



# TASMANIAN HOUSING STRATEGY

## Provide your feedback on the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Exposure Draft

JUNE 2023

We encourage you to read the Tasmanian Housing Strategy Exposure Draft (draft Strategy) prior to responding to the following questions. You may choose to respond to some or all questions. Completed documents can be uploaded using the submissions drop-box on the website: <https://tashousingstrategy.homestasmania.com.au/consultation>.

**Question 1: ‘Our way forward’ identifies several levers for achieving a more equitable housing system for all Tasmanians. Are there additional or alternative more important levers that you believe should be addressed?**

The section ‘Diverse types of housing to meet the needs of all Tasmanians’ would be strengthened by recognising the intersectionality framework and its effects on affected populations with unique needs. ‘Intersectionality’ is the way in which different aspects of a person’s identity can expose them to overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation.<sup>1</sup>

Using a population WIO works with, people experiencing homelessness who are gender diverse/non-binary report service barriers where current models do not recognise them or can even impede access because of their gender identity. In the space of emergency accommodation services, there are designated single gender conditions (male or female services) which lead to shelters being ill-equipped to assist or accept some trans people presenting to them. This is compounded in rural and regional areas with fewer crisis shelters, and that trans and gender diverse populations (especially young people) and overrepresented in experiencing homelessness and housing stability compared to general populations in Australia.

Additional barriers because of intersecting characteristics will occur across the identified different groups in the strategy. With LGBTIQ+ populations known to experience discrimination and over-represented in homelessness figures, this population should be mentioned in this section, as well as the overall section recognising intersectionality.

**Question 2:** Theme one identifies the need for ‘more homes, built faster’. Are there additional or alternative objectives you recommend for consideration?

N/A

**Question 3:** Theme two centres on ‘affordability in the private market’. Are there additional or alternative objectives you recommend for consideration?

N/A

**Question 4:** Theme three places ‘people at the centre’ of the draft Strategy. Are there additional or alternative objectives you recommend for consideration?

The associated document ‘*Housing support for Tasmanians in need – May 2023*’ provides a great overview of areas to meet unique needs of the LGBTIQ+ community and is a well-considered document. The unique needs for LGBTIQ+ populations are currently listed as:

- Ensuring safe emergency accommodation is available for gender diverse and non-binary people.
- Supporting for partnerships addressing causes of housing stress and homelessness adversely affecting younger persons within the LGBTIQ+ community, especially gender diverse and nonbinary young people, and those living in regional, rural and remote areas.
- Providing support to the housing and homelessness workforce to deliver sensitivity training to prevent discrimination and ensure the timely and appropriate delivery of services to meet the specific needs of LGBTIQ+ clients.
- Ensuring that services are available without discrimination to LGBTIQ+ escaping family violence.

WIO welcomes the recognition of LGBTIQ+ populations with distinct housing needs and additional barriers impacting on accessing basic housing needs and participation in society. The strategy recommends the importance of delivering targeted actions for groups. For any strategy to successfully deliver actions, there requires an action plan with assigned responsibilities, resourcing, timelines, activities, and goals. Elements of an action plan to help meet these activities should be fleshed out to include:

- A symposium with relevant community, housing service providers, and other affected stakeholders to map out current issues and gaps for identifying unique population needs.
- Evidence of services informed and implementing best-practice by existing inclusion guidelines (*LGBTIQ+ Inclusive Practice Guide for Homelessness and Housing Sectors in Australia*).
- Training specific to the Tasmanian experience from Tasmanian LGBTIQ+ training providers.

- Contract clauses in housing services which confirm service pathway inclusion for trans and gender diverse populations – which are recognised as a priority population in a number of Tasmanian strategies, and protected from discrimination under the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act 1998.

Safety recognition for LGBTIQ+ populations is also important, specifically for young people escaping unsafe family environments hostile about their gender identity or sexuality. This need also extends to safety guarantees from crisis shelter services and from other service users in a single gendered model system (male vs female services) which are ill-equipped or non-existent for supporting trans and gender diverse/non-binary Tasmanians.

### Question 5: Theme four highlights ‘local prosperity’ as a priority. Are there additional or alternative objectives you recommend for consideration?

Similar to question 3, successful system change and effective outcomes are attributed to detailed action plans with roles, timelines, activities, and accountabilities. If successful change is the goal for addressing unique needs for populations such as the LGBTIQ+ community, then there needs to be a localised detailed action plan.

### Question 6: Are there other ways the government could make its actions and progress to meet the proposed objectives more transparent and accessible?

Make a public action plan for LGBTIQ+ community (and other priority populations with unique needs).

### Question 7: Do you have any comment on what this draft Strategy does well?

Specifically for LGBTIQ+ Populations, this document along with the ‘*Housing support for Tasmanians in need – May 2023*’ provides a clear pathway for developing goals and priorities for their population that should be addressed.

### Question 8: Is there anything you think the draft Strategy does not cover but should, or that it mentions but could be highlighted more?

Strategy should be released with a publicly accessible action plan with responsibilities, timelines, activities, outcomes. Key components for successful implementation.

Thank you for your feedback.