



Joint Sessional Committee

Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry

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8 July 2026

The Hon Felix Ellis MP
Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management
E Felix.Ellis@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Joint Sessional Committee appointed to inquire into matters related to the Recommendations made in the Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Response to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings, I write in relation to concerns raised by stakeholders regarding regional equity and multi-disciplinary participation in Arch.

Key concerns raised with this Committee relate to:

1. Regional Equity

Concerns were raised regarding regional equity of the Arch model, including where some regions have reduced access to key partners, or where co-location is inconsistent. Stakeholders expressed concerns that if variation in partner presence becomes normalised, there is a risk of regional communities experiencing different versions of the model, rather than a consistent statewide response to sexual harm.

A particular concern raised with the Committee was that the Department of Education, Children and Young People proposed changes to the participation of Child Safety Service and the Advice and Referral Line within Arch, and those changes were implemented without agreement by the Steering Committee. The concern is that, in practice, this has resulted in no ARL support being available at Arch North-West (other than the generic 1800 number) no physical presence of ARL or Child Safety Service in the North and North-West, and only ARL support being limited to a Hobart-based function that does not physically attend the northern or north-western sites. This potentially creates a gap in the co-located, multidisciplinary response and moves the model away from its intended design.

While noting the Family Violence Counselling and Support Service remains committed to the Arch model, concerns were raised that its current staffing and recruitment model has not proved successful, adaptable or sustainable in practice, resulting in the FVCSS being unable to consistently provide service provision at the North and never in the North-West since opening.

2. Multi-Disciplinary Participation

Concerns were raised regarding perceived gaps in partner participation resulting in not-for-profit service partners, who remain physically present, absorbing work that should appropriately sit with other agencies.

Stakeholders expressed concern that this creates pressure on already stretched services, risks role drift, and may require NGOs to hold complexity, coordination, risk and client expectations beyond their funded role.

3. Security of funding

Concerns were raised regarding the lack of secure ongoing funding and insufficient funding for the non-government organisations that carry significant responsibility within Arch at considerable cost.

Stakeholders called for any assessment of Arch's sustainability to consider whether the model is operating with the intended distribution of responsibility, resourcing, statutory authority and accountability across all partners.

The Committee notes the Arch model is a multi-disciplinary service model that includes cross-departmental responsibilities. As such, the Committee would appreciate a coordinated response across all responsible Departments that outlines the Government's position on the concerns raised, and any actions taken to address these matters.

It would be appreciated if a coordinated Government response could be provided to the Committee via Jenny.Mannering@parliament.tas.gov.au by Friday 31 July 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Meg Webb MLC

Chair

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cc: Jo.Palmer@parliament.tas.gov.au

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Hon Meg Webb MLC
Chair, Joint Sessional Committee
Recommendations of Final Report of the Commission of Inquiry
By email: coir@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Webb

Thank you for your letter of 8 July 2026, in relation to Arch, Tasmania's multidisciplinary centres established to work with victim-survivors of sexual harm. I note the concerns raised within your correspondence.

Facilitating access to coordinated, collaborative and trauma-informed support for people affected by sexual harm is a key priority for the Tasmanian Government. The Tasmanian Government has invested heavily in the Arch model, with three locations now embedded in key locations across the state: Hobart in the South, Launceston in the North and Burnie in the North-West.

In relation to point one of your correspondence, the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) has developed a refined Child Safety Services participation model that is designed to provide a sustainable and consistent Child Safety presence across all Arch regions while maintaining statutory governance and workforce sustainability. The proposed model includes four Arch-funded Child Safety Officer positions across Tasmania, comprising two positions in the South, one in the North and one in the North-West.

In the interim, Child Safety Services continues to respond to Arch-related matters and remains available to support Tasmania Police and Arch partners when statutory expertise is required.

The Advice and Referral Line remains the primary intake and triage pathway for concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

In respect of point two of your correspondence, relating to partner participation, it is the case that the Arch model is intended to be a coordinated response by co-located, complementary service providers. I am advised that co-located service providers have, at times, reported challenges in obtaining timely and consistent responses from 'main' service providers, resulting in increased coordination efforts to maintain a victim-centred and trauma-informed response for clients.

A number of matters have contributed to this situation, which are being actively addressed through relevant governance and management/operational forums, including with the leadership of partner agencies. This work will continue to ensure the highest level of service is provided to clients.

In relation to point three of your correspondence, I can advise that funding has been included in the 2026-27 State Budget for the Sexual Assault Support Service and Laurel House to provide therapeutic services in the three Arch centres in 2026-27 and 2027-28. Initial funding for therapeutic services was previously allocated under the Federation Funding Agreement on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2021-30 (FFA). Continued funding for Arch therapeutic services will be considered as part of future budget deliberations.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ellis', is positioned above the printed name.

Hon Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Management

4/8/2026