

LGBTI Hate Crime - Log Of Claims From Victims

The Tasmanian Council for Sexual and Gender Diverse People Inc (TCS&GDP Inc) is negotiating on behalf of a LGBTI Victims of Hate Crime Group with the Tasmania Police and the Tasmanian Anti Discrimination Commission a log of claims in relation to police procedures and complaints process to redress the incidence of hate crime.

Originally these complaints emerged from ten cases in the Kingborough/Huon Region, which reported very similar incidents, and difficulty in registering as well as negotiating protection and security for sexual & gender diverse people. The incidents seriously effected people's health and well being without a sense that people had achieved a just resolution with some not able to afford legal assistance. Some victims left the State given their distress and the concern that they did not feel safe or protected in Tasmania. Some had actually moved to Tasmania because they believed that security and safety from discrimination for sexual & gender diverse people was an important reality in the State.

Concern about the incidents and the importance of feed-back by the Police to the 'victims' include the following.

- Lack of access for the victims to the local GLBTI Police Liaison Officers
- Availability of the contact details of GLBTI Police Liaison Officers including Leaflets and Posters to Police Officers in the command areas
- Access for the victims to adequate counselling from a local resource base
- Referral and recording of the incidence to the Anti-discrimination Commission as well as providing access for the victims to the Commission.
- Failure to prosecute the matters by the police and the necessity for the victims to have to take out restraint orders.
- Treatment of the incidence as hate crime (a prejudice-motivated criminal act carried out because of a person's perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, race religion or ethnicity).
- Confidentiality and privacy is ensured in reporting incidents of 'hate crime'
- Care taken to clearly communicate to the victims how their complaint will be processed by the police especially to people from non English speaking backgrounds, and clear communication to the victims of the need for any possible follow up action on their part such as court appearances etc.
- LGBTI Cultural Awareness training alongside anti discrimination training is engaged for all 'sworn officers' besides the current recruit training modules.
- To establish confidence in the communication and exchange of information available between the local police and the COPP Community Liaison Committees.

The importance of negotiations with Tasmania Police and the TADC received an impetus when two overseas visitors fruit picking in the Huon and staying at the Little Devil Back Packers in Huonville were physically assaulted in the main street of because they were 'girlie looking'. A serious case of abuse at the Domain as reported in the last issue of Centrelines is considered as further reason for the Log of Claims to be taken seriously and progressed.

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