

women's
legal
service
tasmania



Sexual
Assault
Support
Service



Engender
Equality



JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: WLST, SASS, Engender Equality, Hobart Women's Shelter

Tasmanian Women's services unite to demand the end of the family law system review

Release: 1 November, 2019 at 10am

The review of the family law system by the Commonwealth Government is not necessary. As specialist family violence service providers working with Tasmanian women we all oppose this inquiry. It is a waste of time and money. Enough has been said about the problems. It is time they are fixed.

CEO of Women's Legal Service, Yvette Cehtel said "There are 60 recommendations that were presented to the Government in April of this year. None of these recommendations proposed by the Australian Law Reform Commission have been taken up."

It is time for Commonwealth Government action, not more talking. Forty-two women in Australia have died since the 1st January 2019 as a result of family violence.

While we wait for action more women will die, more women will be exposed to violence in their homes and more children will be damaged by the violence they see and experience in their homes.

This Inquiry will further delay what we already know of how the systems need to change so less women and children are exposed to family violence. Systems changes will lead to increased safety for women and children.

As specialist services who work with women every day, we as service providers, see the shortcomings in the legal system. We are particularly united in our support for recommendation 52 of the Australian Law Reform Commission to be implemented immediately.

Recommendation 52 states that legal practitioners undertaking family law work should be required to complete continuing professional development concerning family violence each year.

This family violence training needs to be facilitated by specialist service providers who understand and work with family violence as part of their day to day work.

Given that 1 in 4 women experience family violence, this recommendation must be immediately implemented.

The WLST will lead this discussion, alongside SASS, Engender Equality and the Hobart Women's Shelter at a press conference **in Hobart on the lawns of Parliament House on 1 November, 2019 at 10am.**

For further information, please contact:

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