



## **PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS**

RELEASED 20 APRIL 2015

### **INTRODUCTION**

This document is designed to help those who provide information to the Royal Commission through participating in community consultations.

#### **What happens to the information provided?**

1. The information provided to the Royal Commission through the community consultations will generally inform the Royal Commission's work.
2. During a community consultation, Royal Commission staff may make notes, but these notes will only be shared with the Commissioners and other Royal Commission staff.
3. The Royal Commission will not disclose anyone's identity or specific circumstances (including in its final report), without permission.

#### **What about other participants?**

4. We encourage everyone to listen and engage in discussion respecting the views and experiences of other participants.
5. By participating in a community consultation, you accept that other participants may hear the information you choose to share.
6. In the same way that you may prefer that other participants respect the information you choose to share, keep it confidential and not disclose it to others, we would be grateful if you would also respect, keep confidential and not disclose information provided by other participants.
7. It is your decision what information you choose to share, but we encourage you to share your thoughts in an open, informal and respectful way.

#### **Your rights and responsibilities**

8. A person who gives information to the Royal Commission has the same protection and immunity as a witness in Supreme Court proceedings: section 39(4) of the *Inquiries Act 2014*.
9. Any information given to the Royal Commission cannot be admitted as evidence or used against the person in any other proceedings (subject to limited exceptions): section 40 of the *Inquiries Act 2014*.