

Call for Submission of Motions

*Councils are invited to submit motions for debate
to be Included at General Meetings*

Name of Council : Northern Midlands Council

Contact person (name, title) Des Jennings, General Manager.....

Phone: (03) 63977303..... Email: des.jennings@nmc.tas.gov.au

Date of General Meeting for Motion to be Included: 18 March 2022.....

Motion Requirements:

In order for a Motion to be considered please indicate if the proposed Motion:

- Addresses the objectives of the Association¹.
- Concerns a local government matter.
- Is a matter of common concern to councils and not a specific local issue.
- Is linked to LGAT's current Annual Plan, available [here](#)
- It not an existing resolution of the sector (please refer to the Follow up of Resolutions Report in the preceding General Meeting for a list of current resolutions).
- Has not been considered at a General Meeting in the 12 months prior.
- Relates to existing or sought activities/policy of the Tasmanian Government and would benefit from members understanding the Tasmanian Government position prior to considering².

LGAT staff are happy to assist you in developing your motion. Please phone 03 6146 3740 in the first instance.

Please attach –

The proposed Motion, which should clearly articulate the action required of LGAT or the policy position being sought from the sector.

¹ The objectives of LGAT are

- (a) Protect and represent the interests and rights of Councils in Tasmania;
- (b) Promote an efficient and effective system of local government in Tasmania; and
- (c) Provide services to Members, councillors and employees of Councils.

² Council should consider raising the motion at the General Meeting when State Government Comment on Motions is sought, in 2022 this will be the 16 September General Meeting.

The attachment should also include additional background comments to ensure members have a complete understanding of what is being sought and how the Motion addresses the requirements listed above.

Email to admin@lgat.tas.gov.au

Motion:

That LGAT lobby the State Government to initiate and fund the development and implementation of a family and sexual violence prevention framework for local government across the state.

Background

Local Governments play a vital role bringing together different organisations with regards to the health and wellbeing of their communities.

In October 2021, a number of representative across 13 councils, including Mayors, Councillors, General Managers, Directors and Community Development Officers met with the Our Watch Senior Advisor, Kelsey Paske, and LGAT Policy Officer, Lynden Leppard to form an informal community of practice to identify what councils were doing with regards to prevention, to share insights, discuss challenges and develop a collaborative approach for how local government in Tasmania can effectively address the drivers of violence against women. The scourge of Family and Sexual Violence continues to plague Tasmanian communities. By developing a framework to address this issue, Local Governments can assist in bringing together multiple stakeholders in the Family and Sexual Violence prevention fields to harmonise their efforts and be a voice of advocacy in their communities. This motion seeks to encourage Council's across the state to bring this matter to the forefront of their planning in the health and wellbeing space.

The Australian Government developed the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children which is a long term (12 year) plan (2010 – 2022). The Tasmanian Department of Premier and Cabinet, Community Development Division developed a complementary strategy, "Safe Homes, Families, Communities: Tasmania's action plan for family and sexual violence 2019-2022". Both strategies have now reached the end of their timeframe and are due to be reviewed and updated. The Draft "National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022 – 2032", was released for comment on 14 January 2022.

Statistically, in 2020, there were 3,414 victims of assault recorded in Tasmania (631 victims per 100,000) persons. Most assaults:

- occurred at a residential location (57% or 1,946 victims)

Most assault victims:

- knew the offender (73% or 2,496 victims)
- were female (53% or 1,819 victims)

Around half of all assaults were Family and Domestic Violence (FDV) related. That's 47% or, 1,600 victims of FDV.

There were 267 victims of sexual assault recorded in Tasmania in 2020, an increase of 27% (56 victims per 100,000) from the previous year (49 victims per 100,000 persons).

Most sexual assaults occurred at a residential location (71% or 190 victims). Most victims of sexual assault:

- knew the offender (86% or 229 victims)
- were female (83% or 221 victims)

Around two in five victims of sexual assault were FDV-related (41% or 110 victims).

Reference: Australian Bureau of Statistics (Recorded Crime – victims): <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/crime-and-justice/recorded-crime-victims/latest-release#tasmania>

Domestic and family violence refers to a wide range of behaviours designed to create dependency, isolate, and control, or monitor another person's activities. Control and power can be enacted through words as well as actions, and it is important to recognise that these behaviours, while not physically violent, are still serious types of domestic abuse. These actions occur when a person tries to deny another person their freedom of action, as well as trying to frighten, humiliate, or degrade them.

Appreciably, the experience of domestic violence doesn't affect all women equally. Women with disabilities, young women, pregnant women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, culturally and linguistically diverse women (CALD), and women experiencing financial hardship, are most at risk of experiencing domestic violence. Further, the impact it has on the lives of our families, friends, and the wider community include long term social, health,

psychological, financial, and economic damage.

Every year, millions of Australians from all socio-economic backgrounds, religions, education level, age, gender, or sexual orientation, experience Family and/or Domestic Violence, and while men are also victims, it is women who are the overwhelming victims, describing living with violence as, *“like being on a roller-coaster, never knowing what will happen next”* and *“living in constant fear”*.

While levels of government, workplaces, community sectors and individuals and families have a role to play, local government is closely connected with the community and has influence that state government does not. We need to work together to ensure that we all promote respect, inclusion and a healthier Tasmania.

Local Government has an ideal opportunity, through LGAT and the development of a Local Government Framework, to bring fresh perspective at a local level and send a message to the broader community that Councils are concerned for the health and wellbeing of their communities and the prevalence and effects of domestic and family violence.

The Northern Midlands is bringing this Motion to LGAT now, rather than waiting for the September meeting and a State Government response, so that this proposal can be presented within the State Budget LGAT Priorities List for inclusion in the current review of the Third Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Action Plan and potentially funded under this Plan.