



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

Watch justice system hearings live next week

Public hearings for the parliamentary inquiry into Victoria’s criminal justice system will resume next week with two full days of witness testimony.

You can watch the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee [broadcast live](#) via Zoom from 9:15 am on Tuesday 19 October and 10:30 am on Thursday 21 October.

The hearings commence with the Les Twentyman Foundation, which has supported at-risk youth for more than 30 years.

Dr Marietta Martinovic of RMIT will explain her innovative Australian Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, in which 15 prisoners and 15 students study alongside each other as equals.

The Committee will also hear from representatives of The Justice Map, on what is working and what more needs to be done.

The Federation of Community Legal Centres will detail its recent work on family violence reform and efforts to reduce the number of people in the prison system.

Michele Williams QC, Chair of the Post Sentence Authority which monitors Victoria’s most serious offenders, will provide an insight into the post sentence regime.

Legal bodies including Victoria Legal Aid and WEstjustice which provides free legal help to people in the western suburbs of Melbourne will also give evidence to the Committee.

Another witness will be Dr Karen Hart from Victoria University who specialises in the needs and experience of young people involved in the criminal justice system and focuses on interventions to prevent further re-offending.

Attempts to reduce the criminalisation of women in Victoria, including those from migrant and refugee backgrounds, will be front and centre for Smart Justice for Women and the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health.

The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the criminal justice system continues to be an important focus for the inquiry with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and Aboriginal Justice Caucus to each provide testimony on potential methods for reform.

“This inquiry is one of the most comprehensive examinations of Victoria’s criminal justice system ever undertaken in this state,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

“We launched the public hearing phase of our inquiry in Wangaratta and have since gained an invaluable insight into the operation of our legal framework.

“This latest schedule of expert witnesses exemplifies the great lengths the Committee has gone to, to ensure it has heard from Victorians of all walks of life, including academics, advocates, victims and people with lived experience of the justice system, on the matters that are most important to them.”

The Committee received [109 submissions](#) and has already heard from dozens of witnesses at several previous public hearings.

You can watch [video snapshots](#) of earlier sessions on [Parliament's YouTube](#) channel.

The full schedules for next week's public hearings are available on the [Committee's website](#).

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