



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 23 February 2015

Royal Commission into Family Violence begins

Today the Royal Commission into Family Violence began its operations.

The Commission, led by the Hon. Marcia Neave AO and supported by Deputy Commissioners Ms Patricia Faulkner AO and Mr Tony Nicholson, is tasked with making recommendations that will influence generational change to prevent and respond to family violence.

The Royal Commission is due to deliver its report and recommendations by 29 February 2016.

'Family violence is the most significant problem confronting our community with widespread detrimental social, health, economic and other effects' said Commissioner Neave at the Commission's first press conference held this morning.

'It is critical that our deliberations are informed by those who have experienced the damage wrought by family violence either personally or through providing support.'

'We have a big task in front of us and only 12 months to deliver recommendations that will make a real difference.'

The Commission will consult with individuals and organisations at community consultation sessions (including in regional Victoria), hold roundtable discussions with experts, consider written submissions, undertake research and hold public hearings'.

'The focus of this Royal Commission, given our remit and our timelines, will be on identifying and solving system-wide issues rather than on hearing from a large number of individuals about their particular circumstances.'

Similarly, while the Commission will undertake formal hearings, these will be over a relatively shorter timeframe than some other recent royal commissions and inquiries.'

This means opportunities for victims to give evidence at a public or private hearing will be relatively limited but people will be able to participate in community consultations and roundtable discussions.'

The Commission welcomes written submissions from anyone who wants to comment on its terms of reference. The closing date for submissions is 29 May 2015. The Commission will carefully read, analyse and consider all written submissions.

The Commission will focus on finding practical ways to protect those at risk, prevent family violence, and improve integration and coordination of response efforts across the sector.

For further information go to rcfv.com.au, email enquiries@rcfv.com.au or call 1800 365 100.

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