

Forum:

First Response to Non-fatal Strangulation

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY		7 OCTOBER 2026
10:00	Welcome	
10:10 – 10:30	Dr Chantal Roddy A Lived Experience of Non-fatal Strangulation (NFS)	
10:30 – 11:00	Dr Heather Douglas Facts and mythology about non-fatal strangulation in Tasmania In her keynote speech, Heather will explore the prevalence of strangulation in intimate partner violence and the justice response and legal considerations in strangulation cases. She will discuss the Tasmanian justice setting and the judgements that have been reported, including the issues facing first responders in identifying whether strangulation has occurred, collecting evidence and making referrals. Finally, she will touch on the disparity between the perpetrator's narrative compared with victim-survivors, and the mythology about strangulation during sex.	
11:05 – 11:15	Morning tea	
11:15 – 11:45	Lucy Lord Strangulation - Silent Damage with High Risk and Harm Lucy will talk about the health consequences of strangulation, particularly in the context of domestic violence as a serious health issue and strangulation as a high-risk indicator. She will talk about where we are now, as a society, in terms of strangulation as a form of male violence against women and girls and the notion of consent. She will also talk to how the Red Rose Foundation revealed strangulation as a common feature of high-risk/high harm domestic and family violence, the histories of femicides and the foundation's work in Queensland.	
11:50 – 12:10	Dr Meredith Stronach Clinical markers for a general practice response to NFS Meredith will focus on the clinical markers for general practitioners and Aboriginal Health Service personnel when non-fatal strangulation (NFS) is suspected due to intimate partner violence. She will address what questions to ask and notetaking with a case of NFS to ensure effective clinical support and potential justice response. She will identify the structures of the neck, the pressure it takes to do damage, and the difference between breath choking and blood choking. Finally, she will touch on areas of potential damage and the potential hidden long-term damage inflicted on victim-survivors.	

12:10 – 12:30	Dr Christine Padgett Trauma and consequences of NFS and links to brain injury Non-fatal strangulation can cause both physiological and psychological trauma. Christine will outline the link between NFS and brain injury, and how this might present at time of injury and later. Using 'real world' examples, Christine will also describe how NFS can impact cognition, physical, and psychological function. She will also discuss how using a trauma-informed approach that recognises both psychological and physiological effects of NFS may improve the victim-survivor's experience. She will further explore the effects on their ability to provide information to first responders and subsequent interactions with healthcare, social, and legal systems.
12:30 – 12:40	Erin Giles A lived experience: Surviving non-fatal strangulation and the impediments to justice Erin will speak about her own experience of non-fatal strangulation and the challenges for victim-survivors in understanding the potential short and long-term impacts on personal health. She will talk about her experiences of the systems that were there to support her and the challenges to achieving justice.
12:45 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:10	Panel Discussion Facilitator: Alina Thomas, Engender Equality From Awareness to Action: Strengthening Tasmania's Response to Non-fatal Strangulation Alina will be inviting the panel to explore what Tasmania needs to do to improve our recognition and practice response to non-fatal strangulation, including infrastructure and systems needed to respond. Panelists: • Dr Chantal Roddy • Prof Heather Douglas • Lucy Lord • Dr Meredith Stronach • Dr Christine Padgett
2:10 – 2:25	Questions
2:30	Close