

# Strengthening the response to Family and Sexual Violence in Tasmania

## FAQ

Updated April 2026

### Background

Primary Health Tasmania (PHT) has received Australian Government funding for the 'Supporting the Primary Care Response to Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Pilot.' PHT has partnered with the Safer Families Centre at the University of Melbourne to deliver education that supports both clinical and non-clinical (practice staff) primary care staff in Tasmania to identify and respond to family and sexual violence.

### How will the training work?

The training package will include both online and face-to-face education, offered for free to primary care providers in Tasmania including clinical and non-clinical staff. The first of three online education courses, 'Identifying and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence' is now available to access. This free course will attract Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine continuing professional development (CPD) hours.

### Why is Safer Families Centre delivering the training?

The Safer Families Centre is part of the [Sexual and Family Violence \(SAFE\)](#) program within the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at The University of Melbourne. The Safer Families Centre is committed to transforming health sector policy and practice responses to domestic, family, and sexual violence through research, training, support tools, and evaluation. Collaborating locally and internationally with researchers, practitioners and lived experience victim-survivors, they promote safety, wellbeing, and healing of families. You can read more about them [here](#).

## Why is the training package focusing on a ‘whole of practice/service approach’?

Evidence shows primary care providers have a crucial role to play in addressing family violence. At least one in 10 women attending general practice will have experienced family violence. General practitioners are the highest professional group disclosed to by current survivors, even more than police. It is estimated a full-time GP sees up to five unidentified abused women per week. By tailoring the education to the whole practice, we are including non-clinical staff, who often play a vital part in recognising and responding to family and sexual violence. Non-clinical primary care providers are the first contact point for victim-survivors, either by phone or in person at the practice, and play a crucial part in recognising and responding to family and sexual violence in Tasmania.

## What part of the training package is online?

### ***Identifying and Responding to Family Violence module - available to access for free now***

This module focuses on the nature, prevalence and impact of family violence and outlines how and when to ask about this sensitive issue and what to do when a patient discloses.

### ***Identify and Respond to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence & Reproductive Coercion – available to access for free now***

This module focuses on trauma-and-violence informed support, validation of patient experiences, and concurrent safety planning and response to other co-occurring issues in the relationship.

### ***Child sexual abuse module - under development***

Stay tuned for more details.

## What part of the training package is in person?

### **Pathways to Safety workshops – rolling out across Tasmania from March 2026**

The Pathways to Safety workshops are designed to enhance a whole-of-practice response. To enable this approach, both clinical and non-clinical sessions are being delivered. Skilled general practitioner facilitators will co-deliver the training with a family violence specialist and a lived experience victim-survivor.

The three-hour clinical workshops will provide GPs and clinicians with practical, trauma-informed tools to recognise, respond and refer patients experiencing family and sexual violence.

The two-hour non-clinical workshops for practice staff (reception, administrative and practice management teams) will focus on creating safe practice environments and supporting patients within scope of role.

These workshops will be tailored to a local level, focusing on Tasmanian-specific demographic and referral pathways. Participants will receive CPD hours, tools and support for the whole practice to effectively identify, respond and refer individuals and families experiencing family violence.

### **Masterclasses in child sexual abuse – rolling out across Tasmania in late 2026**

These sessions will complement foundational e-Learning and Pathways to Safety workshops by functioning as a masterclass of content on both child and adult victim-survivors of child sexual abuse and implications for practice. Conducted over approximately two hours with interactions such as case studies, role plays, simulations, and/or panel discussions, these sessions will offer a nuanced exploration of complex topics.

## Do I have to do all the training, or can I pick and choose which items to complete?

We encourage practice and service managers to sign up via this expression of interest (EOI) to ensure they don't miss out on any aspects of the package. You do not have to complete all aspects of the training package, but we would encourage you to do so. Ideally, we suggest at least one non-clinical staff member,

one general practitioner, a practice nurse and practice manager attend the face-to-face sessions.

To participate in the Masterclass on child sexual abuse, you will be required to have completed the eLearning modules and the Pathways to Safety workshop.

## **What else will you offer my practice or health service as part of the training?**

The training package includes, but is not limited to, providing resources and guidance including:

- Posters – to put on your practice or health service display boards, to show victim-survivors your practice is a safe place to disclose.
- Checklists – to help ensure the practice is equipped when victim-survivors disclose.
- Clear referral pathways – identified in the training and also through [Tasmanian HealthPathways](#) (an information portal designed to help primary care clinicians plan local patient care through primary, community and secondary healthcare systems).
- Supplied tools, background information, and circulation of other training opportunities.

## **eLearning modules**

### **What does the first eLearning module *Identifying and Responding to Family Violence* cover?**

This module discusses the nature, prevalence and impact of family violence and outlines how and when to ask about this sensitive issue and what to do when a patient discloses. The module will assist you in assessing the level of patient risk and providing a first-line response including brief safety planning and options for support and referrals. It consists of approximately 90 minutes of interactive learning and self-assessment allowing you to work at your own pace, in your own time.

### **What does the second eLearning module *Identify and Respond to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence & Reproductive Coercion* cover?**

This module focuses on practical ways health practitioners such as GPs and other primary care providers can strengthen their skills in identifying and responding to people affected by intimate partner sexual violence (IPSV) and reproductive coercion and abuse (RCA). The course outlines patterns of coercion and control tactics that can occur within relationships, common health presentations associated with IPSV and RCA, and how to ask sensitively about IPSV and RCA in a primary care setting. The module provides tools and strategies for delivering trauma and violence informed care and responding to people who disclose IPSV or RCA including validation, safety planning, and referral. It consists of approximately 120 minutes of interactive learning and self-assessment allowing you to work at your own pace, in your own time.

### **Who is encouraged to complete the modules?**

Primary care providers (both clinical and non-clinical health service staff) are encouraged to complete the modules. The modules are:

- Designed for GPs and other primary care providers
- Relevant for practice managers, reception and administrative staff
- Offers practical ways to strengthen skills in identifying and responding to family and sexual violence
- Provides tips for best practice response and referral
- Enhances understanding of what can be achieved in the primary care setting to better respond to and support patients who may be experiencing family and sexual violence

## Do the eLearning modules have CPD attached to them?

Yes, they are accredited through the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Both modules are accredited for Education Activity (1.5 hours). You can request a certificate after completion on the module. Allied health professionals and practices nurses will be able to self-report CPD.

## How do I access the eLearning module modules?

- Click [here](#) to enrol in module 1 and [here](#) to enrol in module 2
- Clicking the 'add to cart' button will take you to an order and enrolment form (you will not be charged)
- Once you complete the forms and check out of your shopping cart, you will receive two confirmation emails from the University of Melbourne (*Your University of Melbourne order confirmation* and *Invoice for your University of Melbourne order*). These emails can be ignored.
- To access the eLearning module please wait for a **Welcome to the Learning Portal** email from [mobile-learning@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mobile-learning@unimelb.edu.au) and then click the '**Access Here**' button.
- Please check your junk mail if you do not receive your 'Welcome email' within 15 minutes.
- Once activated, you can access the module at any time you wish. Please bookmark the learning portal link: <https://mlu-portal.mdhs.unimelb.edu.au> so you can return to the course whenever required using the login and password provided to you upon enrolment.
- Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine CPD hours for GPs are administered once you have completed the module and answered all the mandatory assessment questions. You can then make a request for a Completion Certificate.

If you have any issues enrolling, please contact [mobile-learning@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:mobile-learning@unimelb.edu.au)