



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 24 April 2015

### **Royal Commission concludes first week of consultations**

The Royal Commission into Family Violence has concluded its first week of community consultations.

Commissioner Marcia Neave AO and Deputy Commissioners Patricia Faulkner AO and Tony Nicholson, held community consultation sessions in Maryborough, Horsham and the Melbourne CBD. During these sessions they heard from a range of individuals who have experienced different forms of family violence and from workers who provide frontline services to people affected by family violence.

Next week, the Commissioners will hold sessions in southwest 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.

So far sessions have covered topics including the specific impact of family violence on children and young people and on older victims; the availability of services for victims who live in regional and remote areas; the adequacy of justice system responses; the need for people who use violence to be held accountable; access to appropriate programs and services; and the importance of coordination between different agencies.

Nearly 450 people registered this week alone to attend more than 30 community consultation sessions being held across Victoria between 21 April and 22 May 2015. 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.

Commissioner Neave also attended the Aboriginal Justice Forum to address representatives from Aboriginal communities across Victoria about the Royal Commission. In addition, all three Commissioners visited the Ballarat Magistrates' Court as part of the Commission's site visit program.

The Royal Commission continues to seek written submissions relating to its terms of reference from anyone affected by family violence. Individuals requiring assistance in making a submission should contact the Royal Commission via phone or email.

The Royal Commission expects to hold public hearings between Monday, 13 July 2015 and Friday, 14 August 2015. The hearings will take place at level 11, 222 Exhibition Street, Melbourne and be open to the public. Anyone is welcome to attend to watch and listen or follow the hearings online via live webstream. More details are available at [www.rcfv.com.au](http://www.rcfv.com.au).

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