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## Labor's Michelle O'Byrne says PFVO review 'entirely appropriate'

By [Jess Flint](#)**Updated** March 15 2023 - 6:34pm, first published 4:30pm

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Labor prevention of family violence spokesperson Michelle O'Byrne. Picture from file.

Calls for a review into the application of Police Family Violence Orders (PFVO) have grown in response to concerns about the [misidentification of family violence aggressors](#).

Attorney General Elise Archer this week said, "the Tasmanian government considers that a strength of the Safe at Home initiative is the authority that Tasmania Police have to issue a PFVO arising from an attended incident."

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made under the Family Violence Act.

"PFVOs were introduced many years ago to avoid the need for all matters to go to court," Labor prevention of family violence spokesperson Michelle O'Byrne said.

"But, there are genuine concerns about misidentification and women being treated as perpetrators of equal guilt when they are in fact defending themselves.

"A review is entirely appropriate to ensure the orders are used as they were intended and improved wherever and whenever necessary."

In 2022, there were 2328 PFVOs issued in Tasmania, an increase of 7.3 per cent since 2018.

Tasmania Police Assistant Commissioner specialist support Rob Blackwood said that police training will be updated in 2023.

"This year the recruit family violence training is being updated, with a significant component being delivered by the Safe Families Coordination Unit (SFCU)," he said.

"SFCU staff have significant experience and expertise in family violence attendance and response, and this training will ensure police deliver a best practice, trauma-informed response to victim survivors of family and sexual violence."

But Anna\*, a victim-survivor who had a PFVO issued against her, said improved training wouldn't fix the problem.

"Judicial oversight of police decisions, not improved training, will reduce misidentifications," she said.

Greens justice spokesperson Dr Rosalie Woodruff said that any misapplications of Tasmania's family violence framework must be urgently examined and fixed.

"Any immediate actions that can be taken to reduce the risk of misidentifying the chief perpetrator need to be enacted as soon as possible.

"We believe it is timely for a full, independent review of the family violence order system, and the Family Violence Act 2004 more

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Ms Archer said that she is always open to feedback on Tasmania's laws. "Changes will be considered by the government if a need is identified".

*\*Name has been changed for safety or legal reasons.*

- If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, phone 1800 RESPECT.
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