



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence

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Issue date: 21 July 2017

## PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY TO HEAR FROM A RANGE OF EXPERTS

The [Parliamentary Inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence](#) will hold an intensive set of public hearings across Monday 24 July and Tuesday 25 July in the Melbourne CBD.

The Committee will hear from a range of experts in the field, including Ms Rosie Batty founder of the Luke Batty Foundation, Mrs Hetty Johnston AM founder of Bravehearts, Women's Legal Services Australia, and the Hon Marcia Neave AO, the head of the former Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence.

A range of other organisations will provide evidence, including specialist service providers for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, culturally and linguistically diverse families and those living in regional and remote locations.

The Chair of the Committee, [Sarah Henderson MP](#), explained that the hearings are an opportunity for the Committee to learn what has been recommended to date and what is required moving forward.

“In Australia, police respond to 723 family violence matters every day. That equates to approximately one every two minutes. Family violence has been front and centre of our national debate in recent years, with many expert reviews and reports examining what is required to address the issue”, Ms Henderson said.

“Over these two days of hearings, the Committee will hear from preeminent Australians and will be an opportunity to take expert advice so that we may begin to move forward and improve the family law system's response to family violence in Australia.”

#### Public hearing details:

9.00 am to 4.15 pm, Monday 24 July  
Victorian Parliament Committee Offices  
55 St Andrews Place Melbourne

9.00 am to 11.15 am, Tuesday 25 July  
Victorian Parliament Committee Offices  
55 St Andrews Place Melbourne

Detailed programs for the two hearings are available from the [Inquiry website](#).



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The hearing (audio only) will be streamed live at [aph.gov.au/live](http://aph.gov.au/live) and video footage of the hearing will be made available from the [Inquiry website](#) at a later date.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the hearing however there will be limited seating available.

Please be aware that the Committee is unable to intervene or provide advice in relation to individual circumstances. If you are in immediate danger, please contact 000. If you are experiencing distress or would like to speak with someone about your situation, the following support services are available:

- 1800RESPECT national helpline: 1800 737 732
- Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811
- Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Lifeline: 131 114
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 277
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

**Media enquiries:**

Office of Ms Sarah Henderson MP, Committee Chair on (03) 5243 1444.

**For background information:**

Parliamentary inquiry into a better family law system to support and protect those affected by family violence

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the committee via the website. Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.

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