

Frequently Asked Questions

Design our new mascot competition

We have compiled some frequently asked questions to help answer questions about the competition. The entry form also includes information about the competition.

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Entry

What is this competition about and why are you doing it?

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

We are inviting Tasmanians with disability to create a design for our new mascot that will be developed further and made into a plush toy. The plush toy will be given to Tasmanians with disability living in supported accommodation, and students in support schools. The mascot will also help people learn about Disability Commissioner Tasmania and our role in protecting and promoting the rights of people with disability.

We want the mascot to reflect safety and belonging and help people know they have rights.

What is the theme?

The themes are safety and belonging. We want the mascot to represent:

- safety – feeling and being safe and respected, knowing your rights, and having a voice.
- belonging - being yourself, feeling connected to others, and being included in your community.

Is there a particular shape the mascot needs to be?

No. Your design and ideas could be a character, animal, creature or something you have imagined. The mascot will be made into a plush toy for people of all ages and abilities. Think about how you can make your design strong and safe.

Who can enter?

Tasmanians of all ages and experience of disability can enter.

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

“In relation to a person, including 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.”

Can I get help with my design?

Yes, but your design and ideas must be your own. You can have someone help you with your entry. This could be a teacher, family member, carer, or support worker.

Can I use AI to create my design or idea?

No. Designs or ideas that use AI will not be accepted.

When does the competition close?

The competition closes at 11:59pm on Sunday 22 November 2026.

Where can I find out more information about the competition?

More information, entry forms and guidelines are on our website

<https://www.disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au/news/design-our-new-mascot-competition>.

How do I enter?

You can enter in different ways.

- Online: Complete our online entry form and upload your design or idea
- Email: Download the entry form, complete it and email it with your design or idea to contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au
- Mail: Download and print the entry form and send it with your design or idea to - Disability Commissioner Tasmania, Level 5, 188 Collins Street, Hobart Tas 7001.

If you would like us to send you a printed entry form, contact us.

If you need help to enter, you can call us on 1800 179 249 (free call) or email contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au.

I am having trouble submitting my entry. Can someone help?

Yes. You can contact us by:

- Phone: 1800 179 249 (free call) or 6270 5500.
- Email: contact@disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au
- Online enquiry form: https://www.disabilitycommissioner.tas.gov.au/contact_us

Do I need to agree to any terms and conditions of entry?

Yes. We have entry guidelines that you will need to read and agree to before you enter. These explain the competition rules, what information we need from you, and what will happen with your design.

As part of your entry, we will ask you to tell us a little about yourself, your design, and how you created it.

We will also ask for your permission to share some information about you, such as your name, age, school, and location. This may be used when we display your design at the event, in our online gallery, or when we promote the competition.

The entry guidelines help make sure the competition is clear and fair for everyone. If you need help to read or understand them, please contact us. We can help.

There may also be media at the event. They may take photos or film or ask to speak with you about your design. You can choose whether you would like to take part. You do not have to speak to them or agree to be photographed or filmed.

What format does my design need to be in?

You can create your design in the format that works best for you. Your design could be:

- a drawing or sketch, up to A3 in size
- a painting or collage, up to A3 in size
- digital artwork, up to 4MB
- a photograph of a model you have made
- written design ideas, up to 250 words
- a video or audio recording, up to 4MB.

You can choose the format that best helps you share your design and ideas.

Can I enter more than once?

Yes. You can submit up to 2 entries.

Are there any design considerations that I should know about?

Your design will eventually be developed into a plush toy, so there are a few things you might like to think about. Think about how your mascot could be made into something that is safe, strong and suitable for people of different ages and abilities. For example, small pieces could come off and become a choking hazard, and long or loose parts could be easily pulled off or torn. But don't worry about working out all the details. We will hire a designer to work with us and the winner to develop the winning design into a plush toy. The designer will help make sure the final mascot is safe, accessible, and suitable for the people who will receive it.

Does it cost anything to enter?

No. Entry is free.

What do I need to do before sending my design?

If you send in a drawing, sketch, collage, photograph, please make sure you include:

- your name
- your school, if you are a student
- where you live, such as your town or suburb
- your contact details.

This information helps us to make sure we know who each design belongs to and how to contact you.

When we display the designs at the event and in our online gallery, we will only include the information you have given us permission to share. We will not display your contact details.

Will you provide any help?

Yes. We will host an online workshop session if you want to chat with us about your ideas. We will also hold in-person workshops for students at Tasmania's support schools.

Stay tuned to our website or social media for more information.

Selecting the winner

How will the Commissioner select a winner?

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.

Announcement of the winner

When will the winner be announced?

The winner will be announced at an event on Human Rights Day, Thursday 10 December 2026. This event will also be held online, and anyone can attend.

We will share more information about how to attend on our website and social media.

We plan to display all entries at the event and in an online gallery on our website.

What if I win and am not at the event?

If the winner is not at the event, we will contact them using the details they provided with their entry. We will also announce the winner on our website and social media.

What do I win?

The winning design will be developed into our new mascot and made into a plush toy.

You will help us and the designer to bring the design to life. Once the mascot has been made, you will receive your own plush toy to keep.

We will recognise you as the person who created the winning design when we share information about the competition and the mascot. You will also receive a certificate from us.

Who can come to the event?

Anyone can come to the event. The event is free too.

Will the event be accessible?

We will make this event as accessible as possible. This means the event:

- is accessible to people using mobility aids
- has accessible toilets
- has accessible parking bays
- has public transport options
- has a quiet space for people to go if they need it
- has information online, printed, and in audio
- has Auslan interpreters for the announcement

If you have specific accessibility needs, please let us know.

The plush toy will then be given to people living in supported accommodation and other settings.

Can you tell me more about the online gallery?

We will create an online gallery on our website that includes all entries we receive. This page will be available from 10 December.

What happens after the competition?

After the competition, we will work with the winner and a professional designer to develop the idea into a plush toy. We will:

- develop a first version of the plush toy
- test and refine it to make sure it is safe and suitable

- develop the final plush toy.

When will the plush toy be available?

We expect it may take up to a year for the plush toy to be made. We would like it to be released before the end of next year.