



## North and North West Tasmania Sexual Assault Support Services Inc

### **WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2013 EDITION OF THE LAUREL HOUSE NEWSLETTER**

The Laurel House Newsletter is produced and circulated amongst clients, service providers and the community to raise awareness of the services available at Laurel House North and North West.

It is also a venue to give advanced notice of upcoming groups and projects for survivors. There will also be a number of articles about Sexual Assault, stories from survivors, and links to other services for your information.

You can also view this newsletter on our website:  
[www.laurelhouse.org.au](http://www.laurelhouse.org.au)

### About Laurel House

Laurel House offers a wide range of services to all members of the community, including victims of recent rape and sexual assault (adults, children and their families and support people) adult survivors of child sexual abuse (historical sexual abuse) community education to any group, school, or organisation, and professional training to service providers in other agencies. We also offer debriefing and supervision to professionals working with victims/survivors of sexual assault.

Our Organisation offers outreach services to women, men and children within the 63 and 64 telephone regions of Tasmania. These areas currently include Campbell Town, the East Coast, West Tamar, Georgetown, Devonport, Smithton, Wynyard and Queenstown with services to other areas available as the need arises.

Telephone support is available to other rural areas.

# About the Workers

## **On Call Crisis Workers**

Laurel House is always on the lookout for workers to join our On Call Team in both our Launceston and North-West branches. Laurel House On Call workers are on duty from 5 p.m.—8.30 a.m. Monday-Friday, and offer a 24-hour service over weekends and public holidays.

We have recently welcomed two new workers onto the Team: Bethany and Amelia. We look forward to working with each of these new Team members, who will be added to the roster in the coming months.

If you would be interested in joining the Team, or if you have any questions, please contact Jacinta on 6334 2740 or [admin@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@laurelhouse.org.au)

## **Day Team**

### **Farewell Julie!**

After four years with the Service, we said goodbye to Julie on September 19th. Julie has been a valuable member of the Laurel House Team and will be missed by all. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

### **Welcome Cara!**

On October 1st we will be welcoming Cara to our Day Team. We look forward to working with Cara and having her valuable input into the Team.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Laurel House Day Team, please contact Jacinta on 6334 2740 or [admin@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@laurelhouse.org.au)

# Community Education

Community education and professional training is a large component of the services we provide. We can tailor-make a specific programme for your Organization and/or your client group, dependent on your needs.

Our programmes can include:

- ◆ About Laurel House
- ◆ About Rape, Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment and Child Sexual Assault
- ◆ The impact and the effects of sexual assault
- ◆ The myths of sexual assault
- ◆ How to handle a disclosure of recent rape and/or sexual assault
- ◆ How to handle a disclosure of historical sexual assault
- ◆ Support you in your work/organization

If you would like further information, or to arrange a Community Education session, please feel free to contact us on 6334 2740 or email [counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au)

## Groups

A Self-Esteem group will be starting for adult survivors sexual assault to be facilitated by Benita and Lisa over three weekly sessions beginning on October 18th.

This group is currently at capacity, however we are looking into other groups that may be useful for our Clients in future in both the North and North West regions, and are open to suggestions as to what may be helpful for people. If you have a suggestion, or if you are interested in participating in a group at Laurel House, please feel free to contact us on 6334 2740 or email [counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au) in the North, or 64319711 or email [counsellors@laurelhousenw.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhousenw.org.au) in the North-West.

## **Show Day**

Laurel House North will be closed on Thursday October 10th for Launceston Show Day. During this time, our On Call workers will be available on 0409 800 394 for crisis phone counselling and crisis response.

Laurel House North-West will be operating as usual on this day, however will be closed on Friday October 4th for Burnie Show Day.

## **Service Evaluations**

In the coming weeks we will be releasing our annual Service User and Service Provider Evaluations for those who have had contact with Laurel House in the past 12-months. If you would like to participate in the evaluation process, or have clients who would like to provide feedback about our Service, please contact Jacinta on 6334 2740 or email [admin@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@laurelhouse.org.au) to have evaluation forms forwarded to you.

Results and suggestions coming out of these evaluations will be presented at the Laurel House AGM on November 16th.

## **Annual General Meeting/Strategic Planning Day**

North and North West Tasmania Sexual Assault Support Services Inc. (Laurel House North and Laurel House North West) will be holding their AGM and Strategic Planning Day on Saturday November 16th from 10a.m. at the Sebel Hotel in Launceston.

If you would like to attend or contribute to the AGM, please contact Jacinta on 6334 2740 or email [admin@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:admin@laurelhouse.org.au)



# Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

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## Hearings

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Commission) will hold its first sitting at 10.00 am on Wednesday 3 April 2013 at the County Court of Victoria, 250 William Street, Melbourne.

All Commissioners will be present. The Chair, Justice McClellan AM, will provide information on the work of the Royal Commission including the future conduct of public and private hearings. Senior Counsel assisting will also deliver an opening statement. There will be no evidence taken at this first sitting and there will be no appearances for the purpose of seeking leave to appear.

The sitting will be streamed live to the public via webcast on the website. The County Court has limited capacity for public viewing and interested individuals and organisations are therefore encouraged to view the proceedings via the webcast.

A transcript of the sitting will also be available on the website as soon as possible following the sitting. Further information is available on the [Frequently asked questions](#) page, or via the call centre on 1800 099 340.

The schedule for the following hearings will be confirmed in due course.

[www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au](http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au)

The above is a release published on the website of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, a print of this was also published in the Mercury newspaper on March 25th 2013. As the Royal Commission commences, some services may encounter clients and other professionals who have enquiries about this process, and who may be affected by it.

Should you require assistance in handling this delicate matter, please feel free to contact the aforementioned website or call centre.

Counselling and support can be sought through Laurel House by calling 6334 2740, or emailing [counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au) in the North, or 64319711 or email [counsel-lors@laurelhousenw.org.au](mailto:counsel-lors@laurelhousenw.org.au) in the North-West.

### **Royal Commission Tasmanian Sexual Assault Support Service**

A joint submission was written by the three Tasmanian Sexual Assault Support Services, (Laurel House North and North West and the Hobart SASS) to the Federal Government for funding to provide face to face and telephone crisis, medium and long term counselling to any survivor who has been a victim of sexual assault by a member of the clergy and/or other institution.

Funding has been allocated to the Tasmania Sexual Assault Support Services as well as Relationships Australia by the Federal Government in response to this submission, to assist those affected by the Royal Commission.

**If you need or know of someone who needs information, counselling and/or support contact North 6334 2740, North West 6431 9711 or South 6231 1811**

## Useful Websites and Contact Numbers

### Children

Bravehearts Inc. [www.bravehearts.org.au](http://www.bravehearts.org.au)

Australian Childhood Foundation [www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au)

Kids Help Line [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

### Attempted Suicide and/or Self harm

Safe in Oz Pty Ltd. [www.safeinoz.com.au](http://www.safeinoz.com.au)

Time Out Programme [www.timeout.org.au](http://www.timeout.org.au) Mobile: 0407 102 140

Beyond Blue [www.ybblue.com.au](http://www.ybblue.com.au)

### Crisis Counselling

Laurel House (North) 6334 2740 or after hours 0409 800 394

Laurel House North West 6431 9711 (24/7) [www.laurelhouse.org.au](http://www.laurelhouse.org.au)

Sexual Assault Support Service Hobart Telephone 6231 1811

Lifeline [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au) 131 114

Samaritans Tas Launceston 6331 3355 Rest of Tasmania 1300 364 566

24-hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support—1800 Respect (1800 737 732)

Eating Disorders/Body Image—Tasmanian Eating Disorders Support Service—0439 189 886

### **Laurel House North**

PO Box 1062, Launceston 7250

Phone weekdays 8:30am – 5pm

**(03) 6334 2740**

After Hours Crisis Line

**0409 800 394**

Fax: (03) 6334 4234

Email: [counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au)

Website: [www.laurelhouse.org.au](http://www.laurelhouse.org.au)

### **Laurel House North West**

PO Box 499, Burnie

Phone weekdays 9.00am – 5pm

**(03) 6431 9711**

After Hours Crisis Line

**(03) 6431 9711**

Fax: (03) 6431 8710

Email: [counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au)

Website: [www.laurelhouse.org.au](http://www.laurelhouse.org.au)

## **Would you like to contribute to the Laurel House newsletter?**

Laurel House is looking for people to contribute stories, poems and artwork to the newsletter to share with survivors of sexual assault, family members and service providers. Items can be published anonymously if requested.

If you would like to contribute something to the newsletter please phone 6334 2740, or send your ideas to:

[counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au](mailto:counsellors@laurelhouse.org.au) or PO Box 1062 Launceston, 7250. All items will be carefully considered and published in upcoming newsletters.