



CITY OF HOBART

**COMMUNITY SAFETY
COMMITMENT
2021–23**



City of **HOBART**

Acknowledgment

In recognition of the deep history and culture of our City, we acknowledge the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We acknowledge the determination and resilience of the Palawa people of Tasmania who have survived invasion and dispossession, and continue to maintain their identity, culture and rights.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Aboriginal people who represent the world's oldest continuing culture. We pay our sincere respects to Elders past and present and to all Aboriginal people living in and around Hobart.

Social Inclusion Policy Statement

In alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Council recognises the fundamental right of every individual to participate socially, culturally, economically, physically, spiritually and politically in society.

The Council acknowledges that each member of the community has their own set of strengths, skills and resources and that the contribution of these is of benefit to the whole community.

The Council recognises that not everyone's experience of our community is the same. We acknowledge the systemic barriers within the built, social and information environment that prevent people from thriving and contributing to society. Barriers include lack of employment opportunities, poverty, low

literacy and numeracy, ill health, intimate and family violence, inadequate support services, stigma and discrimination and lack of housing affordability. These are challenges which the Council is committed to addressing through advocacy, partnership and direct action.

Council commits to building social inclusion and actively reducing discrimination on the ground of any attribute listed under section 16 of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1998. The Council commits to social inclusion and compliance with relevant anti-discrimination legislation in all aspects of council operations including strategic planning, service delivery, communications and design and delivery of public spaces.

A note on language: the organisation's registered business name is 'City of Hobart' and 'Hobart City Council' is our legal name. In this document, the organisation is referred to as the 'City of Hobart' or the 'City' with the exception of the Social Inclusion Policy Statement which, as a formal policy, uses the term 'Council'.

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Image Credits: Alastair Bett, Scott Davis.



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Bus Stop

Signal driver





ON FOOTPATH
8^{am} - 6^{pm}
MON - SAT



Our Commitment to Community Safety

Hobart is a beautiful, liveable and safe city. 'Our city feels friendly and safe – but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better' (Identity Statement 3.4).

The City of Hobart aspires to be a city for all, in which everyone feels safe and secure and can meet their basic needs. To truly become a city for all, we must work towards inclusion and equity for all who live, work or play in Hobart.

We have an active role in working with community and businesses to improve the safety and perceptions of safety within our City. Community safety priorities and actions have been developed over many years in conjunction with our community safety partners.

This Community Safety Commitment (the commitment) reflects the community's aspirations articulated through the Community Vision, providing a framework from which to examine community safety. The commitment outlines key partnerships and focus areas, and sets out clear goals and priorities for action. The City makes this commitment in the knowledge that people need to feel a certain amount of safety in their lives in order to learn, grow, take healthy risks, and participate in community life.

When people consider their personal safety, they typically think about local issues that have a direct impact on their daily lives. Lawful responses are often provided as community safety solutions. In some instances these types of solutions are the best option, but often responding to the social drivers of crime is the most effective way to improve the safety of the community. It is within this area that local government has an important role to play in keeping the community safe.

This commitment describes the actions and initiatives we will undertake with our many partners to work toward that aspiration of everyone in our community feeling protected from harm. However, when it comes to safety, everyone has a role to play.

Our Organisation

CITY OF HOBART MISSION

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

The Community Safety Commitment strongly aligns with the broader strategic framework of the organisation and responds directly to the Community Vision and Strategic Plan. Hobart: A City for All, the City of Hobart's Community Inclusion and Equity Framework, describes the City's approach and role. The commitment directs the actions of the organisation that were identified by the community in creating a city for all and provides the framework that underpins our work within community safety. This commitment in turn guides action within specific annual and unit plans within the organisation.

COMMUNITY VISION

Capital City Strategic Plan

Community Inclusion and Equity Framework

Community Safety Commitment

Annual and Unit Plans



Guiding Principles

Hobart: A community vision for our island capital, articulates the kind of future the Hobart community would like to see and forms the guiding document for the City of Hobart's strategic plan.

The vision reflects the community's expectation for action in relation to community safety in the city and provides a strong mandate for delivery of this Community Safety Commitment.

This commitment has been developed to respond directly to the following aspirations set out in the community vision:

Our city feels friendly and safe – but we know not everyone experiences our city this way, and we could do better. Identity Statement

Pillar 3.4

We create and retain spaces where people feel connected with Hobart, each other and the environment, where we are safe, engaged and inspired.

Pillar 1.3.3

We make Hobart the most inclusive city in the world, a city that welcomes all.

Pillar 2.2.1

Diversity in culture, nationality, ethnicity, race, gender, sexuality, ability, age, body, family, recreation, profession, personal strengths, income level, language, education, life experiences and more make up each of us and, together, make up our city. We recognise and embrace the rich complexity diversity brings to our lives—we are all part of creating Hobart's identity.

Pillar 2.2.3

We recognise and face inequalities, poverty and disadvantage in our communities.

Pillar 2.2.7

Hobart's isolation and scale have required resilience. We know that future challenges will demand that we work hard and work together. But we are our best selves in times of adversity and vulnerability. We are caring, helpful and supportive of everyone at all times but especially when things get tough. We flourish in times of hardship.

Pillar 2.6.1



Working in Partnership

We use our connections and networks to enable participation in civic life. Our strong partnerships support collaboration across councils, community organisations, businesses and other levels of government.

The City of Hobart draws upon our reference and advisory groups to guide program planning and delivery. These groups are integral to our work, providing advice and perspective and partnering actively on projects.

COMMUNITY SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP

The Community Sector Reference Group provides high level partnership on a range of inclusion and equity initiatives and is supported by advisory groups directly relating to community safety:

- Late Night Precinct Stakeholder Group
- Hobart Retailers Safety and Security Group

The City of Hobart continues to build upon existing partnerships while creating new strategic partnerships to enable cohesive, collaborative responses to our local challenges.

Key partners include:

- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Council
- Bicycle Network of Tasmania
- Business community
- Capital Cities Council of Lord Mayors, Safe Cities Network (CCCLM)
- Crime Stoppers
- Department of Health
- Department of Police, Fire and Emergency Management
- Department of Treasury and Finance - Liquor and Gaming Unit
- Drug Education Network
- Equal Opportunity Tasmania
- Greater Hobart Councils
- Hobart Women's Shelter
- Lifeline Tasmania
- Local security companies
- Mental Health Council of Tasmania
- Our Watch
- Salvation Army
- St John Ambulance Tasmania
- Waterfront Business Community

Community Input

The Community Safety Commitment has been developed in response to aspirations of our community, specific engagement from the *Hobart: A City for All, Inclusion and Equity Framework* and targeted consultation and research. This resulted in the development of detailed action plans that provide specific direction to assist the City in building an equitable and inclusive community.

In direct response to all that we have heard from our community, from the Community Vision and Capital City Strategic Plan and detailed during the engagement process, the community commitments are aligned with the outcomes under Pillar 2: Community inclusion, participation and belonging.

Community input reflects the engagement process that was undertaken with a range of community organisations, advocacy groups and peak bodies, agencies and City of Hobart employees and what we heard during the engagement process is reflected in each commitment. We will deliver on these priorities through a variety of projects, initiatives and partnerships and outlined in the Action Plan (on page 12) of this commitment.

This commitment builds on the extensive work undertaken by the City of Hobart during the development and implementation of previous Community Safety commitments. Advisory groups such as the City's Late Night Precinct Stakeholder Group and the Hobart Retailers Safety and Security Group, have matured over time and provide a regular forum for us to trial and evaluate community safety initiatives. We also have in place a range of community reference groups who provided feedback to us about their distinct safety needs, and the City's Your Say Hobart provided the mechanism for broader community input into this commitment.

WHAT WE HEARD

We were encouraged to continue to provide opportunities that bring together diverse groups to work together on various issues that impact on community safety. Our community reference groups spoke to us about issues they experience, of discrimination and prejudice, and the harm these do to the community. Our partners in the late night entertainment precincts encouraged us to continue to work with them in harm reduction programs, such as the Safer Nights Partnership, that assist people at risk to themselves or others through the use of alcohol and other drugs. Our retail community are experiencing a range of challenges driven by complex social issues, encouraging the City to continue to work with business owners, police, Crime Stoppers and others to respond to those issues.

We were urged to continue to provide leadership on important social issues, such as violence against women and children, and to provide outlets to promote awareness of support programs and initiatives available to the Hobart community.

When we work in partnership with others we achieve the best outcomes for our community.

Priority Areas for Action

In alignment with the **Capital City Strategic Plan** and **Community Inclusion and Equity Framework**, the City of Hobart commits to actions under the following four priority areas:



Truth and Reconciliation

STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.1

Hobart is a place that recognises and celebrates Tasmanian Aboriginal people, history and culture, working together towards shared goals.



Wellbeing and Knowledge

STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.3

Hobart communities are active, healthy and engaged in lifelong learning.



Participation and Access

STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.2

Hobart is a place where diversity is celebrated and everyone can belong, and where people have opportunities to learn about one another and participate in city life.



Safety and Resilience

STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME 2.4

Hobart communities are safe and resilient, ensuring people can support one another and flourish in times of hardship.

These priority areas are used to structure our actions in support of **community safety** and commit to addressing through advocacy, partnership and direct action.

Action Plan

CURRENT AND ONGOING ACTIONS



Work collaboratively with community partners on initiatives that support the prevention of violence against women and their children with a focus on public advocacy and gendered drivers of violence.

Continue to facilitate the Safer Nights Partnership program in partnership with waterfront businesses, State Government, Tasmania Police, Salvation Army, Tasmanian Hospitality Association, St Johns Ambulance and the taxi industry to improve safety and wellbeing late at night in the waterfront precinct.

- Contribute to the partnership by funding security presence at the secure taxi rank and Salamanca Square toilets on a Friday and Saturday nights.

Convene the Hobart Retailers Safety and Security Group, bringing together business, police and community services to discuss concerns and issues being experienced by businesses and encourage collaborative solutions within the group.

Provide community groups and organisations the opportunity to promote community health and safety messages through the City's public toilets awareness campaign.

Deliver the Safer Communities Grant funded program over three years. The funding includes lighting upgrades, improvements to CCTV and modernising vehicle bollards which will contribute to greater community resilience and wellbeing by addressing crime and anti-social behaviour in Hobart while improving perceptions of safety.

Develop a Security Infrastructure Asset Management Plan for the city. The City of Hobart will work with key partners to improve resident and visitor safety with the aim of reviewing existing and creating additional security measures as part of the Plan.

- Work to ensure an ethical and transparent network of security features in accordance with State and Federal law and collaborate with Tasmania Police to identify key sites for improvement.

Enhance the City's ability to respond to and recover from emergency events through training and developing the City's emergency response volunteers; focus continuous improvement on forming evacuation and recovery centres and facilities for emergency events.

Participate as an active member of the CCCLM Safe Cities Network; increase our knowledge and learn from other cities to apply a best practise approach to community safety.

NEW INITIATIVES AND GOALS



Advocate (within our sphere of influence) on issues that assist in reducing overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in youth and adult justice and preventing Aboriginal deaths in custody.



Work with Hobart's diverse communities, the University of Tasmania, Tasmania Police and Equal Opportunity Tasmanian to identify and respond to the drivers of the underreporting of hate crimes.

Expand the *Hobart Respects All* initiative by involving other priority communities to promote inclusion and respect while challenging harassment, discrimination and violence based on a personal attribute.



Initiate a new series of social outdoor activities targeted at multicultural community members and new arrivals.

Advocate (within our sphere of influence) on issues that improve the safety and welfare of people working in the legal sex industry.

Build social cohesion by promoting culturally significant dates through the City's social media channels, with an aim of increasing public awareness and knowledge and celebrate the achievements of members of our diverse communities.



Use the Our Watch Local Government Toolkit to design and implement violence prevention activities; work with community partners to promote respect and work towards the elimination of violence against women and their children.

Work with community partners and businesses in the Brooke/Despard streets precinct to examine opportunities for supporting the Safer Nights Program initiative. Consider opportunities to expand this program if required.

Recognise and promote specific initiatives such as Ochre Ribbon Week, LGBTIQ+ Domestic Violence Awareness Day; and International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Revise the City of Hobart Community Recovery Plan to guide the City in community recovery.



Governance and Review

We are committed to being transparent and accountable in the delivery of the Community Safety Commitment. We look to our community to guide us and provide feedback to strengthen our approach and delivery over time. To support this commitment, we have mechanisms to guide the delivery and review of the commitment and to measure the effectiveness of the action plan. The governance of our review will be implemented by the following groups:

- **Community Sector Reference Group** includes representatives from major community organisations in Hobart and the sector peak bodies. This group meets with City of Hobart employees quarterly to provide advice and input into the City's work, including identifying emerging issues and appropriate responses. The group also provides feedback on the City's performance in relation to the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework and monitors progress against the suite of community commitments.
- **Inclusion and Equity Reference Group** this internal group is made up of diverse City of Hobart employees from across the organisation who meet quarterly to support the delivery of the Community Inclusion and Equity Framework and monitor progress against the suite of community commitments. Members of the Inclusion and Equity Reference Group also work to drive inclusion and equity action within their scope of influence.

- **Safety Stakeholder Groups** including the Late Night Precinct Stakeholders and Hobart Retailers Safety and Security groups have been convened to respond to current safety concerns in Hobart. These groups provide input and guidance to the City of Hobart and are supported to take collaborative action in response to issues and concerns. Feedback and insights from these groups informs the delivery and review of the Community Safety Commitment.

Progress against the Community Safety Commitment will be reviewed regularly by the above groups with input from the broader community. The commitment will be updated every two years, to respond to community input and ensure currency.

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