

Competition: Design our new mascot

Share your ideas about safety and belonging.

About the competition

Disability Commissioner Tasmania invites Tasmanians with disability to create a design for a new mascot that will be made into a plush toy. The plush toy will **later** be given to people with disability living in supported accommodation and students in support schools.

This competition will help to celebrate International Day of People with Disability and Human Rights Day.

We will announce the winning design at an event on Thursday 10 December 2026 (venue to be announced).

All designs will be displayed at the event and on our website.

About the mascot

The mascot will represent:

- safety – feeling and being safe and respected, knowing your rights, and having a voice

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GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001

1800 179 249 | +61 3 6270 5500

contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au | disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au

- belonging - being yourself, feeling connected to others, and being included in your community.

Your design and ideas could be a character, animal, or something you have imagined. We want to know what safety and belonging mean to you.

The mascot will also help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.

The competition is the first step in bringing the mascot to life. After the competition, we will work with the winner and a professional designer, to develop the winning idea into a plush toy. The plush toy will be given to people with disability living in supported accommodation, and children and young people in support schools.

About your design

Your design can be in any format that works best for you. It could be:

- a drawing or sketch
- a painting, collage, digital art
- a photo of a model you have made
- a written description
- a video or audio recording.

You can have someone help put your idea to us.

Your design and ideas could be a character, animal, creature or something you have imagined. We want to know what safety and belonging mean to you.

Designs or ideas created using AI will not be accepted.

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Key dates

Entries close: 11.59pm, Sunday 22 November 2026.

Announcement: Thursday 10 December 2026 (more details to come, stay tuned to our website and Facebook for more information)

Online gallery: From 9 December 2026.

How to apply

- Complete an entry form online and upload your design or ideas, or
- Download and print the form, then email or post it to us with your design or ideas
 - Email: contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au
 - Mail: Disability Commissioner Tasmania, GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001
- Make sure you understand the entry guidelines below. You can ask for help to understand the guidelines.
- Please contact us if you have questions or need help with completing the form.

Eligibility and selection

The competition is open to all Tasmanians with disability.

We use a human rights model of disability based on the *Disability Rights Inclusion and Safeguarding Act 2024* (the Act). The Act defines disability as:

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“In relation to a person, includes long-term physical, mental, cognitive, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder the person’s full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

How a winner will be selected

The Disability Commissioner will choose the winning design. When considering entries, the Commissioner will look at:

- Experience and understanding – your own experience of living in supported accommodation, attending a support school, or being at Ashley Youth Detention Centre, or how well your entry shows understanding of how people in these settings might use the mascot
- Safety and belonging – how your design represents safety and belonging for people with disability
- Our role – how the mascot could help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.

Cost to enter

Entry is free.

Theme

- Safety – feeling and being safe and respected, knowing your rights, and having a voice.

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- Belonging - being yourself, feeling connected to others, and being included in your community.

The mascot will also help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.

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Entry form

Design our new mascot: Share your ideas about safety and belonging.

About me

Full Name: _____

Age: _____

What suburb or town do you live in: _____

How can we contact you? ☐ Phone ☐ Email

Please include your phone or email address:

Do you have any other communication needs:

Do you need someone to help us contact you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you said yes, please tell us:

Name: _____

Relationship to you: _____

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Contact details: _____

Have you experienced one of these?

- ☐ Living in supported accommodation
- ☐ Attending a support school
- ☐ Being at Ashley Youth Detention Centre

If you are a school student, please tell us where you go to school:

About your design

Tell us a little about your design (please write or record up to 100 words):

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Tell us the name of the mascot if you have one:

What does safety and belonging mean to you? (Please write or record up to 100 words):

☐ I have not used AI for my design and ideas.

Attaching your design and ideas

You can attach you designs and ideas to this entry form.

You can also send these to contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au with the subject line: Design a Mascot Entry <your name>. The format of your design or ideas can be in Word, pdf, jpeg, png, or mp3.

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Entry guidelines

Purpose

To create a mascot that reflects safety and belonging. The mascot will later be developed into a plush toy that will be given to Tasmanians with disability living in supported accommodation and children and young people in support schools.

The competition celebrates International Day of People with Disability and Human Rights Day.

Eligibility

This competition is open to all Tasmanians living with disability.

How a winner will be selected

The Disability Commissioner will choose the winning design. When considering entries, the Commissioner will look at:

- Experience and understanding – your own experience of living in supported accommodation, attending a support school, or being at Ashley Youth Detention Centre, or how well your entry shows understanding of how people in these settings might use the mascot
- Safety and belonging – how your design represents safety and belonging for people with disability
- Our role – how the mascot could help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.

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Entry

1. Entries open 16 October 2026 and close at 11:59pm on 22 November 2026.
2. To enter, complete an entry form and submit your design or idea via one of these ways:
 - i. Online - <https://www.disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au/news/design-our-new-mascot-competition>
 - ii. Email: contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au
 - iii. Mail: Disability Commissioner Tasmania, GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001.
3. For any questions on the competition:
 - i. Phone: 1800 179 249 (free call)
 - ii. Email: contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au
 - iii. Mail: Disability Commissioner Tasmania, GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001.
4. The theme of the competition is: safety and belonging. The mascot will also help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.
5. There is no entry fee.
6. You can submit up to two entries.
7. Designs on paper should be no bigger than A3. For writing, the maximum word limit is 250 words. Designs and ideas sent by video or sound should be no longer than 4 minutes.
8. All designs and ideas must be labelled with your name. When submitting a word, jpeg, png or audio file, please label it with your name and competition title, e.g. John Smith – Design a mascot.jpg.
9. Designs and written ideas are to be uploaded as part of the entry online entry form.
Or you can email it to: contact@disabilitycommmissioner.tas.gov.au, or mail to:

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Disability Commissioner Tasmania, GPO Box 123, Hobart TAS 7001, by 22 November 2026.

10. Designs and ideas must be your own. You can have someone help you with your entry.
11. You are responsible for ensuring that no relevant copyright laws are infringed. This means the design and idea must be your own and cannot be used by someone else.
12. You must not have used AI on your entry.
13. Selection of designs will be at the discretion of Disability Commissioner Tasmania.
14. The Disability Commissioner will announce the winner at an event on Thursday 10 December 2026. The event will also be held online. If you are the winner and not at the event, we will contact you 10 December 2026 using the information you have given us.
15. The winner agrees to working with Disability Commissioner Tasmania and a professional designer during the development of the plush toy. The winning design can be changed and developed further with a professional designer so that it can become a plush toy.
16. An online gallery of all entries will be available on our website.
17. If you submit your actual drawing, please make sure you keep a copy because we may not be able to return it to you.

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In submitting an entry, you acknowledge and agree to the entry guidelines. In doing this, you agree to allow the Disability Commissioner Tasmania to publicise, broadcast, and communicate to the public, your name, designs, ideas for promotion related to the competition, with no financial compensation to you for this use.

I understand and agree to these entry guidelines.

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nominee, Guardian or Support Person (if applicable)

Name (Print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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