

## **Working Women's Centre Tasmania**

Women's Legal Service Tasmania, in partnership with Worker Assist Tasmania, will be offering a Working Women's Centre service for women in Tasmania. This specialist service will be a gendered employment specialist, auspiced by Women's Legal Service Tasmania, who are partnering with Worker Assist Tasmania to provide comprehensive employment advice, representation, advocacy and support to women across the state.

### **Women's Legal Service Tasmania (WLST)**

WLST provides a statewide community legal service for women in Tasmania, providing legal advice and information about legal and non-legal options through a dedicated telephone advice line, as well as face to face appointments, community legal education, outreach, drafting of law reform submissions and referrals to appropriate support services. Our clients are also supported by in-house financial counselling and social work services. WLST operates from three offices in Hobart, Launceston, and Burnie.

WLST is a community legal service funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in recognition that in addition to the general legal problems that can affect everyone, there are some areas of law in which a woman's experience is different – as a victim of a crime, as a primary carer of children, or through discrimination or lack of equal opportunity in employment or business.

Some women also face additional barriers in accessing justice due to factors such as cost, childcare responsibilities, and feelings of intimidation in going to Court or dealing with a male dominated legal profession and judiciary. Our work focuses on the needs of vulnerable women who often have experienced family violence, sexual abuse, child sexual abuse and or other forms of discrimination or abuse. We understand that this is challenging work, and we offer staff a supportive environment that aims to maintain their resilience. Other issues such as language barriers, cultural backgrounds, disability, sexuality, or geographical isolation can compound to make access to a legal service intimidating and difficult. Workers at WLST are sensitive to the diverse needs of women as individuals and as a part of the community.

WLST are committed to addressing the structural barriers that prevent women from accessing their legal rights as identified in the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. We strive for gender equality in all its forms.

### **Worker Assist Tasmania**

Worker Assist Tasmania provides free, independent legal advice and has supported injured workers since 2011, removing the barriers that prevent many injured or ill workers from engaging in the workers' compensation scheme.

Worker Assist Tasmania's status as the only specialised, free, confidential, and independent workers' compensation advisory service in Australia underscores the critical role we play already in Tasmania in providing accessible and unbiased support to workers navigating the complexities of the workers' compensation system. This distinction highlights the importance and value of our work in ensuring that workers' rights are upheld.

Worker Assist Tasmania's services and resources directly contribute to improving access to workers' compensation services, increasing legal literacy among workers, and enhancing the efficiency of the claims process. Worker Assist helps reduce barriers to accessing workers' compensation, improve outcomes for injured workers, and contribute to a more informed and empowered workforce.