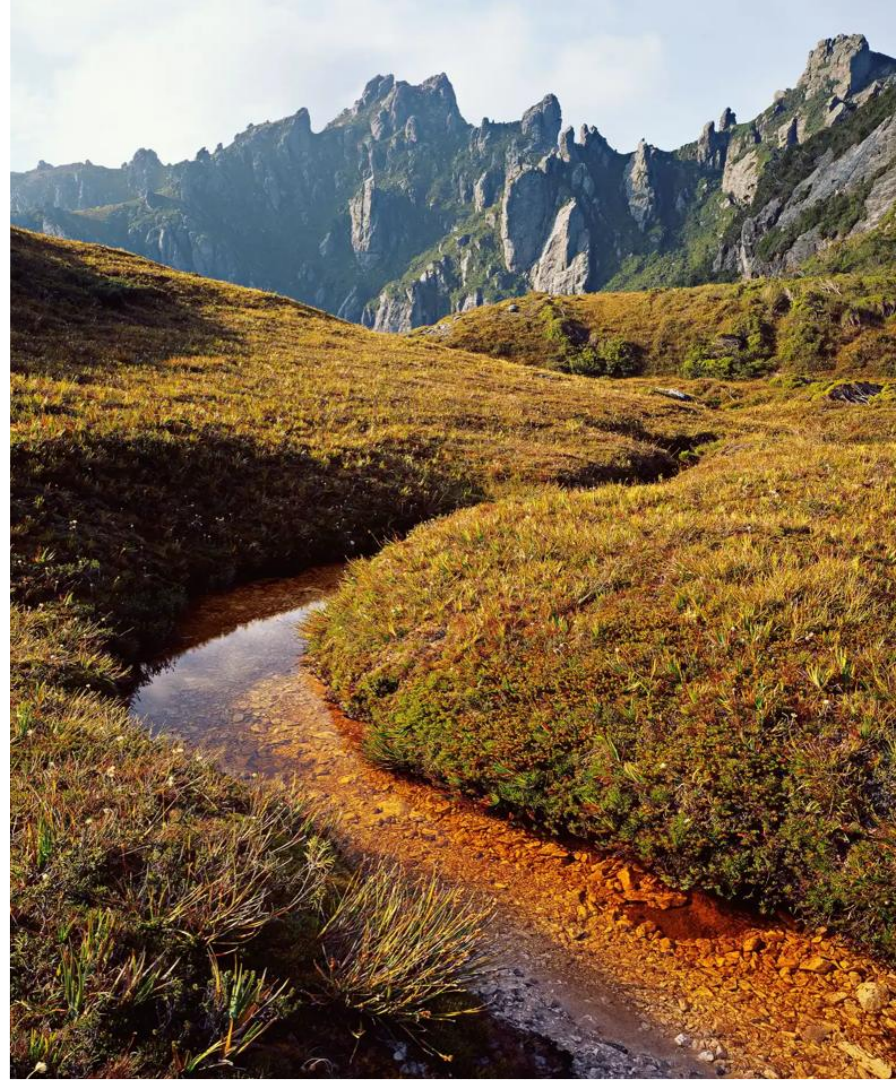


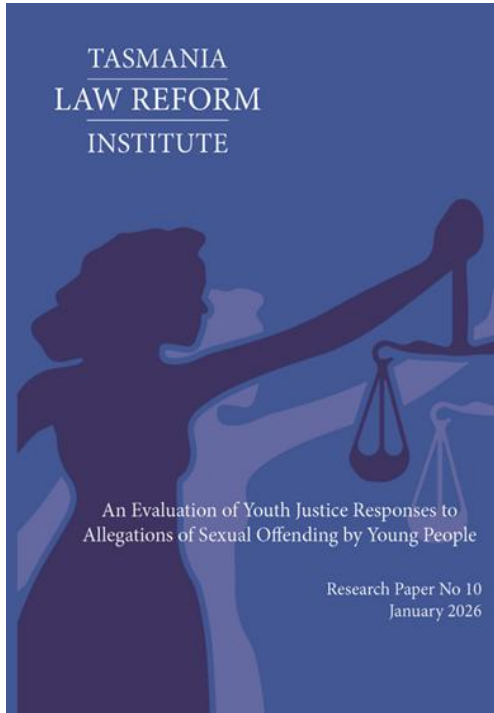


TASMANIA
LAW REFORM
INSTITUTE

CALRAs Conference 2026







Overview

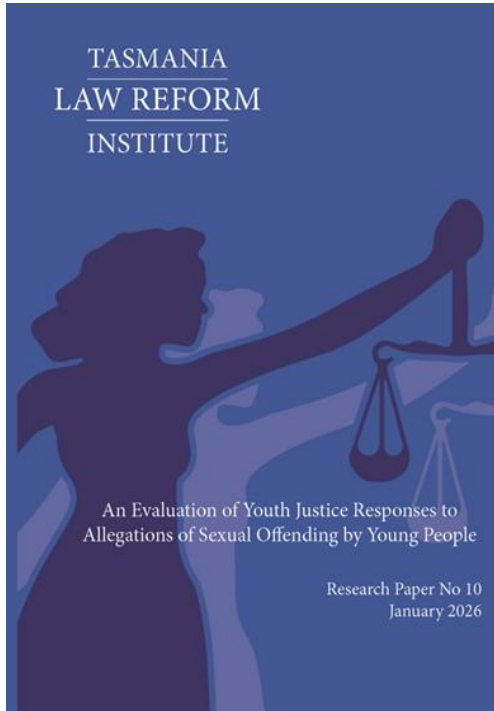
1. Tasmania
2. Models of law reform bodies pre-2001
3. Tasmania Law Reform Institute





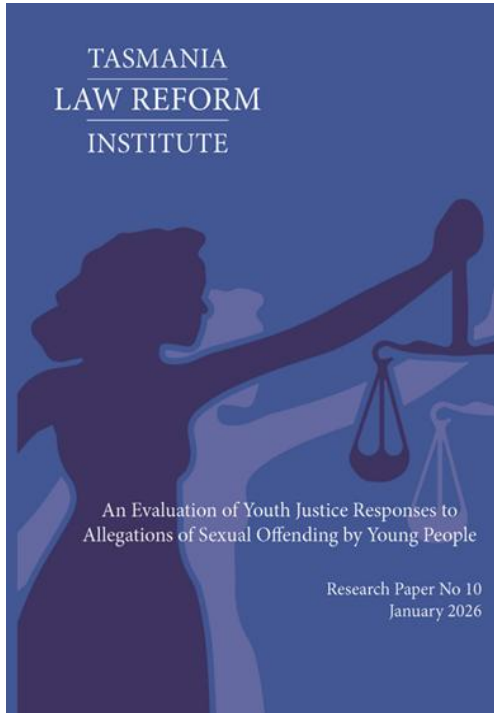
Tasmania

- Population ~580,000
- Size ~ 68,401 km²
- Five population centres
- Most dispersed tax base of all Australian jurisdictions



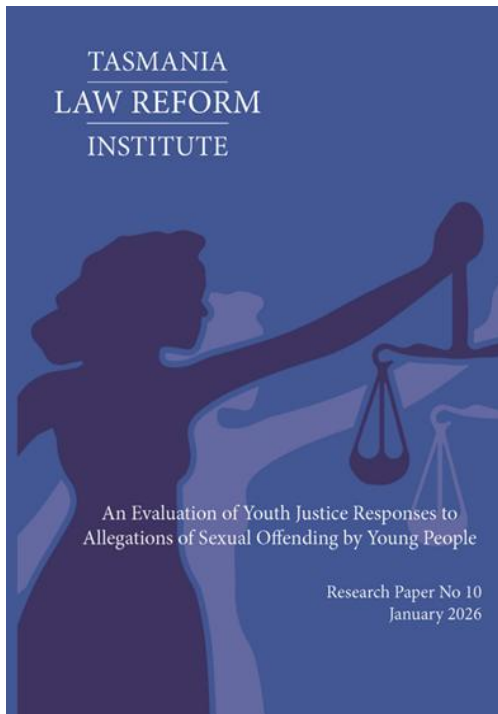
Models of law reform

1. Law Reform Commission 15 years (1974-1989)
2. Law Reform Commissioner 8 years (1989-1997)
3. Functions of the Commissioner given to the Director of the Legal Commission 4 years (1997-2001)



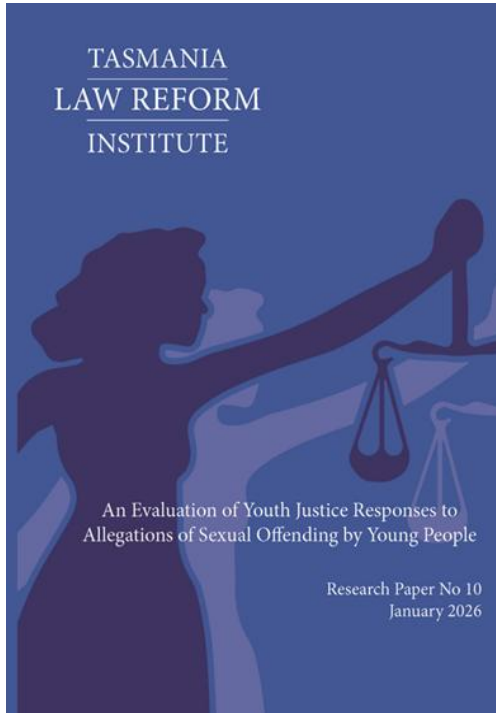
Tasmania Law Reform Institute 25 years

- Founded 2001 – State Government, Law Society of Tasmania, University of Tasmania (Alberta model).
- Broad research functions including modernising, consolidating & simplifying the law. Reform only (not drafting).
- Referrals for projects can originate from the A-G, Legal Aid, Parliament, government departments, community groups etc.
- TLRI can self-refer, subject to Board approval.



TLRI 2001-2026

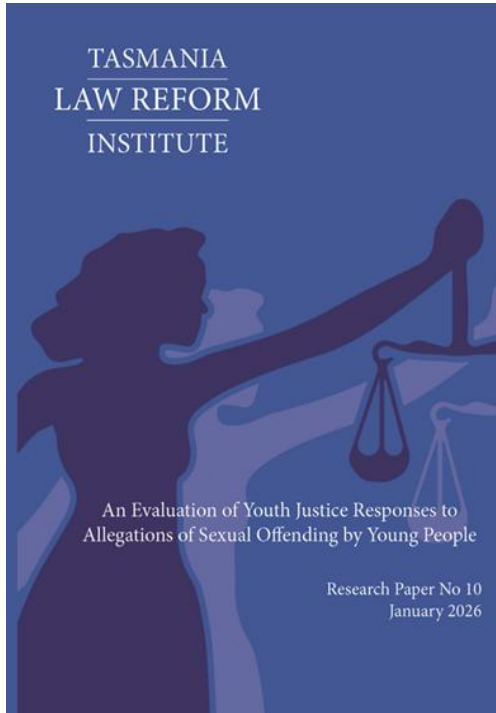
- 66 submissions on draft bills.
- 78 reports:
 - Issues Papers, Final Reports
 - Research Papers
- Hansard 2019-2026 ~501 mentions in parliamentary documents.
- Parliamentary commentary indicates tripartisan support for the TLRI as Tasmania's "obvious" independent law reform body that is "highly respected in the legal community".
- Premier's letters:
 - "comprehensive work and recommendations"
 - the "work of the Institute makes an important contribution to law reform and public policy discussion".



TLRI 2001-2026

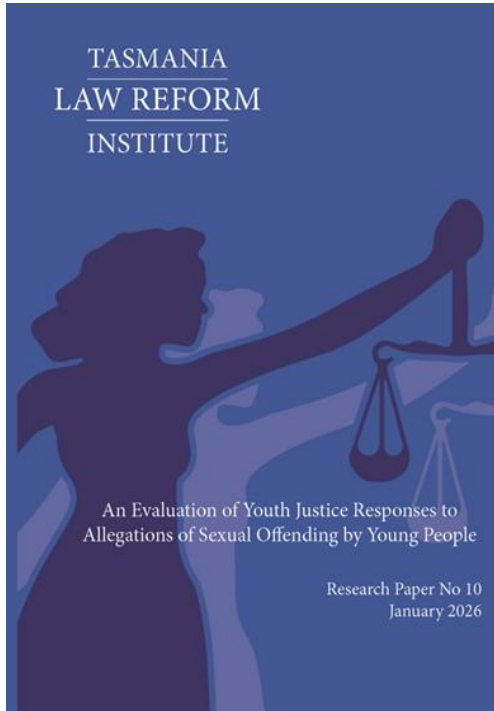
Case study: *Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1995*

- Issues Paper, community consultation phase, Final Report (923 pages)
- Reframed guardianship around the principles of individual rights
- Informed tranches of legislative reform
- Parliament has described the review as “instrumental” and contributing to “a very significant shift in the way that framework is set up ... to put the individual at the centre, focusing on personal directions, values, preferences”



TLRI Challenges

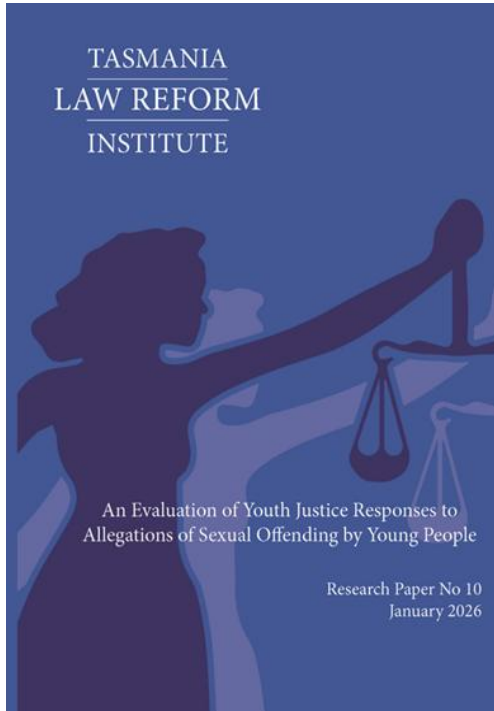
- Ignored reports
- Short consultation times for submissions
- 2001 \$50k p/a government funding & additional grants for specific projects → matched by in-kind support from the University
- \$50k not indexed to inflation
- 2019-2022 strains in relationship; referrals from A-G paused → funding reduced
- Independent review of TLRI



TLRI re-building phase 2023-2026

New Agreement signed in 2023

- Governance: independent Board & Chair
- Increased funding to \$200k p/a., in addition to project-specific funding from government, and ~\$120k from competitive grant schemes
- 10 reports
- 4 staff (2FTE)
- AFP award for University of Tasmania partly based on TLRI report on youth sex offending (June 2026)



Concluding reflections on 25 years

- Very strong research culture in the Law School
- Right-sized model for state with small finances
- Economy of scale → shared costs between Government and University
- Time as a 'resource'
- Academics' interest in meaningful research / 'impact'
 - 10 law, 2 psychology
- TLRI has benefitted from Tasmania itself:
 - Small bureaucracy
 - Strong support from the judiciary and legal profession



Thank you