



MEDIA RELEASE

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Commission of Inquiry: the voices of children and young people must be heard

The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings considers the voices of children and young people are vitally important in bringing about change.

In 2021, it engaged researchers to hear from children and young people directly on their experiences of child safety in institutions.

The report ***"Take notice, believe us and act!" – perceptions of children and young people in Tasmania on what makes a child-focused organisation safe and unsafe*** explores the views of 59 children and young people in government-run organisations.

They were from Tasmanian public schools, out of home care, hospitals and youth detention.

The report is co-authored by child safety experts Associate Professor Tim Moore and Emeritus Professor Morag McArthur.

Commission President, the Honourable Marcia Neave AO, said the report has allowed the Commission to hear from Tasmanian children about how systems and policies could improve.

"Child sexual abuse flourishes in silence. We hope very much that this excellent report will open our ears and hearts to the voices of children," Commissioner Neave said.

Associate Professor Moore said many of the study's participants felt strongly that efforts to prevent harm and respond to abuse must be developed with children and young people.

"There is a great opportunity to collaboratively create child-safe systems to minimise risk, meet children's safety needs and provide the vital care they need to grow and heal," he said.

The report launch will include opening remarks by Commissioner Neave and Commissioner Leah Bromfield, as well as a discussion with Professors Moore and McArthur and two young people.

More information about ***"Take notice, believe us and act!"*** will be available on the Commission's website following the launch: www.commissionofinquiry.tas.gov.au/childrens-report
Please be aware the report provides children and young people's views on safety within institutional contexts.

During interviews and focus groups, some children and young people disclosed physical, emotional and sexual abuse and provided accounts of the ways that adults and institutions did and did not respond.

Readers should be aware that some content may cause discomfort or distress.

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