

Tasmania Statement of Priorities

1. For the NHIF CT what are the Priority Investment Areas for your jurisdiction?

Transitional housing for women and children escaping family and domestic violence, including Aboriginal women, with dwellings located across Tasmania.

Larger three- and four- bedroom dwellings will be prioritised as these are in high demand for women and children to help with exit points from crisis shelters.

2. What is the rationale that supports the identification of the above priority investment areas?

Delivering more transitional housing for women and children escaping family and domestic violence is designed to alleviate the blockages in crisis shelters and assist vulnerable households into safe and affordable accommodation with relevant supports in place (as required) to secure a long-term home.

Prioritising transitional housing over crisis accommodation aligns the Tasmanian Government's commitment to develop a Housing First approach to address primary homelessness as outlined in the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Action Plan 2023-27. Housing First's central principle is to provide a person or persons with stable, longer-term accommodation first, rather than shorter-term dwellings with an expectation of behaviour change before longer-term accommodation is sourced. Further crisis accommodation also requires separate requests for ongoing operational funding (which are not guaranteed to be successful) to ensure facilities operate with appropriate levels of support

The ABS Census showed that there was nearly a 60 per cent increase in rates of women experiencing homelessness between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, 1 025 (or 44 per cent) of homeless persons in Tasmania were women.

Women also represent the majority of applicants on the Housing Register with 57 per cent of female applicants as at 31 January 2025 (2 826 applicants) Women are also over-represented as clients of Specialist Homelessness Service (SHS) where, in 2023-24, 55.4 per cent of clients were women (3 697 clients). The main reasons that women sought assistance were housing crisis (22 per cent) and family and domestic violence (19 per cent). Specifically, 57 per cent of all women presenting at the Hobart Women's Shelter in 2023-24 identified family violence as the main presenting reason for homelessness.

The 2023-24 SHS Annual Report highlighted that 1,219 Indigenous clients accessed SHS in Tasmania, which was 18.6 per cent of clients. This shows Tasmanian Aboriginal people are overrepresented in accessing SHS services as they make up 5.4 per cent of the population in the 2021 Census. Of this number, 705 were female, with 305 Indigenous clients (25 per cent) having experienced family and domestic violence.

Rationale for not prioritising youth at risk of homelessness:

Despite strong demand for more transitional housing for young people in Tasmania, there is a reliance on additional operational funding to support young people to develop independent living skills to transition to independence (such as Tasmania's successful Y2I program - [Homes Tasmania - Youth2Independence program](#)) . Young people typically generate lower rent revenues requiring additional subsidies over and above support. As there is currently no known additional support funding available in Tasmania, youth housing is not viable under the NHIF-CT funding model.

3. Proposed Jurisdictional Support

Transitional dwellings will be delivered on land owned by Homes Tasmania or a partner agency identified through the NHIF-CT submission process, or acquired as spot purchases. There is an opportunity for Homes Tasmania to contribute to the cost of capital development, and to partner with a registered Tier 1 community housing provider through the capital development phase and to secure long-term management of the properties.

Delivery of these dwellings will be similar, but not the same as the Family Violence Rapid Rehousing Program. Homes Tasmania administers the Family Violence Rapid Rehousing program which provides housing assistance to people escaping family violence by making properties available at subsidised rent. This program is delivered in partnership with Loreto Community Housing, a Tier 1 community housing provider operating in Tasmania, that provides tenancy management, with support for residents delivered through Housing Connect. The Rapid Rehousing Program is being expanded by an additional 100 dwellings, bringing the total number to 150 properties over the next two years.

Homes Tasmania was also recently successful in securing \$2.25 million in Commonwealth funding towards delivery of 20 transitional accommodation dwellings for women escaping family and domestic violence under the Crisis and Transitional Accommodation Program.