



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 20 March 2015

Royal Commission into Family Violence appoints Counsel Assisting

Three Counsel Assisting have been appointed to the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Mark Moshinsky QC, Rachel Ellyard and Joanna Davidson will be engaged for set periods of time in the lead up to and during the Royal Commission's public hearings process which expect to be held in Melbourne mid-year.

The structure of the hearings and who may be called to provide evidence is currently being determined.

Mr Moshinsky QC studied at the University of Melbourne, where he was awarded the Supreme Court Prize, and completed a Bachelor of Civil Law with First Class Honours at the University of Oxford. He completed articles and worked for two years as a solicitor at Arthur Robinson & Hedderwicks. Since 1995, he has practised as a barrister, specialising in the areas of constitutional and administrative law. He has also published a number of articles and papers in the areas of constitutional law and human rights.

Ms Ellyard practises in civil and administrative law and has acted both for and against government agencies and departments in a wide range of administrative law areas including discrimination, privacy, freedom of information, disciplinary matters, licensing, and local government governance. Ms Ellyard, who joined the Bar in 2004, has also acted as Counsel Assisting the Coroner in a number of inquests. Before joining the Bar Ms Ellyard was a solicitor at Victoria Legal Aid.

Ms Davidson's principal area of practice is administrative law with a particular focus on human rights. Her roles prior to joining the Bar include Special Counsel (Human Rights) in the Victorian Government Solicitors Office and Crown Counsel in the New Zealand Crown Law Office. Ms Davidson also practised as a solicitor for 10 years in Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Public hearings are just one way in which the Royal Commission will be gathering views and information. The Royal Commission is also currently accepting written submissions through its website, by email and by post. It will also be examining current policy, procedures and potential solutions through its research and broad community engagement program.

For more information about the Royal Commission's program and procedures, visit www.rcfv.com.au or call 1800 365 100.

Quotes attributable to Commissioner Marcia Neave

"I am pleased to be supported by such talented and dedicated counsel."

"The three Counsel Assisting will play an important role in helping us understand existing gaps and problems in current responses to family violence, and help us to find ways to overcome these problems."