

RESPONSE TO PETITION

Petition No. 49 of 2025 Legislative Council

The petitioners ask to draw to the attention of the Legislative Council that section 9A of the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* currently imposes a 12-month limitation period for prosecution of coercive control-related offences. This limitation restricts access to justice for many victim-survivors who, due to trauma, fear, and coercion, are often unable to report such conduct within that timeframe.

The petitioners, therefore, request the Legislative Council to support legislative reform to remove the 12-month limitation period in section 9A of the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)*, ensuring that Tasmania's laws are consistent with the realities of coercive control and trauma informed justice. Such reform would align Tasmania with other Australian states and territories, which do not impose equivalent limitation periods, and would strengthen the State's commitment to the safety and dignity of victim-survivors.


RESPONSE:

The Tasmanian Government is committed to continually improving our family violence legislation to protect victim-survivors, hold perpetrators to account and keep our community safe.

Consultation on our '*Strengthening our Responses to Family Violence in Tasmania: Family Violence Act 2004 and Related Legislation Discussion Paper*' concluded on 2 April 2026.

The Discussion Paper's release is an important part of the Tasmanian Government's commitment to continuously evaluate and improve our response to family violence. It started a community-wide conversation about the areas most in need of review.

A Bill containing a first tranche of initial amendments to the *Family Violence Act 2004 (Tas)* will be released for consultation in the coming months. One of the proposed amendments is extend the statutory limitation period for the coercive control provisions from 12 months to two years.



Hon Guy Barnett MP

Deputy Premier

Attorney-General

Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation

Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

Date: 27 May 2026