



MEDIA RELEASE

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Royal Commission hearings pause for one week

The first two weeks of Royal Commission into Family Violence public hearings concluded today. Hearings will now pause for one week and resume on Monday, 3 August 2015.

The focus of the hearings has been on how to improve the family violence system. Over the last ten days, the Commission has heard from nearly 70 experts. The Commission has also heard from a small number of individuals affected by family violence who provided evidence highlighting some of the system-wide issues being considered.

The hearings have explored many key issues and questions including:

- 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.

The second half of hearings will focus on:

- 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.

To view daily transcripts, witness statements and an up-to-date hearings schedule, visit www.rcfv.com.au. Witness details are made available 48 hours in advance.

Public hearings are just one of the ways in which the Commission is 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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