



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Community consultations reach half way

The Royal Commission into Family Violence is now more than half way through its intensive period of community consultations, hearing from people affected by family violence and the people who provide assistance and support to them.

More than 750 registrations have been taken so far for over 30 community consultations being held across Victoria between 21 April and 22 May 2015.

This week sessions were held in Bendigo, Echuca and Melbourne. Some of the key themes raised include:

- the legal and practical issues people affected by family violence face when living and working close to an interstate border
- difficulties accessing crisis housing
- how and when breaches of intervention orders are reported and followed up
- the physical environment of court buildings, and associated security issues
- ensuring key services and health professionals are equipped to make referrals to specialist family violence services when appropriate
- the availability of family violence services in rural and remote areas.

Next week the Royal Commission will hold sessions in eastern Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne. For safety reasons, the exact details of the dates and locations of these consultations will be kept confidential and only disclosed to registered participants.

The Commission encourages those who have been affected by family violence, and those who work with them, to inquire about and register for upcoming sessions by calling 1800 365 100. Anyone requiring an interpreter should call 9321 5499.

The Royal Commission also continues to accept written submissions. The closing date for written submissions is Friday, 29 May 2015. Anyone requiring assistance can call the Royal Commission on 1800 365 100 or send an email to [enquiries@rcfv.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rcfv.com.au).

Public hearings are expected to start on 13 July 2015 on level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. They will also be streamed live and available from [www.rcfv.com.au](http://www.rcfv.com.au).

Quotes attributed to Commissioner Neave:

*'Through community consultations and written submissions, we are getting a clear picture of the range of issues people affected by family violence face when navigating the family violence sector.'*

*'We encourage victims, survivors and family violence workers to send in their written submissions by Friday, 29 May to help identify key themes and ways to improve the system.'*

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