



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Family and Community Development Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Bendigo and Wangaratta hearings on care of mothers and babies

Next week the Family and Community Development Committee will hold public hearings and community forums in Bendigo and Wangaratta for its inquiry into perinatal services.

They are part of a series of hearings and community forums the Committee is conducting in regional Victoria as it examines the health care needs of mothers and babies during the perinatal period.

The Bendigo hearing will be on Tuesday 24 October from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm at the All Seasons Hotel Bendigo, 171-183 Mclvor Road. The Committee will hear from a range of local health service providers, starting with Bendigo Health. It will include a community forum from 1:30 pm at which community members can share their views and suggestions with the Committee.

The Wangaratta hearing will be on Wednesday 25 October from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Memorial Hall, Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre, 33-37 Ford St. Northeast Health Wangaratta will be the first to present to the Committee, followed by other health care providers. A community forum from 1:00 pm will provide the opportunity for community statements to the Committee.

As part of its inquiry the Committee is considering the adequacy of services for dealing with high risk and premature births.

It is also examining access to and provision of an appropriately qualified workforce, as well as the disparity in outcomes between rural, regional and metropolitan locations.

The inquiry also has a particular focus on the mental health of women during the perinatal period.

The schedules for the Bendigo and Wangaratta hearings are available from the Committee's [website](#) along with submissions received to the inquiry.

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