# P:\SARC\3. Administration\Logos and pictures\New SARC Logos June 2017\New SARC Logos June 2017\New SARC Logo_combined.pngResearch project: Young, In Love and In Danger

# *How do young people in Tasmania recognise and respond to abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner*

## Why this issue?

In Tasmania, relationship abuse experienced by young people under 18 is a largely invisible issue. There are no specific support services for young people who use or experience abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner. In policy, reference to this issue for under 18s is focused on witnessing parental/family violence or abuse toward a parent or other family member, but not experiencing abuse directly from a partner. There is limited legislation to protect young people from this violence in their relationships.

The limited research that exists on this issue indicates high prevalence levels in Australia and globally. In Tasmania there is growing concern about the prevalence of this abuse, the lack of available supports, and the impact this lack of support has on the health and wellbeing of these young people now and as they grow older.

## Impact of relationship abuse for young people

Experiencing abuse from a boyfriend/girlfriend/partner as a young person has significant short and long term detriments on health and wellbeing including:

* mental/psychological health (e.g. depression and anxiety, suicidal ideation and attempts, diagnosed mental health disorders)
* physical health (e.g. eating disorders, serious injury, risky sexual behaviour, sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancy)
* substance use/abuse
* involvement with the justice system
* increased likelihood of experiencing or using violence in adult relationships with flow on effects including detrimental economic impacts on individuals, families, communities and society, health, education, employment and crime.

## What could ‘*Young, In Love and In Danger’* tell us?

This project seeks to answer the question: ‘How do young people in Tasmania recognise and respond to abuse in their relationships?’

## Project aims

The aims of this project are to:

* Understand the prevalence of relationship abuse for young people under 18 in Tasmania
* Understand the nature of relationship abuse for young people under 18 in Tasmania
* Understand the support and service needs of young people under 18 experiencing abuse from a partner in Tasmania
* Describe current responses to young people experiencing abuse in their relationships in Tasmania

The project will draw on the perspectives of young people who have experienced abuse in their relationships, and the perspectives of frontline workers who provide support to this cohort.

## More information

The research will be conducted during 2021-2022 across Tasmania. It will be led by Dr Carmel Hobbs, Social Researcher at the Social Action and Research Centre, Anglicare Tasmania.

Website: [Young, In Love and In Danger: Responding to conflict and violence in teen partner relationships in Tasmania](https://www.anglicare-tas.org.au/young-in-love-and-in-danger/)

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