

Strengthening the response to family and sexual violence in Tasmania

Frequently asked questions

Updated September 2026

Background

Primary Health Tasmania has received Australian Government funding for the 'Supporting the Primary Care Response to Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Pilot.' Primary Health Tasmania has partnered with the Safer Families Centre at the University of Melbourne and Laurel House 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 and child sexual abuse.

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. Three online education courses are now available:

- [Identifying and responding to domestic and family violence.](#)
- [Identifying and responding to intimate partner sexual violence and reproductive coercion.](#)
- [Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse.](#)

Introductory face-to-face workshops (Pathways to safety) are being held across Tasmania for both clinical staff and practice staff to support a whole-of-practice approach to recognising and responding to family and sexual violence.

Further reflective practice workshops (Child sexual abuse in the Tasmanian context reflective practice workshops) are being rolled out across Tasmania from September 2026.

All courses are free for Tasmanian staff working in primary care in clinical and non-clinical roles. For clinicians, all education attracts Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) and Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM) 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 the Safer Families Centre [here](#).

Why is Laurel House co-delivering the training?

Laurel House is north and north west Tasmania's not-for-profit, community-based specialist sexual assault support service providing sexual assault trauma counselling, support, education and training.

Laurel House provide an inclusive, holistic service that addresses sexual inequalities and abuses by advocating for individual and community change. Expert staff from Laurel House will be leading the reflective practice workshops specifically focusing on child sexual abuse.

You can read more about Laurel House [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. General practitioners are the highest professional group disclosed to by current survivors, even more than police. It is estimated a full-time general practitioner 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?

Module 1: Identifying and responding to family violence - 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.

Module 2: Identifying and responding to intimate partner sexual violence and reproductive coercion – available to access for free now

This module is designed to focus on intimate partner sexual violence. This involves trauma-and-violence informed support, validation of patient experiences, and concurrent safety planning and response to other co-occurring issues in the relationship.

Module 3: Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in primary care - available to access for free now

This module explores how to recognise signs of current (child) or previous (adult) child sexual abuse, respond when there is uncertainty or no clear disclosure and have conversations about safety and wellbeing.

What part of the training package is in person?

Pathways to Safety workshops

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 general practitioners 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.

Child sexual abuse in the Tasmanian context reflective practice workshops

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.

These three-hour workshops are designed for all general practice staff (including practice nurses, allied health professionals and GPs, as well as practice managers). Through case studies and guided discussion, participants will critically reflect on factors impacting on recognition and response to child sexual abuse, and practice coordinating care across local services and systems.

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

You do not have to complete all aspects of the training package, but we would encourage you to do so to enhance your understanding of the material and its translation into practice. Ideally, at each general practice, we recommend at least one general practitioner, practice nurse, practice manager, and other practice receptionist or admin staff member attends the face-to-face sessions.

We encourage you to complete the [expression of interest \(EOI\) form](#) to be notified about upcoming training opportunities.

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 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 information presented 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.

This module 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 '*Identifying and responding to intimate partner sexual violence and 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.

What does the third eLearning module '*Identifying and responding to child sexual abuse in primary care*' 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 child sexual abuse. We outline how to recognise signs of current (child) or previous (adult) child sexual abuse, respond when there is uncertainty or no clear disclosure and have conversations about safety and wellbeing. Incorporating examples of real case studies and reflective questions, we have aimed to make this course as interactive as possible.

This learning module consists of approximately 90 minutes of online active 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 module. The modules:

- are designed for GPs and other primary care providers
- are relevant for practice managers, reception and administrative staff
- offer practical ways to strengthen skills in identifying and responding to family and sexual violence
- provide tips for best practice response and referral
- enhance 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?

These eLearning modules are RACGP and ACRRM accredited:

- Module one: 1.5 hours educational activities.
- Module two: 1.5 hours educational activities and 0.5 hours reviewing performance.
- Module three: 1.5 hours educational activities.

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 modules?

- Click [here](#) to enrol in module 1, [here](#) to enrol in module 2, and [here](#) to enrol in module 3.
- 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 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.
- RACGP and ACRRM 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