

North West Tasmania

Women's Shelter

Redevelopment Proposal

Seeking project partners for the redevelopment of the Ulverstone site.

A partnership project with Housing All Australians



core
COLLECTIVE
architects



The Crisis

In North West Tasmania, women and children fleeing family violence are being turned away every single week — not because help doesn't exist, but because **there simply isn't enough safe housing available.**

4 OUT OF 5 TURNED AWAY

80% of women and children seeking support from NWTWS cannot be accommodated. The majority are left without safe housing when they need it most.

The North West faces some of the **highest rates of family violence in the country** — **nearly three times the national average** — yet has **the lowest level of crisis accommodation in Tasmania.**

The North West Tasmania Women's Shelter (NWTWS), the region's **only dedicated specialist service**, is operating under extreme pressure:

- In FY25, **112 women and children were supported**
- **297 people (150 women and 147 children) were turned away** due to lack of capacity

Behind these numbers are real people — mothers and children forced to remain in unsafe environments because there is nowhere else to go.

Existing accommodation is no longer fit for purpose. Older properties face **critical issues with safety, heating, location, and maintenance**, and the previous communal shelter model has proven unsuitable — limiting privacy, independence, and recovery.

Without urgent investment, women and children will continue to be turned away — forced to choose between **staying in violence or facing homelessness.**

The funding of this next stage of the project would double the accommodation options on the current site, and deliver something innovative, comfortable and safe to women and children across the region who desperately need safe housing.

“Our turnaway rates remain consistently high, with 4 out of 5 women and children seeking support from our service sitting on a referral list with very little chance of being accommodated. We are completely unable to respond in the moment due to always being at capacity, which we know is needed for family violence response. These of course, are the women who contact our service and that we know about - we know that many others are still living in unsafe situations right across the North West, knowing that there are not services available to help them.”

Sophie Hunt – CEO, NWTWS



8,992 BED NIGHTS

Total number of bed nights provided



115

SUPPORT PERIODS

Total number of support periods with accommodation

NUMBER OF INSTANCES OF UNASSISTED PERSONS



150 WOMEN



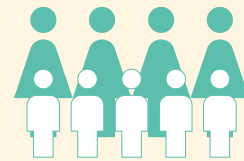
147 CHILDREN



52 WOMEN



60 CHILDREN



112 TOTAL SUPPORT

Demand Data

Family violence statistics are most acute in Tasmania's North-West region, which consistently records the highest per capita rates in the State.

The region covers over 30 per cent of Tasmania's land area and approximately 20 per cent of its population, yet has the least amount of crisis accommodation available.

On a National scale, the North West has rates of family violence close to 3 times the national average.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENT RATE PER 10,000 POPULATION

Based on the latest ABS population estimates

130
NE

120
N

88
S



Working together to address the crisis

There is a solution — one that is already underway and ready to expand.

NWTWS, in partnership with Housing All Australians, is delivering a **staged redevelopment** designed to provide **safe, trauma-informed environments where recovery can begin** — environments like the one that transformed the outcome in the story above.

What's already happening (Stage 1a):

- 3 brand-new crisis accommodation units
- Trauma-informed, best-practice design
- Construction commencing mid-2026
- Operational by March 2027

What's needed now (Stage 1b):

- 3 additional independent living units
- Modern, therapeutic service and support spaces
- Family-friendly outdoor and recovery environments
- Cost-effective redevelopment of existing infrastructure

This expansion will **mean more women and children can say “yes, there is space” when they reach out for help.**



Project precedent photos representative of the future built environments of Stage 1a.



Aerial view of site.

Core and Cluster Development

This project would provide a fit for purpose crisis accommodation facility for women and children in the NW region. Current yield is 26 units, with a site recently identified by Homes Tasmania in Devonport.

This project would represent a significant uplift in capacity, and allow the service to operationalise a shelter site in line with others statewide (such as Magnolia Place – North and Hobart Women’s Shelter – South)

A Business Case for this project was presented to state government as requested for a state budget submission in January 2026.

There has been no public commitment from the state government to fund this project.

A federal funding application was made to Housing Australia in relation to this project, facilitated by Homes Tasmania, in December 2025. There is no outcome to this funding application.



Your Part

Right now, this project is ready to move forward – but it depends on partners who are willing to act.

Every contribution helps ensure that more stories end in safety – not in turning people away.

Financial Contributions

Fund critical parts of the build and directly increase capacity.

More funding = more families housed.

Building Materials & Supplies

Contribute essential materials and fittings to reduce costs and accelerate delivery.

Your products become places of safety.

Skills & Professional Support

Offer your expertise – from construction to consulting.

Your knowledge helps build environments for healing.

Fundraising & Collective Giving

Mobilise your networks and multiply your impact.

Help us reach more families, faster.

Advocacy & Awareness

Use your voice to bring attention to the crisis.

Awareness drives action, funding, and change.



The Project Partnership

- An investment in social impact with a highly valued organisation on an exciting journey of change and uplift
- Direct impact to families in providing an increased number of crisis accommodation for the region
- An opportunity for women and children in the region to leave an unsafe environment and receive trauma informed, therapeutic support
- Support from a highly skilled finance team to manage your investment, providing required documentation
- Ongoing reporting and updates on the project
- A highly skilled and collaborative project team
- Acknowledgement in all marketing and media releases referencing the project

The Decision

RIGHT NOW
4 OUT OF 5
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
ARE TURNED AWAY

You can help change that.

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To pledge your support



