

04 June 2025



Dear Department of Justice,

[Working It Out](#) (WIO) has prepared this feedback on the Tasmanian Department of Justice's proposed *Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025*. As Tasmania's sole dedicated support, advocacy, and education service for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and asexual (LGBTIQA+) community, WIO is committed to fostering change through education grounded in lived experience. Our goal is to empower LGBTIQA+ Tasmanians to lead fulfilling lives.

We appreciate the opportunity to [provide feedback](#) on the *Family Violence (Miscellaneous Reforms) Bill 2025*. WIO is supportive of efforts to strengthening protections for victim-survivors of family violence and recommend the following to ensure implementation of the bill is fit-for-purpose regarding the unique experiences and needs of LGBTIQA+ people, who face distinct forms of abuse and systemic barriers to support and are at risk of misidentification by the systems.

## Key Recommendations

### 1. Recognition of LGBTIQA+ Family Violence Dynamics:

- Ensure comprehensive understanding and response to LGBTIQA+ family violence across justice, policing, and support service systems.

### 2. Mandatory Cultural Competency Training:

- Require LGBTIQA+ cultural competency training and adequate resourcing for all professionals in the family violence response system—including police, courts, and support services. This will:
  1. Safeguard LGBTIQA+ victim-survivors
  2. Support appropriate responses to suspected or actual perpetrators
  3. Help prevent family violence within LGBTIQA+ communities

## Supporting Evidence

Insights from *RACGP Guidelines on LGBTIQ+ Family Abuse and Violence (2022)*:

- LGBTIQ+ people experience family violence more frequently than non-LGBTIQ+ Australians, including intimate partner abuse and violence from families of origin
- Intersectional risk factors for those with multiple marginalised identities.
- Health disparities linked to discrimination and abuse.
- Elevated suicide risk due to family rejection and trauma.
- Barriers to help-seeking due to heteronormative service models.

Barriers identified in *Engender Equality's LGBTIQ+ Family Violence Guidelines (2024)*:

- Heteronormative framing excludes or minimises LGBTIQ+ experiences.
- Fear of exclusion from mainstream services.
- Pressure to appear “healthy” to avoid reinforcing stereotypes about LGBTIQ+ relationships.
- Victims may hesitate to report violence due to concern for the abuser or local community standing.
- Reporting abuse may force individuals to reveal both their experience of violence and their LGBTIQ+ identity.
- Distrust of police, with over half of Australian LGBTIQ+ survivors feeling unsupported by police.
- Misidentification of abuse due to lack of tools to identify the primary aggressor.

Thank you for considering this submission. We are available to provide further input as needed.

With regards,

Andrew Badcock

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**Working It Out**

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