



Equal Opportunity Tasmania

Podcast Title:

Reporting incidents of abuse and or harassment in Tasmania!

Podcast Script:

Hello and welcome to an Equal Opportunity Tasmania's Podcast on how to report incidents of abuse and/or harassment you have experienced or witnessed. I am Louise Adams, a Training, Education and Development Officer.

During these unsettling and challenging times caused by the Coronavirus pandemic we should be coming together as a community and looking out for each other.

We know that most of you are doing exactly that; looking out for family, friends, colleagues and neighbours.

Unfortunately, we also know there are a few members of our community who are behaving in discriminatory and intimidating ways. It is important these damaging and antisocial behaviours are reported.

So, why it is important to report abusive or harassing behaviour!

- Abusive and harassing behaviour is NEVER ok
- You want to take a stance against such behaviour and do something about it (what you've experienced or witnessed)
- You get to tell your story or you get to tell someone else's story (no story of abuse or harassment should go unheard or untold)
- You may play a role in bringing the perpetrator/s before the law – (making people accountable for their own behaviour), after all, we all make a choice how we behave.
- You want to prevent such behaviour happening to someone else

If we go back in time to 2013 and remember the investigation into bullying and harassment in the military, during the investigation, the then, Lieutenant General David Morrison quoted "The standard you walk past is the standard you accept" He continued onto say "that goes for all of us... Every time we

accept the 'status-quo' (that's just the way it is) of poor behaviour, we are endorsing it!

If you are not wanting to endorse such behaviour you have experienced or witnessed – then make a Report.

What will happen with your Report?

- You may want us to contact you, to talk about what action you want to take or other options that maybe available; such as, lodging a formal complaint of unlawful discrimination, referral to Tasmanian police, Fair Work Commission or contacting the relevant service provider.
- Reported incidents (the behaviour reported) gives the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Commissioner important information to let other leaders in Tasmania know what's happening in the broader community. Leaders may include; The Tasmanian Premier, The Commissioner for Police, Health Leaders and the media.
- Our training team use information received through the Report It forms to; highlight and remind others of what's happening in the community, and encourage others to speak up and Report It if they experience or witness abusive or harassing behaviour.

If you would like to make a report you can either

- Phone us on 616 575 15
- Or State-wide local call: 1300 305 062
- You can text to: 0409 401 063
- Or have a look on our website at: www.equalopportunity.tas.gov.au
(You will find the Report It! form button on the right hand side, near the top of the page. This is the electronic form to fill in)

You can make a Report It! anonymously

Our next Report It! Podcasts will be a series of sharing the experiences of abuse and harassment reported to us. It is just as important to share these experiences, to clearly spell out this behaviour is not accepted and won't be tolerated in our community as it is to report these experiences. They will be anonymous (de-identified) so not to identify who made the report and who is in the report. This is about promoting what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour!

Thank you for listening, and stay tuned for the upcoming series of Report It! – Reporting Back!