

## Media Release (21/2/2018)

## Whole of Government Action Plan Against Sexual Violence

The Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) is pleased to hear of the current Government's pre-election commitment to develop a Whole of Government Action Plan Against Sexual Violence.

Sexual assault is one of the most prevalent serious crimes in Tasmania, accounting for 21 per cent of all serious crimes committed over the past year. These numbers are reflected in our data at SASS, which shows a 21 per cent increase in demand for our counselling service, as well as a 38% increase in demand for our crisis service over the past year.

Despite the prevalence and seriousness of this crime, current approaches to addressing sexual violence in Tasmania are inconsistent and disjointed. For some time now SASS has been advocating for a statewide sexual violence strategy to address the limitations of current approaches and ensure that Tasmania is at the forefront in addressing the scourge of sexual violence.

SASS looks forward to working with Government on this critical issue.

For more information about this media release please contact SASS CEO Jill Maxwell on (03) 6231 0044.

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