

**hobart
women's
shelter**



Support, housing and
advocacy for women and
children experiencing
homelessness and all
forms of violence.

2019/2020 Annual Report



Hobart Womens Shelter provided

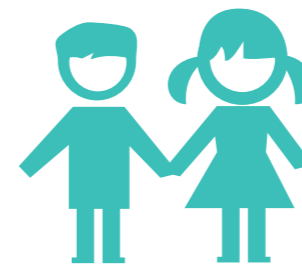
17,751

BED NIGHTS

of accommodation

91.25%

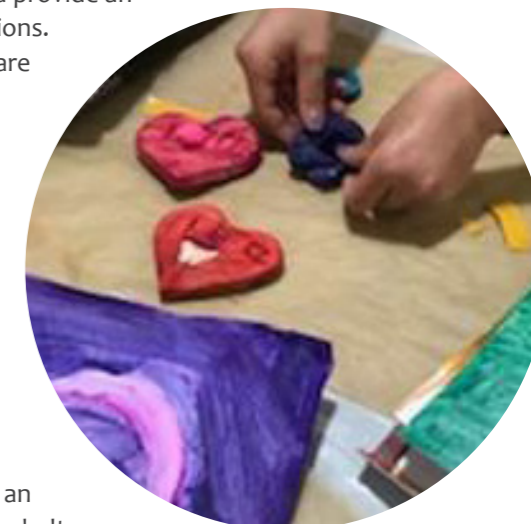
OCCUPANCY RATE



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

At Hobart Women's Shelter we strive to provide a range of sustainable trauma-sensitive programs to meet the complex needs of children. The activities are engaging and fun, and provide an outlet to safely express their emotions. Programs are evidence-based and are developmentally appropriate, for nurturing healing and growth.

We know from post-program review, that there is a significant shift in children's moods after attending sessions, with increased feelings of happiness and confidence. Mums and caregivers report positive impacts for their children in areas of physical, social, and emotional development, as well as an increased sense of belonging in the shelter environment.



Number of unassisted requests for accommodation

3517 this year

2839 last year

We accommodated and supported

130

women

170

children

in our crisis accommodation

22 families including 41 children in our transitional accommodation

Main reason for seeking assistance

43.4%

Domestic and family violence

19.4%

Inadequate or inappropriate dwelling

21.2%

Housing crisis & affordability

6.5%

Previous accommodation ended

9.5%

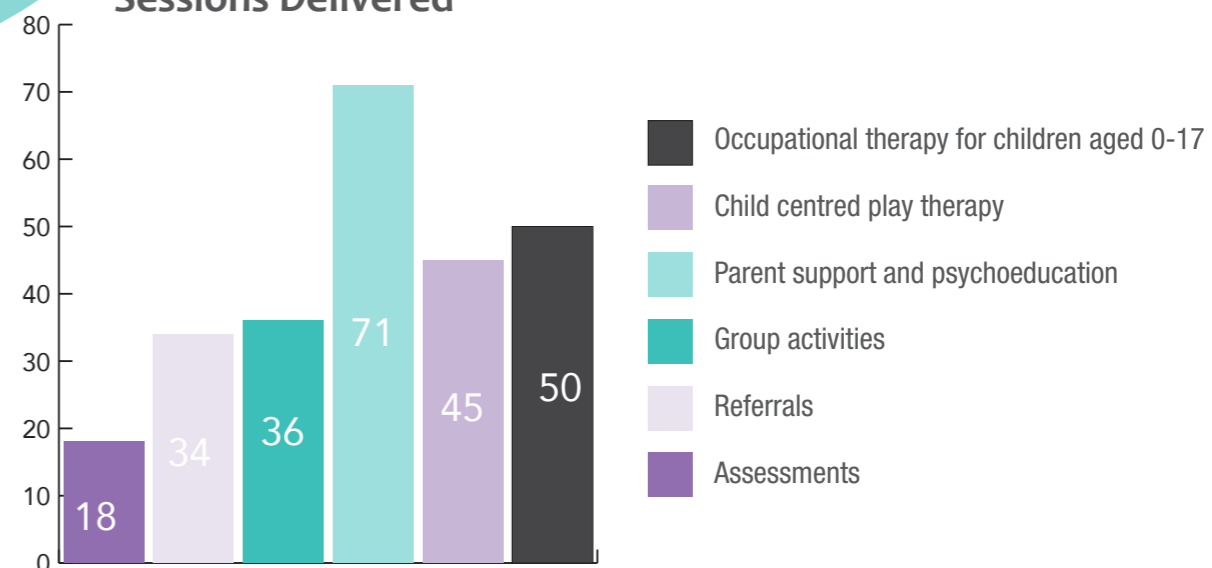
Other reasons

43.4% of support periods were due to domestic and family violence which continues to be one of the major reasons women seek crisis accommodation.



FUN and HAPPY

Sessions Delivered



69.7%

HAD A HOUSING OUTCOME
vs. 63.29% the previous year

As of 30 June 2020 HWS has

25



CRISIS ACCOMMODATION PROPERTIES



TRANSITIONAL ACCOMMODATION PROPERTIES

From the Chair & CEO

Miriam Moreton, Chair and Janet Saunders, CEO

The Hobart Women's Shelter (HWS) is committed to innovation and best practice as we provide support, housing and advocacy for women and children experiencing homelessness and all forms of violence.

Over the year we continued to see a high number of requests for accommodation. There were 3517 unassisted requests, compared with 2839 for the previous year. 130 women and 170 children were accommodated at our crisis shelter during 2019/20, a slight decrease on the previous year, but indicative of the fact that clients are staying in crisis accommodation for longer periods of time, rather than a decrease in demand.

43.4% of support periods were due to domestic and family violence, which continues to be one of the major reasons for women to seek crisis accommodation. Housing crisis and affordability has continued to be an issue at 21.2%, 19.4% in inadequate or inappropriate dwellings and 9.5% for 'other' reasons, which include previous accommodation ending and/or relationship and family breakdown.

Collaborative response and action from the State Government

In accordance with the HWS Mission, in October 2019 we commenced operating seven transitional off-site properties for families experiencing homelessness. From October 2019 to 30 June 2020 we housed 22 families, including 41 children in these properties, that are available to men as well as women, if they are within an existing family unit.

In addition, we were very excited with the construction of ten, two-bedroom crisis accommodation 'pods' which began in April 2020. The new pods were built on our existing site and were completed in July 2020.

We would like to acknowledge the support of the State Government and the Minister for Housing, the Hon. Roger Jaensch, for the investment in capital expenditure and funding to enable us to increase our capacity to assist women and children experiencing family violence and/or homelessness and to enable us to provide 24/7 support on site; Department of Communities for supporting this innovative temporary housing solution and ensuring that we were involved in the planning and design stages of the project. Thank you to Fairbrother for their support to both staff and residents on site. Several generous donors have also assisted with the new pods being comforting and welcoming by providing some of the little things that make all the difference. A great example of collaboration and innovative thinking. Thank you to all involved.

PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Children and Young Persons Support Program

Generous donors have enabled HWS to continue to run a very successful Children and Young Persons (C&YP) Support Program, facilitated by two part-time, experienced C&YP Support Workers. All children have a Case Plan and the C&YP Support Workers not only conduct individual therapy sessions with children who have experienced trauma, but also provide on-site and off-site activities to enhance positive social interactions.

His Crimes, Her Secrets

In February, Tasmanian Governor Her Excellency Professor Kate Warner AC, was part of the launch of local author Fran Spears's book, His Crimes Her Secrets, at Fullers Bookshop.

His Crimes Her Secrets is the story of one woman's strength to overcome the odds of domestic violence. Fran said that she has written this book to help women who are subjected to family violence everywhere know they are not alone.

Survivors who share their stories, let others know that it is possible to work through the trauma of Family Violence. Fran's story is powerful, heartbreaking, and inspirational. The book is published by Fullers Publishing and the project is co-ordinated by Outside the Box – Earth, Arts, Rights. Fran is generously donating 50% of the proceeds from sales of her book to the Hobart Women's Shelter. Thank you, Fran.

Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Program

In the latter part of 2019 HWS conducted Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) workshops within communities around the state, funded by the Tas Community Fund.

MVP is a bystander intervention program which provides participants with strategies to interrupt, confront and prevent bullying, harassment, and acts of violence against women. The workshops give participants the chance to develop and practice concrete options which they can use in different situations.

ISO 9001:2015 Re-certification Audit

In June we had a re-certification audit of our Quality Management System to enable us to maintain certification with the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Standard.

Some very positive feedback was provided by the auditor, with no non-compliance or opportunities for improvement identified. The auditor made mention of the, "Clearly passionate staff who have a clear sense of Mission and Vision towards future goals".

Volunteers

At HWS, the dedication and hard work our Volunteer Coordinator Sue, and volunteers cannot be overstated. Over the last year, our volunteers have given many hours of their time to ensure the successful delivery of a range of events including Christmas in July, Book Week and Halloween children's events, an International Women's Day event, Easter celebrations and Mother's Day festivities. We would like to especially thank volunteers Jayne and Anita for donating their time in the first part of the year, and Leesah our volunteer Hairdresser and Robyn our Manicurist who continue to ensure that women always feel their best. Please know that the impact you have on people's lives is considerable!

COVID-19

In March, a range of measures were implemented by the Tasmanian State Government to flatten the curve of the Coronavirus pandemic. These measures had an immediate effect on our service delivery, effectively suspending all face-to-face client contact, and suspending our volunteer program. As an essential service we continued to provide support and used technology to help facilitate this. Thank you to the State Government for assisting us with the cost of new technology required to support changes in our service delivery.

With Thanks

We continued to see support from the community grow this year, receiving many donations from generous individuals and businesses wanting to make a difference. Without this amazing generosity we would not be able to introduce many of the initiatives and programs that have made such a difference to the families that we support.

It has been a big year with our expansion and COVID-19 restrictions. We would like to thank our dedicated and passionate staff, they have been flexible and responsive of changes, and they are all to be commended for their willingness to ensure that our clients well-being is a priority. Thank you also to our board members for their hard work, professionalism, humility, respect, and the support you provide to the Hobart Women's Shelter team.

We are excited to be in the new expanded shelter and welcome the opportunities that this creates for us to continue our Vision to, "Create a safe and inclusive community free from violence, inequality and injustice".



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