

Sexual Assault Support Service

PAST Program

(Prevention, Assessment, Support, and Treatment)



Support for young people who have engaged in HSB + their families

Who are we?

Sexual Assault Support Service (SASS) is a specialist Tasmanian non-government organisation supporting people impacted by sexual violence for nearly 40 years. Guided by lived experience and evidence-based practice, SASS delivers trauma-informed services across prevention, early intervention, response, recovery, and healing, working alongside communities and partners to promote safety, support healing, and prevent sexual violence.

What is PAST?

The Prevention, Assessment, Support, and Treatment (PAST) Program is a statewide program providing specialist, trauma-informed support for children and young people who have engaged in harmful sexual behaviours (HSB), and for the families and carers who support them.

HSB is behaviour that falls outside age-appropriate norms or may cause harm to the child or others. PAST recognises that these behaviours are often linked to underlying trauma or adversity. Our approach is focused on early intervention, safety, healing, and long-term wellbeing.

What makes PAST different?

Since 2010, SASS has built extensive specialist expertise in delivering trauma-informed support to young people who have engaged in HSB.

SASS brings this expertise together with case management and practical family support from Mission Australia, offering a coordinated approach that strengthens safety at home, at school, and within the community.

Beyond counselling

PAST is not counselling alone. It combines specialist therapy delivered by SASS clinicians with case management and practical, ongoing family support provided by Mission Australia, recognising that lasting change happens in everyday environments - not only in the therapy room. By working across family, school, and community contexts, PAST supports positive behaviour change while helping families create safer, more stable spaces where healing can occur.

Support – Safety – Prevention



Hobart
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Supporting safer futures for children, young people, and families

Why early intervention matters

Research shows that early, compassionate intervention is one of the most effective ways to prevent future harm and break cycles of sexual violence. By responding early and without judgement, PAST promotes safer outcomes for children, families, and communities.

Our approach

PAST is:

- Trauma-informed
- Evidence-based
- Compassionate and non-judgemental
- Focused on safety, accountability, and healing.

We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to grow, change, and build healthier relationships, with the right support in place.

"We understand that these behaviours are often a response to underlying issues, and our trauma-informed approach is focused on helping young people recover and build healthier futures."

Renae, PAST Program Clinical Lead

How does PAST help?

Children and young people are supported to:

- Understand their behaviour
- Develop safer ways to manage emotions and impulses
- Build empathy, boundaries, and accountability
- Reduce the risk of future harm

Families are supported to:

- Create and maintain safety at home
- Build routines, boundaries, and supervision
- Navigate schools and support services
- Reduce stress, shame, and isolation

Families are not expected to manage this alone.

HSB Training + Education

The PAST education component provides trauma-informed training to support safe, informed responses to HSB in children and young people. We will explore how to recognise and respond to HSB through a trauma informed lens, discuss key strategies for prevention and intervention, and equip participants with the tools to foster safe and supportive environments. This training is ideal for parents, caregivers, educators, and professionals working with young people.



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