



Commission of Inquiry

30 August 2023

EVENT DETAILS

What we're doing and why: Premier and the Attorney-General to discuss the process for tabling and publishing the Commission of Inquiry's Final Report.

When: Wednesday 30 August 2023, following the Commission's Final Hearing approx. 12.30pm

Where: Executive Building, Level 10 Media Room.

Site contact: Sarah Aquilina

PRE-BRIEF DETAILS

Who/Where/When: Lee Anderson, Premier's office at approx. 12.00pm

MEDIA DETAILS

Media Advisor/s: Lee Anderson and Sarah Aquilina

Visual opportunities: N/A

Suggested Dress code: Business

RUNSHEET

12:30pm Event begins – Premier speaks about the end of the Commission

12:35pm Attorney-General speaks about the legal process for tabling

12:40pm Premier and Attorney-General take questions

12:50pm Event ends

Talking points - Premier

- Ensuring the safety of our children and young people is of utmost importance to this Government and that's why we established the Commission of Inquiry.

- Today marks the conclusion of the inquiry and I would like to thank all those who contributed - the victims, the survivors and their families who have courageously engaged with the Commission and shared their lived experience of abuse.
- To them, I want to say we are listening, and we are learning.
- I have said before we stand by the victims and survivors who have shared their experiences with the Commission of Inquiry.
- I also want to thank Commissioners Neave, Benjamin and Bromfield for their significant undertaking and their commitment to this work.
- My commitment to Tasmanians is that strong action has been taken and will continue to be taken to ensure that Tasmanian children and young people are safe and well in our care.
- I have not yet seen the Commission's final report, but the Commission has stated that it extends across eight volumes, over 2000 pages and contains 191 recommendations.
- The next few weeks and months will be a difficult time for those who have experienced abuse, those who have been engaged in the Commission's processes and for our Tasmanian community as a whole.
- We have provided additional resources to support services throughout the Commission and this will continue.
- If you need support help is available, including from Lifeline, the Sexual Assault Support Service, Laurel House and Relationships Australia's Tasmanian Branch.
- It is our intention to table the report in Parliament on Tuesday September 26.
- Arrangements are being made for additional support for victim survivors on that day.

- I want to make this clear: We will not let you down. We will do what is right for those who have suffered, for those still suffering, and to ensure this never happens again.
- Now I will hand over to the Attorney-General to say a few words.

Talking points – Attorney-General

- As Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, I am committed to the work of the Commission of Inquiry and to keeping our children and young people safe from those who would do them harm.
- I too would like to acknowledge the Commissioners and their staff for undertaking this difficult task.
- I would like to acknowledge each person who has assisted the Commission of Inquiry, especially the victim-survivors, people with lived experience, their families, those who have supported others to engage with the Commission, those victims-survivors who were not able to share their stories, and those who are no longer with us.
- I sincerely thank each of you for your courage and commitment to the safety and wellbeing of Tasmania's children and young people.
- I would like to briefly outline the process for delivering the Final Report to the Governor and its tabling in Parliament.
- The Commission will deliver its Report to the Governor tomorrow - this process is managed by the Commission.
- We expect that the Commissioners themselves will attend Government House to deliver a hard copy of the Report to the Governor.

- Government House will be issuing an advisory to media about that event.
- The Commission will provide the Premier with an electronic copy of the report shortly after providing the hard copy to the Governor.
- That concludes the formal role of the Commission of Inquiry.
- In accordance with the Commissions of Inquiry Act, a copy of the report is then to be tabled in each House of the Parliament within 10 sitting days after the day on which it is received by the Governor.
- As the Premier has indicated, the report will be tabled on 26 September.

LIKELY QUESTIONS

What is the process for the delivery of the Report?

- It is our expectation that the Commission will identify any parts of its report that will, in its view, need to be redacted.
- The Report will then be considered by Executive Council – any redactions will be approved by the Governor acting on the advice of the Executive Council.
- The Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising Her Excellency's functions. The advice of the Executive Council is designed to support the exercise of Her Excellency's functions, including the receipt of legal advice via the Attorney-General.
- This is the ordinary function and procedure of the Executive Council in accordance with Tasmanian law.
- The Report will then be provided to the Commission's printer for preparing hardcopies for tabling.



Redaction process

- We are aware that there has been a level of concern around the transparency of the final report and redaction process, and this is causing anxiety for victim-survivors and their families.
- This Government established the Commission to find, examine and expose the failings that have caused and contributed to the appalling abuse of children.
- We know that Governments and institutions have failed to protect children who were in their care.
- The Premier has made a commitment that redactions will not be used to hide the truth or obscure the failings of the State.
- We want all Tasmanians, and especially victim-survivors, to know that we will treat this report with the solemnity, care and respect that it deserves.
- The State has requested that the Commission identify any parts of the Final Report that, in its view, will require redaction. Given the serious subject matter of the Report there may be a need to redact information from the report that may cause harm – such as damaging a criminal prosecution.
- We will respect the wishes of any individual victim-survivor if they express a wish not to be identified in the final report.
- Any redactions must be clearly marked on the tabled version of the Report.
- In the interests of transparency and maintaining public confidence, if material needs to be redacted from the Final Report, the redaction, and the reason for it, will be clearly identified when the report is tabled.

Legislative Test

- The legislative test the Governor must follow, in acting on advice, is heavily weighted in favour of releasing information.

- Section 10 of the Act specifies that information can only be redacted in limited circumstances. It is important to note that the public interest in the disclosure of a report of this nature is exceptionally high.

About the Report

- The Commission stated in its closing hearing that the Report will be voluminous – extending across eight volumes, over 2,000 pages and contains 191 recommendations.

Has Government seen the full report?

- The Government has not been provided with an advance copy of the Final Report.
- The State’s Solicitors and people referred to in the Report have been provided with relevant draft chapters by the Commission for the purposes of procedural fairness.

Tabling of the Report

- It is our intention to table the report in parliament on Tuesday September 26th.
- The Parliament schedule will be amended so the Report can be tabled as early as possible on the day.

Could media have an embargoed copy in a lock up?

- We appreciate that the Report will be voluminous and that represents a challenge for media reporting.
- We have received advice that the Report cannot be released to the public prior to its presentation to Parliament.
- After the Report is tabled in both Houses of Parliament it will be published on the Commission of Inquiry website.

What support is the government providing to victim-survivors?

- If you need to talk to someone, support is available.

- Over the course of the Commission of Inquiry, the Tasmanian Government has provided additional resources to local support services to support those affected— including Lifeline, the Sexual Assault Support Service, Laurel House and Relationships Australia’s Tasmanian Branch.

You can call:

- Lifeline for 24/7 crisis support on 13 11 14
- A Tasmanian Lifeline support and referral line on 1800 98 44 34.
- SASS’s 24/7 support line on 1800 697 877 (1800 MY SUPPORT) or
- Relationships Australia’s counselling, wellbeing information and referral line during business hours on 1300 364 277.

How much extra funding has the government provided for additional support?

- The Government has provided an immediate additional investment of \$1.5m to increase support services available to the community.

Who will see the report after it is provided to the Government?

- The Report will be considered by the Executive Council.
- The Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising Her Excellency’s functions.
- The advice of the Executive Council is designed to support the exercise of Her Excellency’s functions, including receipt of legal advice via the Attorney-General.
- This is the ordinary function and procedure of the Executive Council in accordance with Tasmanian law.

Will victim survivors or witnesses be briefed on the Report?

- We understand this is a difficult time for people impacted by child sexual abuse, and there is significant interest in the Report.

- However, legally the Report can't be made public until it is tabled in Parliament.

Are children safe in Government institutions?

- We remain steadfast in our commitment to keep Tasmanian children and young people safe.
- We are continuing to take strong action now, ahead of the release of the Report to make our systems and services safer for our most vulnerable.
- In May last year, we outlined the actions our Government is taking now to keep children and young people safer.
- 30 interim actions were announced and 15 of these actions are now complete, and work is well underway on the remaining actions. The status of all actions is publicly reported on the Department of Premier and Cabinet website.

Funding commitment to the recommendations

- The 2023-24 State Budget provides an additional \$30 million to fund priority action areas to keep children safer - in advance of the final report of the Commission of Inquiry.
- This is an initial investment to deliver on urgent actions.
- \$20 million was allocated in the first funding round to areas of greatest need across the State Service. The remaining \$10 million will be allocated once the recommendations of the Commission are known.

Are you committing to implementing all the recommendations?

- Yes

Will the Government provide compensation for victims?

- If there are recommendations in relation to compensation we will consider them.

BACKGROUND

Key dates

30 August: Commission of Inquiry closing hearing in Hobart.

31 August: The Commission hands its Report to the Governor.

Week beginning 4 September: Premier provides update on the release process for the Report.

Week beginning 25 September: Report tabled in Parliament on September 26 and made available on Commission of Inquiry website.

December – Government’s formal response and roadmap for implementing the Report’s Recommendations.

PREMIER
QUESTION TIME BRIEF

**SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY FINAL REPORT
PROCESS AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Current as at: **04-SEPTEMBER-2023**

TALKING POINTS:

- Our Government established the Commission of Inquiry in 2021 to bring to light past mistakes and failings, and has committed to adopting all of the recommendations of the Commission's final Report.
- Our Government understands there are many members across our community who are awaiting the public release of the final Report of the Commission of Inquiry, which is why we have sought to clearly outline the processes that must be followed before the Report can be tabled and made available to the public.
- These processes are outlined in Tasmania's *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995*.
- On 31 August, the Commissioners attended Government House to formally hand a copy of their Report to Her Excellency, the Governor. The Commission then provided a copy to the Premier.
- The Commission's work is now concluded, and the Commission has ended.

What supports are in place for victim survivors?

- Our Government acknowledges the strength and resilience of those affected by child sexual abuse.
- We recognise that the release of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, and the period leading up to its release, will impact the wellbeing of Tasmanians in different ways.

- For this reason, additional specific purpose funding has been provided to make support services available to the community.
- These services are completely free and confidential.
- If you need to talk to someone, you can contact:

Lifeline

24/7 Crisis support: 13 11 14

A Tasmanian Lifeline – 8am-8pm, 365 days a year:

1800 98 44 34

Sexual Assault Support Service

24/7 Support provided by specialist counsellors:

1800 697 877 (1800 MY SUPPORT)

Relationships Australia Tasmania

Counselling, wellbeing information and referral

9am-5pm, Monday to Friday:

1300 364 277

- Remember, in an emergency, always call 000.
- Our Government has provided an immediate additional investment of \$1.5 million dollars in a range of support services.
- We continue to liaise with these services about community need and their resourcing requirements to ensure Tasmanians who need support and help can access it.
- Our Government has a dedicated website for the Commission of Inquiry work.
- This website includes information about the report, support services and our Government's response. The website is at <https://www.keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au>.
- **Financial support is available for people wanting to attend the tabling event. More information is available on the website.**

FAQs

When will the report be made publicly available?

- We know there is significant interest in the Report – and we are committed to releasing it at the earliest opportunity.
- There are legal requirements (under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995*) to be met in reviewing the Report before its tabled.
- The Report will be tabled in Parliament on 26 September.
- An electronic copy of the Report will be published on the Commission of Inquiry website immediately after it is tabled.
- After the Report is tabled, I will make a Ministerial Statement to Parliament. The Statement will provide the Government's initial response to the Report.
- A comprehensive response to the Report will be provided in December, following an extensive review of the report and recommendations.
- It's important to note that our Government has already committed to accepting all of the Report's recommendations.

Why might information be omitted/redacted from the Commission's final report?

- We want all Tasmanians, and especially victim-survivors, to know that we will treat this report with the solemnity, care and respect that it deserves.
- The omissions process is designed to ensure that the report does not cause harm.
- "Harm" could be, for example, impacting legal proceedings, or identifying a victim-survivor who has requested their evidence is provided to the Commission anonymously.
- The Governor and Cabinet (known as the Executive Council) will consider the Report before it is tabled, and the Governor

will approve omissions acting on the advice of the Executive Council.

- The legislative test the Governor must follow, in acting on advice, is heavily weighted in favour of releasing information.
- I have made a commitment that omissions will not be used to hide the truth or obscure the failings of the State.
- Any omissions must be clearly marked on the tabled version of the Report.
- The tabled Report will also include an indication as to why an omission has been made.

People may wish to see the Report being tabled – what will happen on the day the Report is tabled and publicly released?

- The Report will be tabled in Parliament on 26 September 2023.
- An electronic copy of the Report will be available for download on the Commission of Inquiry website immediately after it is tabled.
- After the Report is tabled, I will make a Ministerial Statement to Parliament to provide our Government's initial response to the Report.
- A comprehensive response to the Report and roadmap for implementing the recommendations will be provided in December, following an extensive review of the report and recommendations.
- While there will not be a formal public event for the tabling of the Report, members of the community are welcome to attend Parliament House on the day and view proceedings from the Public Gallery.
- Overflow spaces will be available, including the Reception Room, for viewing the tabling, for people impacted by the work of the Commission.

- Parliamentary proceedings will be live-streamed on the Parliament of Tasmania website.
- I acknowledge this Report will evoke strong emotions. Lifeline and other support services will be present at Parliament House to provide any assistance.

When will the Recommendations be implemented?

- Our Government has already made a commitment to accept and implement all of the recommendations in the Report.
- I will outline the Government's response to the Report when it is tabled in Parliament.
- But we know this will be a comprehensive and voluminous report – and time will be needed to develop a considered and comprehensive response. A detailed response will be provided in December.

Will there be a public event for the tabling?

- While there will not be a formal public event for the tabling of the Report, members of the community are welcome to attend Parliament House on the day and view proceedings from the Public Gallery.
- The Reception Room on the ground floor of Parliament House will also be available for viewing the tabling, for people impacted by child sexual abuse, their families and support people.
- Parliamentary proceedings will be live-streamed on the Parliament House website.
- Lifeline and other support services will be present at Parliament House to provide any assistance.

How many people will see the report after it is provided to the Government?

- The Report will be considered by the Executive Council and omissions will be approved by the Governor, acting on the advice of the Executive Council.
- The Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising Her Excellency's functions. The advice of the Executive Council is designed to support the exercise of Her Excellency's functions, including receipt of legal advice via the Attorney-General.
- This is the ordinary function and procedure of the Executive Council in accordance with Tasmanian law.

Will victim survivors or witnesses be briefed on the Report?

- We understand that this is a difficult time for people impacted by child sexual abuse, and there is significant interest in the Report.
- However, the Report can't be made public until it is tabled in Parliament.
- The Commissions of Inquiry Act does not provide for that.

Why can't the Government 'recuse' the Executive Council from its role in advising the Governor [as suggested by Meg Webb MLC, via letter to the Premier dated 11 August 2023]?

- The Government must follow the requirements for review of the Commission's final report as specified under Tasmanian law.
- This includes the requirement for Her Excellency, the Governor, to review the final Report, as outlined in the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995*, and the convention, which is given force by the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*, that the Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising her functions.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

- A Commission of Inquiry (the Commission) established under section 4(1) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995* has been held into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings.
- The Commission was established on 15 March 2021 by Order of the Governor of Tasmania.
- The Commission is equivalent to a Royal Commission and is independent of the Tasmanian Government.
- Under its Terms of Reference, the Commission focused on the adequacy and appropriateness of the Tasmanian Government's current responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.
- The Commission submitted its Report to the Governor of Tasmania on 31 August 2023.
- On 10 August 2023, you (Premier) gave a Ministerial Statement outlining the steps and processes involved in review and release of the Commission's final report and announced that the report would be tabled on 26 September 2023.
- Media reporting following the release noted concerns that the review process could be politicised.
- The Independent Member for Nelson, the Hon Meg Webb MLC, wrote to you on 11 August 2023 suggesting that the Executive Council could recuse itself from supporting the Governor's review of the Report. This is not possible under Tasmania's current legal and constitutional arrangements.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Jo Winter	Assistant Director, Children and Young People Reform Unit
Cleared By	Louise Wilson	Executive Director

	Name	Phone Number
DPAC contact for more information:	Craig Limkin	s 36

PREMIER
QUESTION TIME BRIEF

**SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY –
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE, INTERIM
RESPONSE ACTIONS AND FUNDING**

Current as at: **07-SEPTEMBER-2023**

TALKING POINTS:

- Keeping Tasmania's children safe is a clear and enduring priority for our Government.
- We must ensure we hear, we learn, and we act, to ensure the vulnerable in our care are protected now and in the future.
- The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings (the Commission) formally handed down a copy of its Report to Her Excellency the Governor on 31 August 2023.
- The work of the Commission has now concluded. The Report will be tabled in Parliament on 26 September.
- An electronic copy of the Report will be published on the Commission of Inquiry website after it is tabled.
- Responding to the Commission of Inquiry's report will require widespread and fundamental changes across Tasmanian Government agencies and systems.
- A response to the Recommendations will be provided in December. The response will provide a detailed roadmap for implementing the recommendations across government.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet will coordinate the implementation of the Commission's recommendations and will provide whole-of-government policy support, monitoring and coordination functions to achieve implementation of the recommendations to keep children safe.

- This will include actions to ensure our response is open and transparent, with clear lines of accountability for progress, responsibility and delivery dates across Tasmanian Government agencies and systems.

Overview of completed interim response actions

- While there is much work ahead of us, our Government has not waited for the Commission's final recommendations to make our systems and services safer for our most vulnerable.
- On 24 May last year, I made a Ministerial Statement outlining actions our Government would take ahead of the Commission's final report to keep children and young people safer.
- These interim actions were in response to issues that were raised through the Commission of Inquiry hearings.
- Over the course of 2022, a total of 30 interim actions were announced.
- I am pleased to say that 15 of these interim actions are now complete, and work is well underway on the remaining actions.
- Of the 15 completed actions, a key step was the delivery of the formal Government Apology to all those affected by child sexual abuse in institutional settings on behalf of the Parliament (Action 23).
- The apology occurred on the 8 November 2022.
- Our Government apologised unreservedly to victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government Institutions.
- I said at the time that our Parliament would be defined by the actions we take to protect all children in Tasmania from abuse, and our commitment to give meaning to the Apology through our actions will continue.

- A number of the other completed interim actions are aimed at making sure that child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- These actions include instigating the rollout of trauma-informed training across the State Service (Action 5).
- We have also established a central register of employees who have been terminated as a result of a Code of Conduct investigation under Employment Direction 5 (Action 22), and made trauma-informed practice professional learning mandatory for investigators and other state servants involved in ED5 investigation processes (Action 20).
- We have also taken steps to reform our legal system, and I acknowledge the Attorney General's efforts in that respect.
- We have created a new crime of 'failing to protect a child or young person' (Action 16).
- We have introduced a new offence of sexual abuse of a child or young person by a person in authority' (Action 17).
- We have also established two pilot multidisciplinary centres, one in the north and one in the south. The Arch Centres bring together specialist family violence services, sexual assault services, and police and prosecution services under one roof, so they are readily accessible for victim-survivors (Action 28).
- To strengthen child safety in our hospitals and health settings, an expert advisory panel undertook an extensive, forensic review of child safety and governance, with a specific focus on the handling of serious misconduct such as child sexual abuse. In December 2022, the Panel handed down its final report and all 92 recommendations have been accepted in full (Action 26).
- Finally, to ensure our Government is being as open, transparent and accountable as possible, progress and delivery dates for these interim response actions are publicly reported (Action 30). The report can be accessed via the Keeping Children Safe website www.keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au

Funding

- The 2023-24 Budget provides \$30 million to fund priority action areas to keep children safer - in advance of the final report of the Commission of Inquiry.
- Funding has been allocated \$20 million to deliver on urgent actions across the State Service:
 - \$1.5 million will be allocated for immediate supports to victim-survivors and others affected by the release of the Report, as part of the transition from the supports that were previously provided through the Commission of Inquiry.
 - \$11.2 million is being provided to the Department for Education, Children and Young People. This includes:
 - Funding for additional Child Safety Officers and increased funding to the Child Advocate Service to enhance protections for children and young people under guardianship or in custody;
 - Funding to the Intensive Restoration Service to support children in out of home care to be safely returned to their families will be increased; and
 - Increased funding for Youth Justice Reform, to improve clinical services, diversion and support programs and initiatives under the Keeping Kids Safe Plan.
- We will continue to build a shared capability for responding to serious breaches of the Tasmanian State Service Code of Conduct, by establishing a dedicated team in our State Service Management Office to manage serious Code of Conduct allegations likely to lead to termination.
- We will appoint an Independent Regulator with oversight of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework to create an environment of accountability.

- Additional child safeguarding training and resources will be created, and additional multidisciplinary resourcing in the North-West will ensure enhanced child-safe facilities are available in our regional areas.
- The Department of Health will also receive approximately \$2.6 million in funding to strengthen child safeguarding across our health institutions.
- We will increase resourcing of child safety governance and models of care in our health settings, to oversee, monitor and investigate child safeguarding concerns; and support shared understanding of child safety and ensure children's voices are heard.
- Key learnings and agreed principles will be developed and shared across the Tasmanian State Service for our agencies to tailor and operationalise appropriately.
- If further funding is needed this financial year, beyond the allocation in the 2023-24 State Budget, we will look to introduce a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.
- Ongoing funding requirements will then be considered through future Budget processes.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

- A Commission of Inquiry (the Commission) established under section 4(1) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995* (the Act) has been held into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings. The hearings concluded in September 2022.
- The Commission was established on 15 March 2021 by Order of the Governor of Tasmania.
- The Commission is equivalent to a Royal Commission and is independent of the Tasmanian Government.
- Under its Terms of Reference, the Commission focused on the adequacy and appropriateness of the Tasmanian Government's current responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.
- The Commission handed down its report to the Governor of Tasmania on 31 August 2023.
- The Act requires the report to be tabled in Parliament within 10 Parliamentary sitting days.
- The report will be tabled on 26 September 2023.
- A formal public apology was made on behalf of Parliament in the House of Assembly on Tuesday 8 November 2022. The apology extended to all people who have been impacted by child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government institutions, not just those who have participated in the Commission of Inquiry.
- The Government has made a commitment that all of the 191 recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry final report will be implemented.
- It is anticipated the Government will deliver a formal response once the final report is tabled and made publicly available.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Lisa Marriner	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared By	Craig Limkin	Associate Secretary

	Name	Phone Number
DPAC contact for more information:	Craig Limkin	s.36

ALL MINISTERS
QUESTION TIME BRIEF

SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Current as at: **07-SEPTEMBER-2023**

TALKING POINTS:

- Ensuring the safety of our children and young people is of utmost importance to this Government.
- That is why in March 2021, our Government established the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings.
- We took this action so that we learn from the past, ensure that our mistakes and failings are never repeated, and to better protect Tasmania's children and young people into the future.
- The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings handed its Report to the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC, on 31 August 2023.
- The Report will now be considered by Executive Council – any omissions will be approved by the Governor, acting on the advice of the Executive Council.
- The Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising Her Excellency's functions. The advice of the Executive Council is designed to support the exercise of Her Excellency's functions, including receipt of legal advice via the Attorney-General.
- This is the ordinary function and procedure of the Executive Council in accordance with Tasmanian law.
- The Report will then be provided to the Commission's printer for preparing hardcopies for tabling.

- The Report contains 8 volumes, 75 findings, and 191 recommendations and approximately 3,000 pages.
- Given the length of the report, I have not read the entire report, but I have read the Executive Summary as part of my role as a member of the Executive Council.
- I am unable to provide any further comment on this at this stage.
- The Report will be made public on 26 September, after it has been tabled in Parliament.
- It will then be published on the Commission of Inquiry website.

FAQS

What support services are in place for victim survivors?

- Our Government acknowledges the strength and resilience of those affected by child sexual abuse.
- We recognise that the release of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, and the period leading up to its release, will impact the wellbeing of Tasmanians in different ways.
- For this reason, additional specific purpose funding has been provided to make support services available to the community.
- These services are completely free and confidential.
- If you need to talk to someone, you can contact:

Lifeline

24/7 Crisis support: 13 11 14

A Tasmanian Lifeline - 8am-8pm, 365 days a year:

1800 984 434

Statewide Sexual Assault Support Service

24/7 Support provided by specialist counsellors provide by the Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS) and Laurel House in the North and North West.

1800 697 877 (1800 MY SUPPORT)

Relationships Australia Tasmania
Counselling, wellbeing information and referral
9am-5pm, Monday to Friday:
1300 364 277

- Remember, in an emergency, always call 000.

What extra funding has the Government provided to support services?

- The government has provided an immediate additional investment of \$1.5m dollars in a range of support services.
- We continue to liaise with these services about community need and their resourcing requirements to ensure Tasmanians who need support and help can access it.

Will there be a public event for the tabling?

- Anyone who has been affected by institutional child sexual abuse in Tasmania is welcome to attend the tabling of the Commission of Inquiry Report in Parliament on 26 September 2023.
- The report will also be publicly released at this time.
- More details regarding the proceedings on tabling day will be released by 15 September 2023.
- Those who wish to attend the tabling of the Report, may depending on numbers:
 - view proceedings from the Public Gallery
 - view proceedings from the Reception Room on the ground floor of Parliament House.
 - watch the tabling online via livestream from the Parliament of Tasmania website.

What financial support is available to help people attend the tabling of the report?

- Financial assistance is available to help victim survivors, their families and/or support person to attend Parliament House in Hobart for the tabling of the Report.
- Financial assistance includes:
 - costs of travel to Hobart from within Tasmania
 - costs of travel from interstate
 - local travel costs, such as petrol, bus or taxi fares
 - accommodation costs and meals
 - other incidentals.
- Assistance is also available for people who need help to make travel and/or accommodation arrangements.
- We acknowledge the release of this Report will evoke strong emotions. Support is available to anyone who needs it.
- On tabling day, support services will be present and visible at Parliament House.

Where can people find more information?

- Our Government has a dedicated website for our response to the Commission of Inquiry Report.
- The website is at keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au.
- Fact sheets and contact details for people wishing to access financial assistance and support services are available via the website.
- People can also call 1800 093 758 or email KeepingChildrenSafe@dpac.tas.gov.au, from 9am-5pm Monday to Friday, for more information.

- The website includes information about the report, support services and our Government's response.

When will the report be made publicly available?

- We know there is significant interest in the Report – and we are committed to releasing it at the earliest opportunity.
- There are legal requirements (under the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995*) to be met in reviewing the Report before its tabled.
- The Report will be tabled in Parliament on 26 September.
- An electronic copy of the Report will be published on the Commission of Inquiry website immediately after it is tabled.
- Our Government has already committed to accepting all of the Report's 191 recommendations.
- Our Government will provide a response to the Report in December, following an extensive review of the report and recommendations.

Why information might be omitted/redacted from the Commission's final report?

- We want all Tasmanians, and especially victim-survivors, to know that we will treat this report with the solemnity, care and respect that it deserves.
- The Commission has recommended several omissions in a letter to the Governor, as outlined at their final hearing on 30 August 2023.
- The Governor and Executive Council will consider the Report before it is tabled, and the Governor will approve omissions acting on the advice of the Executive Council.
- The legislative test the Governor must follow, in acting on advice, is heavily weighted in favour of releasing information.
- Our Government has made a commitment that omissions will not be used to hide the truth or obscure the failings of the State.

- Any omissions will be clearly marked on the tabled version of the Report. The tabled Report will also include an indication as to why an omission has been made.
- As legal proceedings are finalised, any relevant redactions will be removed from the online report.

When will the Recommendations be implemented?

- The Government has already made a commitment to accept and implement all of the 191 recommendations in the Report.
- The Premier will outline the Government's response to the Report when it is tabled in Parliament.
- But we know this is comprehensive and voluminous report – and time will be needed to develop a considered and comprehensive response. A detailed response will be provided in December.

How many people have seen the report already?

- The Report is being considered by the Executive Council and omissions will be approved by the Governor, acting on the advice of the Executive Council.
- The Governor must act on the advice of responsible Ministers in exercising Her Excellency's functions. The advice of the Executive Council is designed to support the exercise of Her Excellency's functions, including receipt of legal advice via the Attorney-General.
- This is the ordinary function and procedure of the Executive Council in accordance with Tasmanian law.

Will victim survivors or witnesses be briefed on the Report before it is released?

- We understand that this is a difficult time for people impacted by child sexual abuse, and there is significant interest in the Report.

- However, the Report can't be made public until it is tabled in Parliament.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

- A Commission of Inquiry (the Commission) established under section 4(1) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995* has been held into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings. The hearings concluded in September 2022.
- The Commission was established on 15 March 2021 by Order of the Governor of Tasmania.
- The Commission is equivalent to a Royal Commission and is independent of the Tasmanian Government.
- Under its Terms of Reference, the Commission focused on the adequacy and appropriateness of the Tasmanian Government's current responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.
- The Commission submitted its report and recommendations to the Governor of Tasmania on 31 August 2023.
- The report will be tabled on 26 September 2023. More details about the order of proceedings on tabling day will be released publicly by 15 September 2023.
- A formal public apology was made on behalf of Parliament in the House of Assembly on Tuesday 8 November 2022. The apology extended to all people who have been impacted by child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government institutions, not just those who have participated in the Commission of Inquiry.
- The Government has made a commitment that all the recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry final report will be implemented.
- It is anticipated the Government will deliver a formal response once the Commission have handed down its report and the report has been made publicly available.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Jo Winter	Assistant Director, Children and Young People Reform Unit
Cleared By	Louise Wilson	Executive Director, Children and Young People Reform Unit

	Name	Phone Number
DPAC contact for more information:	Craig Limkin	s.36

8

PREMIER
QUESTION TIME BRIEF

**SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY –
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE, PRE-REPORT
RELEASE**

Current as at: **22-SEPTEMBER-2023**

TALKING POINTS:

- Keeping Tasmania's children safe is a clear and enduring priority for our Government.
- We must ensure we hear, we learn, and we act, to ensure the vulnerable in our care are protected now and in the future. The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings (the Commission) formally handed down a copy of its Report to Her Excellency the Governor on 31 August 2023.
- The work of the Commission has now concluded.
- The Report will be tabled in Parliament today at 11.30 am.
- A copy of the Report will be available on the Commission of Inquiry website after it is tabled.
- I acknowledge the long-awaited anticipation of the release of Report for the Tasmanian Community.
- Today marks a significant moment for our Tasmanian community, as the findings and recommendations of Commission of Inquiry will be released.
- As Premier, I make a commitment to all individuals and their families who have endured child sexual abuse in our Tasmanian institutions that this Government will make change.
- Our Government will work together to create a Tasmanian community where no child lives in fear of abuse in the institutions responsible for their care.



- Responding to the Commission of Inquiry's report will require widespread and fundamental changes across Tasmanian Government agencies and systems.
- Our Government will provide a whole of government response to the Commission's Recommendations in December. The response will outline a detailed plan for implementing the recommendations across government.
- The Department of Premier and Cabinet will coordinate the implementation of the Commission's recommendations and will provide whole-of-government policy support, monitoring and coordination functions to achieve implementation of the recommendations to keep children safe.
- This will include actions to ensure our response is open and transparent, with clear lines of accountability for progress, responsibility and delivery dates across Tasmanian Government agencies and systems.

Overview of completed interim response actions

- While there is much work ahead of us, our Government has not waited for the Commission's final recommendations to make our systems and services safer for our most vulnerable.
- On 24 May last year, I made a Ministerial Statement outlining actions our Government would take ahead of the Commission's final report to keep children and young people safer.
- These interim actions were in response to issues that were raised through the Commission of Inquiry hearings.
- Over the course of 2022, a total of 30 interim actions were announced.
- I am pleased to say that 15 of these interim actions are now complete, and work is well underway on the remaining actions.

- Of the 15 completed actions, a key step was the delivery of the formal Government Apology to all those affected by child sexual abuse in institutional settings on behalf of the Parliament (Action 23).
- The apology occurred on the 8 November 2022.
- Our Government apologised unreservedly to victim-survivors of child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government Institutions.
- I said at the time that our Parliament would be defined by the actions we take to protect all children in Tasmania from abuse, and our commitment to give meaning to the Apology through our actions will continue.
- A number of the other completed interim actions are aimed at making sure that child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- These actions include instigating the rollout of trauma-informed training across the State Service (Action 5).
- We have also established a central register of employees who have been terminated as a result of a Code of Conduct investigation under Employment Direction 5 (Action 22), and made trauma-informed practice professional learning mandatory for investigators and other state servants involved in ED5 investigation processes (Action 20).
- We have also taken steps to reform our legal system, and I acknowledge the Attorney General's efforts in that respect.
- We have created a new crime of 'failing to protect a child or young person' (Action 16).
- We have introduced a new offence of sexual abuse of a child or young person by a person in authority' (Action 17).

- We have also established two pilot multidisciplinary centres, one in the north and one in the south. The Arch Centres bring together specialist family violence services, sexual assault services, and police and prosecution services under one roof, so they are readily accessible for victim-survivors (Action 28).
- To strengthen child safety in our hospitals and health settings, an expert advisory panel undertook an extensive, forensic review of child safety and governance, with a specific focus on the handling of serious misconduct such as child sexual abuse. In December 2022, the Panel handed down its final report and all 92 recommendations have been accepted in full (Action 26).
- Finally, to ensure our Government is being as open, transparent and accountable as possible, progress and delivery dates for these interim response actions are publicly reported (Action 30). The report can be accessed via the Keeping Children Safe website www.keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au

Funding

- The 2023-24 Budget provides \$30 million to fund priority action areas to keep children safer - in advance of the final report of the Commission of Inquiry.
- Funding has been allocated \$20 million to deliver on urgent actions across the State Service:
 - \$1.5 million will be allocated for immediate supports to victim-survivors and others affected by the release of the Report, as part of the transition from the supports that were previously provided through the Commission of Inquiry.
 - \$11.2 million is being provided to the Department for Education, Children and Young People. This includes:
 - Funding for additional Child Safety Officers and increased funding to the Child Advocate Service to enhance protections for children and young people under guardianship or in custody;

- Funding to the Intensive Restoration Service to support children in out of home care to be safely returned to their families will be increased; and
 - Increased funding for Youth Justice Reform, to improve clinical services, diversion and support programs and initiatives under the Keeping Kids Safe Plan.
- We will continue to build a shared capability for responding to serious breaches of the Tasmanian State Service Code of Conduct, by establishing a dedicated team in our State Service Management Office to manage serious Code of Conduct allegations likely to lead to termination.
 - We will appoint an Independent Regulator with oversight of the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework to create an environment of accountability.
 - Additional child safeguarding training and resources will be created, and additional multidisciplinary resourcing in the North-West will ensure enhanced child-safe facilities are available in our regional areas.
 - The Department of Health will also receive approximately \$2.6 million in funding to strengthen child safeguarding across our health institutions.
 - We will increase resourcing of child safety governance and models of care in our health settings, to oversee, monitor and investigate child safeguarding concerns; and support shared understanding of child safety and ensure children's voices are heard.
 - Key learnings and agreed principles will be developed and shared across the Tasmanian State Service for our agencies to tailor and operationalise appropriately.
 - If further funding is needed this financial year, beyond the allocation in the 2023-24 State Budget, we will look to introduce a Supplementary Appropriation Bill.



- Ongoing funding requirements will then be considered through future Budget processes.

BACKGROUND AND FACTS:

- A Commission of Inquiry (the Commission) established under section 4(1) of the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1995* (the Act) has been held into the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings. The hearings concluded in September 2022.
- The Commission was established on 15 March 2021 by Order of the Governor of Tasmania.
- The Commission is equivalent to a Royal Commission and is independent of the Tasmanian Government.
- Under its Terms of Reference, the Commission focused on the adequacy and appropriateness of the Tasmanian Government's current responses to allegations and incidents of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts.
- The Commission handed down its report to the Governor of Tasmania on 31 August 2023.
- The Act requires the report to be tabled in Parliament within 10 Parliamentary sitting days.
- The report will be tabled at 11.30 am on 26 September 2023.
- A formal public apology was made on behalf of Parliament in the House of Assembly on Tuesday 8 November 2022. The apology extended to all people who have been impacted by child sexual abuse in Tasmanian Government institutions, not just those who have participated in the Commission of Inquiry.
- The Government has made a commitment that all of the 191 recommendations from the Commission of Inquiry final report will be implemented.
- It is anticipated the Government will deliver a formal response once the final report is tabled and made publicly available.

	Name	Position
Prepared by	Lisa Marnier	Senior Policy Analyst
Cleared By	Craig Limkin	Associate Secretary

	Name	Phone Number
DPAC contact for more information:	Craig Limkin	s.36

Hutton, Bridget

From: Limkin, Craig
Sent: Saturday, 23 September 2023 10:36 AM
To: Wittison, Sandy; Whiteley, Jessica; Field, Vanessa
Cc: Gale, Jenny; Winter, Jo; Workflow; Office of the Premier
Subject: For action: Draft Commission of Inquiry Ministerial Statement
Attachments: DRAFT - Ministerial Statement - Premier - Tabling of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry 210923.docx

Categories: For info

Dear All

Please find attached the draft ministerial statement for Tuesday which has been prepared by DPAC and received input from all relevant agencies. Can you please review and provide any comments. We will need to put the final version through a trauma informed review and to enable this to be completed we will require this back by 11am on Monday morning so it can be finalised by 5pm. If you have any questions please give me a call. Q&A will follow shortly.

Cheers
Craig!

Craig A Limkin PSM (Pronouns: he/him) Associate Secretary and State Recovery Advisor

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**Our DPAC.
Our Values.**



I choose to work flexibly & send emails outside normal office hours. No need to respond to my emails outside yours. At DPAC we value and respect flexible work arrangements so please respond when you are working. In recognition of the deep history and culture of this island, we would like to acknowledge and pay our respects to all Tasmanian Aboriginal people; the past and present Custodians of the Land upon which we meet/gather.



Hutton, Bridget

From: Limkin, Craig
Sent: Saturday, 23 September 2023 4:03 PM
To: Wittison, Sandy; Field, Vanessa; Whiteley, Jessica
Cc: Gale, Jenny; Winter, Jo; Office of the Premier; Workflow
Subject: Ministerial statements - Agency
Attachments: DRAFT - Ministerial Statement -Ellis- Tabling of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry (Police).docx; DRAFT - Ministerial Statement -Ogilvie- Tabling of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry (Women&PreventionFV).docx; DRAFT - Ministerial Statement - Attorney-General - Tabling of Final Report of Commission of Inquiry.docx; DRAFT - Ministerial Statement -Palmer- Tabling of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry (Community Services).docx; DRAFT - Ministerial Statement - Barnett- Tabling of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry (Health).docx; DRAFT - Ministerial Statement - Minister for Education Children and Youth.docx

Categories: For info

Hi All

As discussed the team have prepared these which you could send to each Minister to personalise and then use on Wednesday/Thursday. I understand from a conversation with Sandy we are unable to table on Tuesday as the Premier suggested. As discussed with Sandy – we would recommend that they are returned to DPAC once you and the Ministers have adjusted them so they can go through a trauma informed check. I also want to acknowledge Jo Winter who is cc:ed who has done all the hard work on theses with her team

Cheers
Craig!

Hutton, Bridget

From: Workflow
Sent: Monday, 25 September 2023 12:33 PM
To: Events, Premier
Subject: URGENT Event Brief for the Premier - 2023 Tabling of the COI Report
Attachments: Event Brief for the Premier - 2023 Tabling of the COI Report.DOCX
Importance: High

Good afternoon

Please see attached event brief for the Premier for tomorrow. This has been cleared by Craig Limkin.

Cheers, Nikky

-----< Content Manager Record Information >-----

Record Number: 23/521124

Title: Event Brief for the Premier - 2023 Tabling of the COI Report

Adviser:

Department: Premier and Cabinet

Ministerial CM Ref:

DPAC CM Ref: 23/521124

Event Brief for the Premier

Tabling and public release of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings

26 September 2023, 11.30am

House of Assembly, Parliament House

- Order of proceedings:**
- 11.30pm The Report will be tabled in Parliament House. This marks the formal presentation of the Report to the Parliament.
Once tabled, the Report will be available for download from [the Commission's website](#).
 - 11.35pm Premier will provide a Ministerial Statement to Parliament. The Statement will provide the Government's initial response to the Report.
 - 12.05 – 12.45pm Other members of Parliament will speak to the Report (expected to be limited to leaders of other parties).
 - 12.45pm Parliamentary proceedings finish.
 - 1.00 – 2.00pm After the Parliamentary proceedings finish, light refreshments will be available at the Waterside Pavilion, Mawson Place, Hobart.
The Premier and Members of Parliament to circulate informally with attendees.
DPAC staff (green t-shirts) will direct attendees from Parliament House to the Mawson Place.
There will not be any speeches or other formal proceedings.

2.30 – A briefing will be held for MPs at Parliament House on the
4:30pm Report.

**In attendance (for
acknowledgement):**

The Premier

Members of Parliament

Members of the Legislative Council

Head of the State Service and Heads of Agency (where relevant)

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Members of the public. Options for viewing are: Public Gallery (approximately 50 seats); Long Room via livestream (approximately 40 seats)

DPAC staff (green t-shirts) will be present to assist attendees.

Representatives from Lifeline Tasmania, Sexual Assault Support Services, Laurel House and Relationships Australia Tasmania will be present at Parliament House (and at the Waterside Pavilion after the Report tabling) to provide support to attendees and staff.

A representative of Aboriginal Tasmanian peoples will undertake decolonisation of the Public Gallery and Long Room at Parliament House.

Plain clothes Police Officers will circulate amongst Parliament House and the Waterside Pavilion.

DPAC (green t-shirts), Parliamentary staff and/or Tasmania Police will direct attendees in the event of a first aid situation and/or other emergency.

Department contact: Craig Limkin, Associate Secretary, DPAC

On-site event contact: **Parliament House:** Craig Limkin, Associate Secretary, DPAC, Louise Wilson, Executive Director, Children and Young People Reform Unit DPAC

Waterside Pavilion: Mat Healey, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Delivery Division DPAC, and Mel Gray, Deputy Secretary Wellbeing, Strategy and Engagement DPAC

GUIDANCE NOTES

- The tabling of the Report marks the formal presentation of the Report to the Parliament. Once tabled, the Report will be available for download from the Commission's website. **s.27**

s.27

- Members of the public will view the tabling and release of the Report live in the Public Gallery; and via livestreaming in the Long Room or online via the Parliament of Tasmania website.
- The Parliament House livestream link has been advertised on the Keeping Children Safe website at www.keepingchildrensafe.tas.gov.au.

- Attendees are welcome to partake in refreshments at the Waterside Pavilion between 1pm – 2pm afterwards.
- The media is expected to attend at the Parliament Lawns and the Press Gallery at Parliament House but not inside the Waterside Pavilion. They have been advised by DPAC staff to consider trauma-informed practice in the way they approach attendees. Parliament House staff will advise the media they are not allowed to take photos of attendees in the Public Gallery.

BACKGROUND

- As part of the preparations for the tabling, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs provided advice regarding Aboriginal cultural and emotional safety and has facilitated decolonisation of viewing spaces at Parliament House by Aboriginal community representatives s.36 and her son s.36. 'Decolonising spaces' is an Aboriginal way of bringing Country into colonised spaces using cultural resources and native plants, to create a safe and welcoming space that promotes healing and connections to natural environment for first nations people. These cultural resources cleanse, restore and heal the colonised spaces.
- The Premier, Cabinet Ministers, the Leader of the House and Deputy Leaders have undertaken initial Trauma Informed Awareness Training, which is scheduled for all Members of Parliament for Wednesday 27 September 2023.
- Counselling services will be available at Parliament House and the Waterside Pavillion to support both attendees and staff. Counselling services include Lifeline Tasmania, Sexual Assault Support Services, Laurel House and Relationships Australia Tasmania and Beyond Abuse (advocacy, peer to peer and referral organisation).
- Plain clothes Police Officers will circulate amongst the venues. DPAC (green t-shirts), Parliamentary staff and/or Tasmania Police will direct attendees in the event of a first aid situation and/or other emergency.
- A Tasmanian-hand made beeswax candle will be available as a gift for attendees at the refreshments event to take home if they wish.

SPEECH/TALKING POINTS

- Talking points have been provided to your office for finalisation.
- There will not be any other speeches on the day.