



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Legal and Social Issues Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

Wangaratta hearing to launch criminal justice system inquiry

Victoria's criminal justice system will be scrutinised through a major parliamentary inquiry set to hold its first public hearing in the state's north-east next week.

The Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee will launch the public hearing phase of its inquiry in the regional town of Wangaratta on Wednesday.

The Committee will hear from local stakeholders including Merri Health, the Wangaratta-based Centre for Continuing Education, the Centre Against Violence and victims advocate Lee Little.

Guided by the [terms of reference](#), the Committee will be analysing factors influencing Victoria's growing remand and prison populations and rates of criminal reoffending.

The Committee is also reviewing training provided to Victorian Judges and Magistrates and judicial appointment processes.

"We know the current operation of our criminal justice system is of concern to a lot of people in Victoria, including those in regional areas," Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

"This hearing will be an important opportunity for experts and community members in Northern Victoria to share their views and offer advice on how we might improve the system."

Members of the community can attend Wednesday's hearing at the Wangaratta Performing Arts & Convention Centre and watch proceedings from a public gallery, however it will be subject to COVID-19 related density limits and check-in requirements.

The [full schedule](#), as well as [transcripts](#) from all public hearings will be made available on the [Committee's website](#).

The inquiry is still accepting [submissions](#) which can be made until 1 September 2021.

The Committee will hear from various key stakeholders over coming months before delivering a final report to Parliament by 28 February 2022.

Issued: 24 June 2021