



Media Release

Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality

Thursday, 27 April 2023

The Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality wishes to advise of the practices of privacy and confidentiality in relation to its forthcoming inquiry:-

- **Tasmanian experiences of gendered bias in healthcare**

On 16 November 2022, the Joint Sessional Committee on Gender and Equality resolved to undertake an Inquiry into the *Tasmanian experiences of gendered bias in healthcare*.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are as follows:-

- (1) Examples of Tasmanian's lived experience of gender bias in healthcare;
- (2) Areas of healthcare in which gendered bias is particularly prevalent;
- (3) The impacts of gender bias in healthcare on overall health outcomes;
- (4) Systemic behaviours that cause gender bias in healthcare;
- (5) Work in other jurisdictions to limit gender bias in healthcare;
- (6) Best practice for addressing gender bias in healthcare;
- (7) Gender bias in research grant allocation and health related research; and
- (8) Any other matter incidental thereto.

The Committee acknowledges the highly personal and sensitive nature of individual submissions on this topic and note that personal experiences of gendered bias in healthcare can have projected ongoing mental, physical and social effects on the lives of those with such experiences. The Committee expresses its deepest acknowledgement to those with such stories.

In conducting an inquiry into Tasmanian experiences of gendered bias in healthcare, the Committee wishes to provide a space for change into the future. The Committee process allows for both organisations and individuals with lived experience to share their insight on the topic of gendered bias in healthcare, to assist in influencing this change.

The Committee is conscious that the formal committee process can be an intimidating experience, especially when centered on personal experiences. It is of the highest importance to the Committee that the Tasmanian community is aware that its experiences are valid and can be shared and heard in a manner which is appropriate for each individual's own personal circumstances.

While written submissions received by the Committee are generally made public, the Inquiry may accept confidential or anonymous submissions, meaning that only members and staff of the Committee have access to the submission. It should be noted that such submissions can only be used in the Final Report of the Committee if the Committee has the permission of the author, in



which case anonymity can be maintained. Furthermore, the Committee can receive oral evidence at inquiry hearings *in camera*, which again means only members and staff of the Committee hear the contribution and it can only be acknowledged in the final report with the permission of the author.

The mental, physical and social health of any submitters is of the utmost importance to the Committee, who will strive to make a safe environment for any organisation or individual who wishes to contribute their lived experience or knowledge in this area. The mechanisms of privacy, confidentiality and anonymity can be offered to provide this space.

While the official submission period for the inquiry closed on 21 April last, the Committee wishes to inform the public that additional submissions may be considered to allow the Tasmanian public to provide further insight into their experiences of gendered bias in healthcare.

Public Hearings for the inquiry will be held on Tuesday 13 June 2023 and Wednesday 14 June 2023 in Parliament House, Hobart. The hearings will be broadcast via the Parliamentary Broadcast Service and will be accessible through the Parliament of Tasmania homepage: <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/>.

For further information, please contact Committee Secretary, Ms Fiona Murphy, on 6212 2220 or Chair of the Committee, Hon. Ruth Forrest MLC, on 0419 879 524.
