YOURnewsletter

A space where we keep Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, family, friends and service providers connected and up to date about any news and the supports available for our community of people affected by out of home care or harmed in other Australian institutions.

Spring 2025



Contents

Introduction 2

Significant Dates 3

Profile: Vicky 4

13th Anniversary of the Tasmanian Government's Apology for Forced Adoption Practices 5

Forced Adoption Support Group - Christmas event 7

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration – Launceston 8

Anniversary Apology Acknowledgement 2025 - A story of conversations over 3 years from YourPlace Forgotten Australians 16

16th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians – Hobart 17

Local Neighbourhood House Information 21

Karadi Gardening Group 23

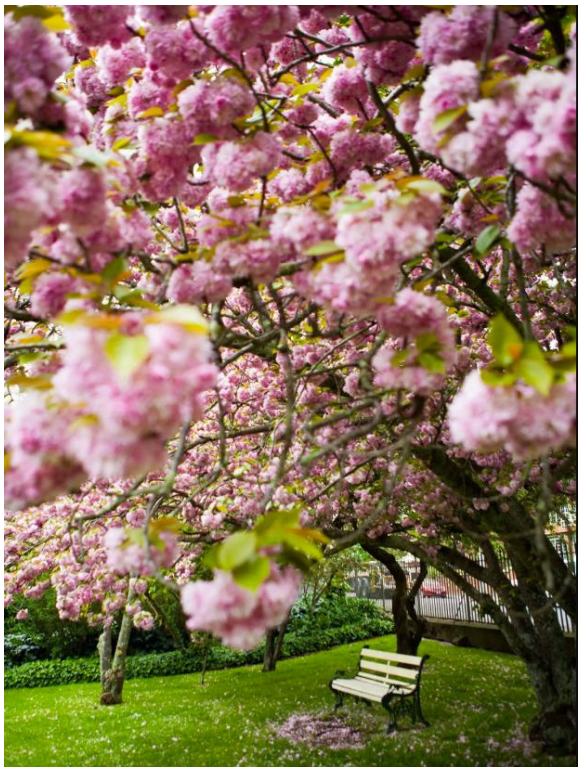
Meet our Counselling Staff 24

Relationships Australia TASMANIA

Relationships Australia Tasmania acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land, Lutruwita, the lands of the Palawa and Pakana peoples. We are deeply committed to community action and to community healing. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. Always was, Always will be.

Introduction

Welcome to the Spring 2025 edition of YourNewsletter. This newsletter is a shared space for Forgotten Australians, Care Leavers, Former Child Migrants, people affected by forced adoption, and for family members, friends, and service providers who walk alongside this community. It exists to keep us connected, informed, and supported, while honouring lived experience and collective voice. Spring brings with it a strong focus on remembrance, recognition, and advocacy. In this edition, we reflect on significant anniversaries of national and state apologies, share stories from commemorative events held across Tasmania, and highlight the ongoing importance of visibility, acknowledgement, and truth-telling. These moments remind us that while apologies matter, the work of listening, learning, and acting continues. Connection remains at the heart of everything we do. You'll find stories that celebrate community strength, creativity, and care, alongside opportunities to engage with local groups, Neighbourhood Houses, and events across the state.



We also introduce members of our counselling and support teams, whose commitment to trauma-informed practice and community healing continues to enrich the YourPlace program.

As always, this newsletter reflects a community shaped by resilience, courage, humour, and solidarity. Thank you for being part of it — for showing up, sharing stories, supporting one another, and helping to build a future grounded in dignity, respect, and belonging events and supports are available.

Significant Dates for People who have spent time in Australian Institutional Settings

13th February National Anniversary to the Apology to the Stolen Generations
21st March National Anniversary to the Apology for Forced Adoptions
13th May Apology to Former Ward of the State Abused in Tasmanian State Care
27th May to 3rd June Reconciliation Week calls for all Australians to commit to reconciliation with Aboriginal peoples, commemorates the 1967 Referendum and High Court Mabo Decision which granted Native Title Legislation
6th July to 13th July NAIDOC Week - celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Achievements, history and cultures
August National Australian Family History Month
4th August National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
13th August Apology to Tasmania's Stolen Generations by the State Government
18th October Tasmanian Government Apology to Forced Adoptions
22nd October National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse
16th November National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants

Profile: Vicky

This month we're highlighting one of our long-term group members. You'll recognise her as someone who brings equal parts humour, heart, and Tasmanian trivia to every session, all while quietly sitting back and letting everyone else take the spotlight. And then, when you least expect it, she will casually inform you of something incredible she's done… as if it were nothing at all.

Vicky cares for two family members at home (as she says, she is 'surrounded by men!') yet still finds time to get outside whenever she can. Recently she conquered a bush walk at Russell Falls and, in true understated fashion, climbed **more than 200 steps!** Vicky reported she came home exhausted but quietly proud. I think we should be loudly proud on her behalf!

When it comes to community events, she's basically done every fun run Tasmania has thrown at her:

- **Ross 5km Fun Run/Walk**
- **Cadbury Marathon events**
- **Casino to Fern Tree Tavern**

(as a support person, no less)



Vicky was awarded a medal for her incredible contribution to the Ross 5km. A well-deserved award for a for a woman who donates so much of her time and energy to others.

If you've ever chatted with her, you'll know she's also a walking encyclopaedia of Tasmanian history. She'll drop a historical fact or an anecdote into the conversation so casually that you don't realise you've learned something until five minutes later. There isn't an historical bridge in Tasmania she hasn't read about!

She's generous, grounded, quietly hilarious, and a big part of what makes this group so much fun (even if she pretends she'd rather hide at the back of the room!).

Thanks for making us all smarter and happier Vicky! You are amazing and so important to us!

13th Anniversary of the Tasmanian Government's Apology for Forced Adoption Practices

October 2025, Botanical Gardens – words by Sylvia & Imogen

Today marks 13 years since the Tasmanian Government's formal apology to those affected by past forced adoption policies and practices. This is a day to pause and reflect - not just on policies, but on people, and the profound and lasting impact these damaging practices have had on individuals and families across Tasmania and beyond, who carry the scars of separation, silence and grief.

The consequences of these policies were devastating. For decades, forced adoption practices caused deep harm, separating mothers, fathers, and children, leaving behind a legacy of loss and trauma. This malpractice stole what should never have been taken from you. We acknowledge with sorrow, the suffering endured by all those affected.

Mothers and parents, that you were forced to believe it was the right thing to do for your child. That you were shamed and lied to by institutions who tried to silence your voice. That you were denied choice. That many of you didn't have the chance to even hold your newborn baby. To smell them. To feel their skin. To witness yourself reflected in the child you carried for nine months and gave birth to. To see them grow, to care for them, and to build ongoing relationships.

To the individuals who were forcibly adopted, we acknowledge with sorrow, the complex trauma of separation and loss of identity that you have faced throughout your life. We recognise that you didn't have a choice in many of the decisions that impacted your future. This pain has shaped generations of families, and the grief of these experiences are still deeply felt today and in ways that words can never fully capture.

Today, we honour the strength and resilience of each one of you who have lived through these injustices. Your courage to speak out, to seek truth, to keep telling your story again and again, even when it's painful- moves us deeply. Many of you have fought so hard just to be heard, to be believed and recognised, to find some kind of healing. We have witnessed the strength in how you show up for one another: the support, the care, and the understanding.

Today is also a reminder of our collective responsibility to keep listening, to keep learning, and to ensure that such harm is never repeated. As we remember the past, we also look to the future, one grounded in honesty and respect. To all those affected by forced adoption, we stand with you today and always. Thank you.

13th Anniversary of the Tasmanian Government's Apology for People Hurt by Past Forced Adoption Practices

October 2025, Botanical Gardens



Forced Adoption support group members

Forced Adoption support group - Christmas event

25th November 2025, Botanical Gardens

In late November, the FASS support group celebrated Christmas early.

The weather was dicey, but the sun held up for the important parts: getting to the cover of the gazebo and back to the car!



A few of the gardens' lovely birds attempted to be part of the occasion, and one even managed to take part in the meal.

The group will reconvene in the new year.



Forced Adoption support group members

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston

On the National Apology Day to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants (16th November) we paused and reflected on the apology made to the Forgotten Australians for the tragedy of childhoods lost due to policies and procedures that tore families and generations apart.

Australia apologises for the ongoing impact of children who experienced “care” in institutions and other out of home “care”, including past forced child removals from unmarried mothers, the forcible relocation of child migrants and the forced removal of Aboriginal children.

Forgotten Australians or Care Leavers are terms referring to the estimated 500,000 children who experienced “care” as children in institutions, reservations, orphanages, and other forms of out-of-home care prior to 1990, many of whom had physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse perpetrated against them. Those impacted are generally now 40 years of age and upwards.

In conclusion, Australia has apologised for the ongoing impact of institutionalised care of children and the relocation of child migrants. As an organisation, we recognise our role in our nation’s journey towards apology and acknowledgement. At the centre of this is our commitment to embracing shared histories, maintaining meaningful connections, and supporting Forgotten Australians’ communities throughout their journey of healing.

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston

To mark this year, the YourPlace group held a commemoration of the Apology on 17th November to coincide with the groups' normal meeting time. The event involved the launch of framed artwork by Embee' and Sherilyn, a sharing of stories with staff of Relationships Australia and ribbon ceremony where the ribbons were tied to the front gate of Relationships Australia in Paterson St.

The colour of each ribbon represented a different meaning:

Yellow - HOPE

Blue - CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

Orange - FORCED ADOPTION

Purple - FOSTER CARE

Gold - FIND&CONNECT

Red - COURAGE

Teal - POST TRAUMA/SEXUAL ASSAULT

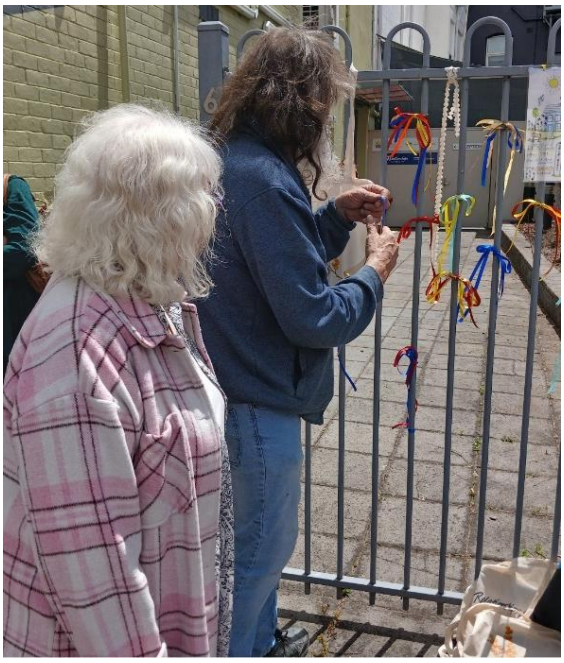


Ribbons and artwork displayed on the front gate at RA Tas

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

Ribbon Ceremony

16th November 2025, Launceston







National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston

We were joined by 24 people including a new YourPlace participant who listened to the acknowledgement prepared by many conversations with Forgotten Australians of the group for 3 years. This acknowledgement was delivered and can be seen below.

A launch of artwork by Embee' and Sherilyn was undertaken and appreciated by all who attended.

Sherilyn is an avid artist and wishes to let people know that without fantasy we don't have an imagination and without imagination we don't have dreams and without dreams you don't have hope and we all need hope in our lives.



Drawn by Sherliyn at her 1st YourPlace group meeting. It illustrates the energy in the room. Facing one way is a dragon, the other way a bird.

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston



This is My "HOPE" - like two birds tugging at each other.... do I go left or do I go right? Grounding oneself firmly on the ground... going with your heart and mind - Sherilyn.



This is "Chestnut"- the earthly woodland wonder

- Sherilyn

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston

After listening to the 2009 Apology and the acknowledgement delivered, some lunch was shared with staff and Forgotten Australians and stories were told. The group then tied the ribbons to the gate to commemorate those Forgotten Australians whom they know, those who have passed and who no longer have a voice.

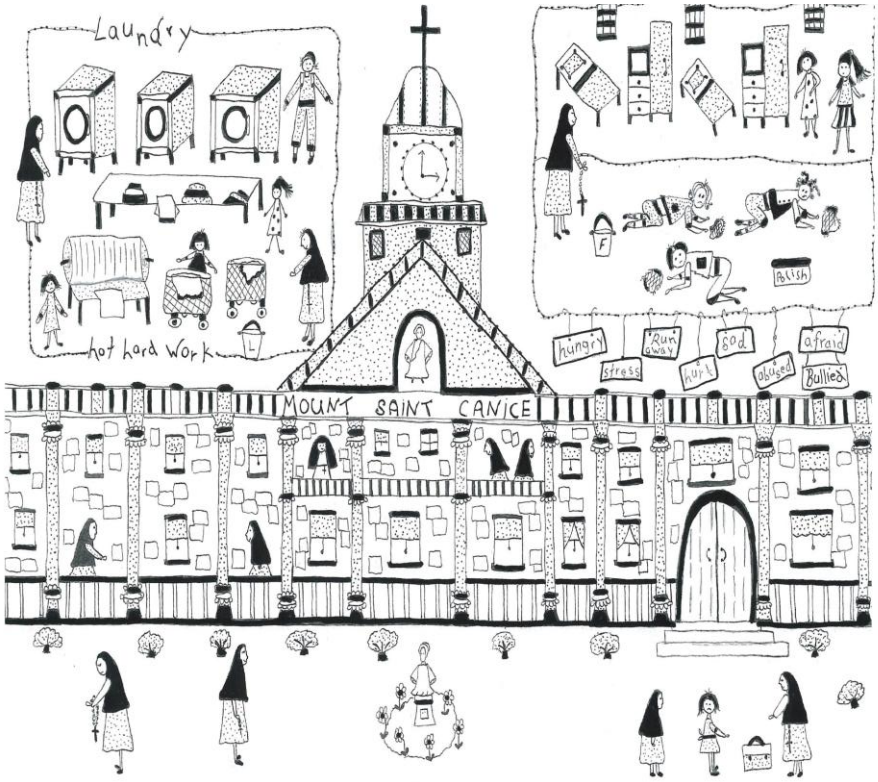
The Artwork displayed on the fence of YourPlace was created by our own Embee'. With love and grace. Embee' shared a drawing of YourPlace, Relationships Australia and the significance of the ribbon colours. Embee' also contributed the pillars of YourPlace in the placards and signs in the art: Care, Hugs, Kindness, Hope, Humour, Respect, Acceptance, Friendship, and laughter. Other craft she made such as bags and tapestry were also on display.



YourPlace – Embee'

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston



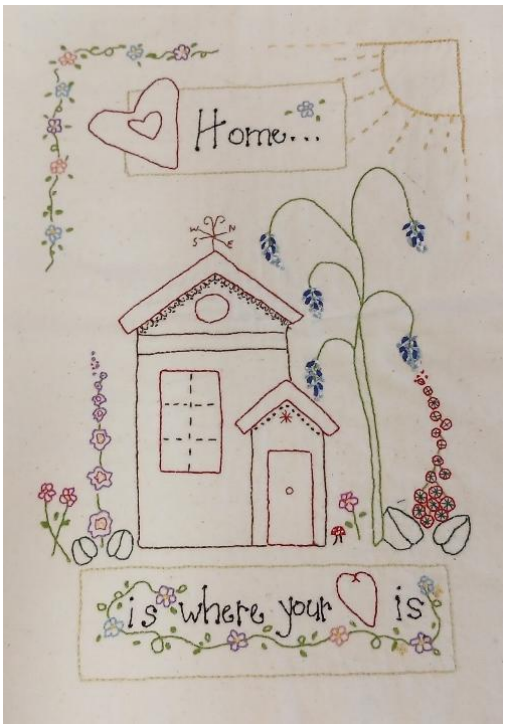
Mt St Cannes - lots of unpaid labour and neglect/abuse - Embee'



Sewing - Embee'

National Apology to Forgotten Australians Commemoration

16th November 2025, Launceston



Craft – Embee'



BAGS – Embee'



TAPESTRY - Embee'

Anniversary Apology Acknowledgement 2025

A story of conversations over 3 years from YourPlace Forgotten Australians

Hi all,
Together we stand strong.
We are the living, still remembering — and we never want to forget.
These are the forgotten years. And though we are the survivors of the lost, we keep moving forward, creating our little footsteps — footsteps that carve pathways for our lives, for the lives lost, and for the ones still unknown.
Today, we give our people a voice.
This is a story about *mattering*.
Because we all matter.
Forgotten Australians matter.
As we stand here today, we want to acknowledge the courage, conviction, integrity, and passion that live so strongly in each of you — and within *YourPlace*.
You are filled with compassion, care, love, and humour — and those qualities shine through everything you do. They surround you, and they lift others up too.
You've embraced life with a strength that comes from deep within — a strength born of fortitude, love, and liberty. With hearts true to yourselves, you honour your souls, and you honour the 500,000 Forgotten Australians — past and present — whose stories, like yours deserve to be heard, honoured, and remembered.
Today is not just about apology — though that remains at the heart of why we gather. It's about recognition. It's about remembering. It's about acknowledging that what happened should never have happened — and ensuring that it never happens again.
Today, we remind ourselves that we *matter*.
We remind each other that healing is possible, that hope is real, and that faith — even after everything — can still live within us.
Each day, we walk a little further on our journeys. We leave our footprints behind — small but powerful — a silent roar of commitment to humankind, and a belief in what can be.
So as we reflect today, let's hold onto that truth:
That we matter.
That we belong.
That we are never truly forgotten.
Together we stand strong.
Together we remember.
And together, we will never forget.

<u>Your Place group message: for all Forgotten Australians, especially for those who have passed.</u>

Learn from Yesterday

Live for Today

Hope for tomorrow

16th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians - Hobart

18th November 2025, Tolosa St Park

This was a significant day for Forgotten Australians, for the communities who continue to carry these stories, and for those past and present involved in our Find & Connect, Redress, and Forced Adoption programs.

The gathering honoured courage, truth-telling, and the long journey toward recognition that so many have carried for decades, acknowledging both the pain of the past and the strength shown in continuing to speak, remember, and seek justice.



Lord Mayor Sue Hickey stands with Forgotten Australians Pam, Dave and Sarena next to the new monument at Tolosa St Park in Glenorchy.

16th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians - Southern

18th November 2025, Tolosa St Park



Cody provides a Welcome to Country



Michael Kelly (RA Tas CEO) giving a speech



Cara (RA Tas) relays a message from Forgotten Australians in the North

16th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians - Southern

18th November 2025, Tolosa St Park



Sarena reflects on her experiences as a Forgotten Australian



Sue supporting Dave while providing a speech



Sue Hickey provides a speech marking the occasion

16th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians – Southern

18th November 2025, Tolosa St Park

We thank everyone who attended and helped mark this important day and acknowledge Glenorchy City Council for their support in funding and developing the memorial. We especially recognise the Forgotten Australians whose advocacy and lived experience made both the commemoration and the memorial at Tolosa Street Park possible.



The new monument with flowers



Sue, Sarena, Sharyn, Dave and Pam sit together next to a new plaque honouring Dave's tireless work in advocating for the Forgotten Australian community in Tasmania

Neighbourhood Houses

For upcoming events and activities in your local area please contact your local Neighbourhood House.

Neighbourhood Houses in Southern Tasmania

Bucaan Community House (Chigwell) - 6249 5363
https://www.facebook.com/p/Bucaan-Community-House-100069211266088/

Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre - 6247 8163
https://www.facebook.com/clarendonvaleneighbourhood.centre/

Derwent Valley Community House – 6261 5230
https://www.facebook.com/people/Derwent-Valley-Community-House/100064881332140/#

Dunalley Tasman Neighbourhood House – 6253 9000
https://www.facebook.com/dunalleytasman/

Gagebrook Community House (JRS) - 6263 6097
https://www.facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre/

Geeveston Community Centre – 6297 1616
https://www.facebook.com/geevestoncommunitycentre/

Goodwood Community Centre – 6272 2560
https://www.facebook.com/GoodwoodCommunityCentreTas/

Karadi Aboriginal Corporation – 6272 3511
https://www.facebook.com/p/Karadi-Aboriginal-Corporation-100069342424285/

Kingston Neighbourhood House – 6229 4066
https://www.facebook.com/kingstonnh/

Midway Point Neighbourhood House – 6265 1155
https://www.facebook.com/MidwayPointNeighbourhoodHouse/

Okines Community House (Dodges Ferry) – 6265 7016
https://www.facebook.com/okinescommunityhouse/

Risdon Vale Neighbourhood Centre – 6243 5752
https://www.facebook.com/risdonvaleneighbourhoodcentre/

Rokeby Neighbourhood Centre – 6200 8540
https://www.facebook.com/Adminrnc/

Warrane Mornington Neighbourhood Centre – 6244 6346
https://www.facebook.com/warranemornington/

West Moonah Neighbourhood House – 6273 2362
https://www.facebook.com/p/West-Moonah-Neighbourhood-House-100064818963677/

West Winds Community Centre (Woodbridge) – 6267 4713
https://www.facebook.com/WestWindsCommunityCentre/

Neighbourhood Houses in North and North-west Tasmania

Beaconsfield House Inc - 63831110
https://www.facebook.com/BeacyHouse/

Burnie Community House & Hilltop Central – 6433 3219
https://www.facebook.com/burnie.communityhouse/

Deloraine House – 6362 2678
https://www.delorainehouse.org.au/

Devonport Community House – 6224 7060
https://www.facebook.com/devonportcommunityhousetasmania/

Dorset Community House – 0474 100 219
https://www.facebook.com/dorsetcommunityhouse/

East Devonport Community House – 6427 9985
https://www.facebook.com/eastdevonportneighbourhoodhouse/

Fingal Valley Neighbourhood House Inc – 6374 2344
https://www.facebook.com/fingalvalleyneighbourhoodhouse/

George Town Neighbourhood House – 6312 3019
https://www.facebook.com/georgetownhood/

Meander House - 6362 2678
https://www.delorainehouse.org.au/contact-2/

Northern Suburbs Community Centre (Mowbray and Newnham) - 6326 5506
www.nsccas.org.au

Phoenix Community House (Currie, King Island) – 6462 1746
https://www.facebook.com/PhoenixCommunityHouse/

Rosebery Neighbourhood House – 6473 1497
https://www.facebook.com/RoseberyNeighbourhoodHouse/

St Helens Neighbourhood House – 6376 1134
https://www.facebook.com/sthelensnhh.org.au/

Starting Point Neighbourhood House (Ravenswood) – 6339 2861
https://www.facebook.com/startingpointtas/

Zeehan Neighbourhood Centre – 6471 6108
https://www.zeehannc.org.au/

Karadi Gardening Group



Meet our counselling staff

North/North-West Team



Rebecca
Redress Senior Prac



Gardia
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Lyndell
FASS



Cara
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Maria
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect

South Team



Mary
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect



Imogen
Redress, FASS,
Find & Connect

Relationships Australia, Tasmania
www.tas.relationships.org.au
20 Clare St, NEW TOWN TAS 7008
6 Paterson St, LAUNCESTON TAS 7250
68 North Fenton St, DEVONPORT TAS 7310
1300 364 277 / admin@reltas.com.au

Alliance for Forgotten Australians
forgottenaustralians.org.au
0488 460 646 or 0419 854 980
admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)
www.clan.org.au
support@clan.org.au
1800 008 774 or 0425 204 747

Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre
www.tacinc.com.au
Hobart (03) 6234 0700
Burnie (03) 6436 4100
Launceston (03) 6332 3800
Free Call – 1800 132 260

Link-up Victoria (for Stolen Generations)
www.linkupvictoria.org.au
Free call: 1800 OUR MOB (1800 687 662)
03) 7002 3700 linkup@vacca.org

SASS (Sexual Assault Support Service)
www.sass.org.au
Hobart (03) 6231 0044
1800 697 877, 24-hour support

Laurel House (Sexual Assault Support)
www.laurelhouse.org.au
Northern Tasmania: (03) 6334 2740
NW Tasmania: (03) 6431 9711
1800 697 877, 24-hour support

Engender Equality
www.engenderequality.org.au
admin@engenderequality.org.au
(03) 6278 9090 (statewide)

Helplines:

Lifeline (24/7) - 13 11 14

Beyond Blue helpline (24/7) - 1300 224 636

Blueknot Helpline & Redress Support Service
9am-5pm, Mon-Fri - 1300 657 380

MySupport (SASS & Laurel House 24/7 counsellors) – 1800 697 877