

Candlelight Vigil 2026 - Program

To remember and honour those who have died or lost a loved one to family violence

Today, we gather on the lands of the Muwinina people in Nipaluna/Hobart. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land and to their elders past and present. This was and always will be Palawa land.

In 2025, 79 women and 26 children died because of gender-based violence. The candlelight vigil is held in recognition of lives lost to family and domestic violence, and acknowledges the profound immediate and long term impact these tragic deaths have on those left behind.

For almost 20 years, candlelight vigils have been held throughout Australia organised by various family violence services, all in remembrance of those who have died. In 2004, the 15 services of the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network (QDVSN) began holding simultaneous vigils on the first Wednesday of May every year to mark the beginning of the official Domestic Violence Prevention Month and to light up the state in remembrance. In 2009, the vigils took their first step to becoming a national event with the Family Violence Counselling & Support Service Tasmania hosting a vigil in Nipaluna. In 2010, Domestic and Family Violence helplines and services (Government and Non-Government) in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory along with the NSW Domestic Violence Coalition joined Queensland and Tasmania to host vigils in their respective states and territories on the same evening.

This year's candlelight vigil was organised by members of the Southern Domestic Violence Coordination Committee (DVCC), with thanks to the Hobart City Council and the Tasmanian Family and Sexual Violence Alliance for funding; and the Department of State Growth for lighting the Tasman Bridge purple in solidarity with victim-survivors.

Please note, this event will have AUSLAN interpreting available.

Feedback can be provided to:
admin@engenderequality.org.au.



Tasmanian
**Family and
Sexual Violence**
Alliance

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Opening Song - Nourish Choir

Acknowledgement of Country – Rachel Dunn and Jolie Everett, Jenname

MC - Sneha from Engender Equality

Speaker – Shannon from Advocates for Change

Speaker – Tamara from Advocates for Change

Speaker - Nicki from Her Strength. Her Story.

A Minute Silence/Video Tribute

Piper - Fraser Bolton

Closing Song - Nourish Choir

If you or someone you know needs support, the following services are available:

Family Violence Counselling and Support Service (FVCSS) - 1800 608 122

1800 RESPECT (24/7) - 18000 737 732

Engender Equality - (03) 6278 9090

Women's Legal Service - 1800 682 468

Huon Domestic Violence Service - (03) 6264 2222

SafeChoices - 1800 806 189

Sexual Assault Support Service - 1800 697 877

Lifeline - 13 11 14 | Police - 000



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