



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 9 July 2015

Family violence hearings begin

The first week of the Royal Commission into Family Violence hearings begin on Monday, 13 July 2015. On the first day, Commissioner Marcia Neave will deliver an opening address followed by an opening statement by Counsel Assisting, Mr Mark Moshinsky QC.

The hearings will explore key issues and questions relevant to the family violence system through twenty modules:

- Introduction: What is family violence and who experiences it, including causes and contributing factors
- Children – Introduction and early intervention
- Children – Intervention and response
- Financial abuse and empowerment
- Alcohol and drugs
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders: Experiences and opportunities
- Housing and homelessness
- Mental health
- Risk assessment and risk management
- Perpetrator interventions
- Initial police response
- Family violence intervention orders – Application process
- Family violence intervention orders – Monitoring and enforcement
- Criminal justice response
- Overlapping jurisdictions – The role of family law and child protection law
- Culture change in workplaces and the community
- Diversity of experiences, community attitudes and structural impediments
- Role of the health system
- Integrating services
- Information sharing.

Unless otherwise directed, hearings will be open to the public. Anyone is welcome to attend to watch and listen to the hearings taking place at level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne. Hearings will generally commence at 9.30am.

The hearings will be streamed live through the Commission's website at www.rcfv.com.au. The live stream may include footage of the public in the hearing room. Those wishing to attend should consider their personal circumstances and safety before deciding to attend the hearings.

Please see the hearings schedule at www.rcfv.com.au for more details including witnesses scheduled to appear.

Public hearings are just one of the ways in which the Commission will be gathering information to obtain a better understanding about the existing system and how it operates in practice.

Individuals and organisations have also contributed to the work of the Royal Commission through:

- written submissions (nearly 1000 have been received)
- community consultations (43 sessions were held in 21 locations across Victoria)
- site visits to courts and other services
- requests for data and documentation.

For more information call 1800 365 100 or visit www.rcfv.com.au.

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