

Attachment 6 – Sexual Assault Services Response to RCIRCSA Request.

Agency: **Government Funded Sexual Assault Services**

Tasmania funds two sexual assault services to provide programs for young people with problem sexual behaviours in Tasmania. These are the Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) in the South and Laurel House in the North.

### **Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS)**

SASS provides counselling and support for men, women and children affected by sexual assault.

The Sexual Assault Support Service provides three main services to the community. These are:

**Galileo House** provides counselling and support for children and young people who have been subjected to sexual abuse. The service provides counselling and support to family members and other support people. This service also provides counselling and support to children under 13 years and their families for problem sexualised behaviour issues.

The **Sexual Assault Crisis Service** provides crisis counselling for all survivors as well as parents and carers. The crisis service also offers support with police statements, and coordinates medical and/or forensic examinations if required by victims of recent sexual assault.

The **Adult Counselling and Support Service** provides individual counselling and group programs for any survivors of sexual assault 18 years and older, also family members and support people.

### **Laurel House**

The North and North-West Tasmania Sexual Assault Support Services known as Laurel House is a community based organisation who provides therapeutic services to any person who has been affected by rape, sexual assault and child sexual abuse, including women, men and children. The service is completely confidential and free to victim/survivors and their families, friends and support people of sexual violence in the 63 and 64 telephone districts of Tasmania. We do not see perpetrators/offenders of any form of violence.

Laurel House provides face-to-face and phone counselling, 24-hour crisis service, support through the forensic/medical process, information and support through the police and legal process, referral and information services and outreach to rural areas in the North and North West of the State. Laurel House also offers community education, professional training and debriefing to professionals working with victim/survivors.

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**Program**

Name of Program Offered	Location offered	Service to			Referral through	Waiting list?	Waiting Time	Meeting demand?	Cost to participate?	Eligibility criteria	Able to meet needs of clients with disability?
		under 12 problem behaviours	10-18 abusive behaviours	10-18 sex offences							
<b>SASS</b> PSB/SAB therapeutic treatment program	SASS premises, Hobart	Y*	N	N	Majority of referrals come through child protection services, parents/carers , Department of Education, and Out of Home carers	Yes	Up to 6 weeks	No, for the following reasons:  Contractually SASS is only able to see these children if we have available resources; and  Certain children’s behaviour is assessed to be too extreme to be met by SASS, and so SASS works to refer these children to more appropriate providers (usually private practitioners).  Many referrals are made for children aged 12 and over, who fall outside the SASS funding requirements	No	Child aged 11 or under; and Child has a primary carer who is supportive of and willing to participate in process.  Nb: each case is assessed individually and a determination made as to whether SASS is the best agency to respond	Yes
Laurel House	Launceston Burnie/Devonport Outreach areas as required	Y*	N	N	Self referral (parents), schools, GP’s, Police, other social and community services, friends and family.	No	No	Yes	No	Child displaying sexualised behaviours. Child currently in a safe environment.	Depending on disability and availability of support worker

\* Service provided up to 12 yrs

**Service Model**

Tasmanian Government response to RCIRCSA – Therapeutic Responses to Problem or Abusive Sexual Behaviours in Children

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Name of Program	Service Model	Parents/ Carers involved in process?	Groupwork involved? Frequency? Duration?	Frequency of contact with child	Successful Completion rates	Professional status/ training /accreditation requirements for those conducting the program.	Are clinicians part of a specialist treatment program or integrated into generalist programs.	Please identify the funding body, and/or auspicing body
<b>SASS</b> PSB/SAB therapeutic treatment program	Ecological model – work is undertaken with the systems around the child or young person, including parents, care givers, schools, and community services involved with the family.  Therapeutic services and support are provided to the child and their family, as well as case management, case review and other required supports.	Yes	No – resources not available.	Weekly or fortnightly, depending on need	n/c	All SASS counsellors are required to be: Eligible for registration through either the AASW, APS, PACFA or ACA; and Have 2 years relevant industry experience.	Clinicians are part of SASS's client services staff (generalist body).	Client services staff funding is provided by Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Federal Department of Social Services.
Laurel House	Client centred, feminist farmworker. Body safety/protective behaviours Trauma informed practice	Yes	Yes – infrequently. No group currently running.	Weekly	n/c	Social work, psychology, human services qualifications/counsellor with relevant skills, experience and qualification	Counsellor working with children as members of specialist sexual assault counselling team	
Laurel House	School based prevention programs  Schools – consultation and support	Sometimes – mostly teachers	Not recently	n/a	n/a	As above	As above	
Laurel House	Counselling and support for parents and caregivers in	Yes	Not recently	n/a	n/a	As above	As above	

## Attachment 6 – Sexual Assault Services Response to RCIRCSA Request.

	understanding and managing their children's behaviour							
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**Demographics**

Name of Program	Groups Served	Number of Children accessing program per year	Age of children accessing program	Cultural background	Percentage resident in Out of Home Care	Percentage victims of sexual abuse
<b>SASS</b> PSB/SAB therapeutic treatment program	0-12	88  Nb: this figure was from file audit in 2012, and included children aged up to 17 years of age	3-16  Nb: this figure was from file audit in 2012	n/c	55%  Nb: this figure was from file audit in 2012	55%  Nb: this figure was from file audit in 2012
<b>Laurel House</b>	0-12	26 children in 2014-15 financial year. 20 adults registered in relation to the same (i.e. enquiring about support, or gaining support to work with their own children).	4-12yo (or working with parents of children under 4yo)	n/c	n/c	Disclosure does not necessarily occur however it is the position of Laurel House that most children displaying problem sexualised behaviours have often been exposed to some level of sexual violence or activity.

**Costs**

See attached Funding Agreements:  
 Attach 6.1 SASS Funding Agreement  
 Attach 6.2 Laurel House Funding Agreement

**Evaluation**

Name of program	Evaluation
SASS	Not stated.
Laurel house	Laurel House does not run a specific 'program' for problem sexualised behaviours. All workers are trained in working with children displaying such behaviours, and interventions and therapeutic services provided are assessed on a needs basis, and tailored according to the needs of the child/ren and their families.

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