



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Back-to-back days of public hearings for justice inquiry

A comprehensive analysis of Victoria’s criminal justice system continues next week with two full days of public hearings.

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee’s inquiry will [broadcast live](#) via Zoom from 9:30 am on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 September.

Victims of Crime Commissioner Fiona McCormack will highlight the concerns of victims and provide advice to the Committee on what could be done to further promote their participation in the justice system.

“Victims of crime must be at the heart of our justice system and we need to discuss how we can better recognise and involve them in the judicial process,” Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

Members will also hear from representatives of the Youth Affairs Council Victoria, Koorie Youth Council, specialist criminal justice reintegration service VACRO and not-for-profit Justice Connect.

Later, the Committee will speak with Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Centre for Multicultural Youth and former Victoria Police chaplain Reverend Jim Pilmer PSM OAM OstJ.

On Tuesday, Crime Statistics Agency chief statistician Fiona Dowsley will deliver an insight into rates of recidivism and criminal offending.

Former Chief Commissioner Kelvin Glare AO APM will appear as Chairman of the Community Advocacy Alliance and in a separate session Sergeant Wayne Gatt will testify on behalf of the Police Association Victoria.

The Committee will also hear from Victorian Aboriginal Community Service Association, volunteers representing early intervention program Women and Mentoring, Professor James Ogloff and victim advocate Dianne McDonald.

“This is an extensive list of esteemed expert witnesses with professional and lived experience of Victoria’s criminal justice system,” Ms Patten said.

“I would encourage anyone with an interest in this important matter to watch the live broadcast or read the transcripts once they become available online.”

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

[Video snapshots](#) of previous hearings are available to watch on [Parliament’s YouTube](#) channel.

The inquiry has received [107 submissions](#) and is due to report to Parliament by 28 February 2022.

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