Safe from Violence website**

This is an initiative by the Tasmanian Government designed to address family and sexual violence by providing a centralised hub of resources, education, and support services. Launched as part of Survivors at the Centre, the campaign aims to create a community where all Tasmanians are safe, equal, and respected.

The government has integrated early intervention and prevention into broader frameworks that provide a systemic approach to addressing family and sexual violence, including early intervention and prevention.

Question 1 (b) Does the Government have any intention of following the lead of New South Wales and implement a standalone primary prevention strategy

Answer 1 (b)

At present, the Government does not have any plans to implement a standalone primary prevention strategy however, in addition to the prevention strategies outlined in answer 1 (a), significant work is also underway to implement a wide-range of prevention initiatives as agreed to in the response to the Rapid Review Prevention Initiatives.

Response to the Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches

At the meeting of National Cabinet on gender-based violence in May, First Ministers agreed to strengthen prevention efforts through targeted, evidence-based approaches and to be informed by an expert led rapid review of best practices approaches.

The Rapid Review report was handed down in September after the Commonwealth Government commissioned an expert panel to provide a report following a rise in homicides of women and children across the nation.

As part of the national effort, States and Territories have agreed to a phased approach to the implementation of the Rapid Review Recommendations and a key area in 2025 will be addressing Men's behaviour change – by taking targeted efforts to address the significant gaps in responses to people who use violence, including improving the national evidence base, quality, capability and supply of men's behaviour change programs.

Question 5: Having been presented with the statistics and accounts of the lived experience of those children and young people experiencing intimate partner violence, how can the Government justify not having a child and youth specific domestic, family and sexual violence support service?

Answer question 5:

The Tasmanian Government funds statewide specialist sexual assault and family violence support services for people of all ages, including children and young people, including Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) in the South and Laurel House in the North and North West of Tasmania.

In addition, the Tasmanian Government funds other support services for children, young people and their families, at risk of, or experiencing family violence. The list of these services cross over a number of portfolios and a comprehensive list of these services can be provided to the Member for Murchison out of session.

(Min for Education) Question 6:

- a) Noting the Government has invested in professional development for teachers, counsellors and youth workers, ensuring they can provide trauma-informed, culturally appropriate and effective support to those in need, does this refer to the partnership between Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) and Australian Childhood Foundation; and
- b) If so, noting that this partnership simply provides online learning modules in trauma informed practice, there are a small number of additional workshops DECYP staff can enrol in, and that this is not available to DECYP staff outside of schools and is not about intimate partner violence, what is the Government doing to support the upskilling of a sustainable workforce with capacity to support children and young people experiencing intimate partner violence?

Answer question 6:

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) places the wellbeing of all children and young people at the centre of our work and is committed to ensuring that staff practices are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and effective across all settings where staff work with children, young people, families, and the broader community.

The partnership between DECYP and the Australian Childhood Foundation to deliver the comprehensive professional learning program, Trauma Informed Practice in schools, includes two stages. Stage 1 of the program is a self-paced online course that provides staff with the foundations of trauma informed practice. Stage 2 of the program includes face to face sessions and online virtual classrooms and provides staff with opportunities to experience a deeper look into a range of topics that are at the heart of trauma informed practice.

This partnership between DECYP and the Australian Childhood Foundation is one aspect of their system-wide approach to supporting staff in providing trauma-informed, culturally appropriate and effective support to those in need. DECYP has a system-wide approach to providing training and resources to help our staff build their understanding, confidence, and skills to implement trauma-informed practices, focusing on long-term sustainability.

DECYP provides a further range of resources, supports and professional development to build staff capacity in implementing trauma-informed and culturally aware practices, which include:

- Attachment and Trauma Theory (delivered by OnLine Training)

- Introduction to Restorative Practices and Circles (delivered by Restorative Journeys)
- Welcomes to Country and Acknowledgements of Country; Truth Telling in Your Teaching; Tasmanian Aboriginal Communities Today; Teaching Deep Time History; Aboriginal Resources in Your School (delivered by DECYP's Aboriginal Education Services)
- DECYP's English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support Team and Community hub, which provide additional learning support, social work assistance and professional learning for schools to support EAL students.
- DECYP's Inclusive Practice Team provides professional learning, mentoring and coaching support for schools in trauma-informed, inclusive practices.
- DECYP's Professional Support Staff and School Health Nurses provide professional advice, professional learning, information, and guidance to school teams on whole-school approaches and individualised student supports.

For staff in DECYP's **Services for Children and Families** and **Services for Youth Justice**, a range of training is provided to support staff induction and ongoing professional development including:

- Trauma Informed Care, Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Introduction and Overview
- Trauma Level 2 Training (delivered by the Australia Childhood Foundation)
- Working with CALD Families (delivered by the Migrant Resource Centre Tasmania)
- Cultural Awareness and Safety for LGBTQIA+ Children and Young People (delivered by Working it Out)
- Trauma Responsive Leadership, Managing Wellbeing and Recognising Vicarious Trauma (delivered by the Blue Knot Foundation)
- Keeping Kids Safe Introductory and Advanced Training on Harmful Sexual Behaviour (delivered by the Sexual Assault Support Service)

As of October 2024, more than 3750 school staff have participated in the Trauma Informed Practice in Schools online training modules and over 2150 have participated in live training workshops, with more workshops to come in 2025.

In addition to the professional learning available to all schools, DECYP has provided targeted funding to 77 schools to build whole-school trauma informed practice.

Schools receiving targeted funding for the 2024 school year have access to a new interactive online hub, providing a range of resources and supporting opportunities as a professional learning community.

Further to the above programs, DECYP provides specialised support to staff and students in addressing teen domestic violence and abuse, including:

- **Interagency Student Support Teams** - these teams include Safe Homes Safe Families Social Workers and psychologists who:
 - Analyse police family violence reports and notify schools of incidents involving students as perpetrators, victims, or both.
 - Provide advice, support, and follow-up services for affected students.
 - Facilitate programs such as Love Bites, a respectful relationships program for students aged 15-17.
- **Social Workers and School Psychologists**, who:
 - Collaborate with CFLCs, schools, internal DECYP teams and external agencies to provide tailored support and referrals.
 - Participate in ongoing professional learning, ensuring evidence-based approaches to addressing areas like teen domestic violence.
- **School Health Nurses (SHNs)**, who:
 - Deliver Love Bites Junior and Senior as well as Respectful Relationships and Consent Education (RRCE) programs in schools.
 - Provide brief interventions for students and onward referrals to internal or external supports.
 - Collaborate with DECYP's RRCE Project Officer to develop additional resources

Approved

Hon. Jo Palmer, MLC
Minister for Women and the Prevention of Family Violence
Date: Thursday, 28 November 2024