



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE  
Senate Community Affairs References Committee

Senate inquiry into a possible cancer cluster on the  
Bellarine Peninsula  
Call for submissions

Issue date: 31 October 2019

The Senate Community Affairs References Committee is conducting an inquiry into investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria.

'The committee notes the Victorian Government's report published in January this year and also understands the concerns held by residents in the Bellarine area,' the chair of the committee, Senator Rachel Siewert, said.

The committee will be examining this matter with particular reference to the health concerns of residents and the incidence of cancer cases in the area, and any possible environmental or other contributing factors. It will also examine the Victorian Chief Health Officer's investigation of cancer rates.

The committee plans to travel to the Bellarine Peninsula to hear first-hand from residents and gain an understanding of the context in which these concerns have arisen.

### Call for submissions

The committee is seeking submissions to the inquiry from individuals and organisations in relation to investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula. **The committee has requested that submissions be received by 28 February 2020.**

If you would like to make a submission you may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#).

If you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, please contact the Community Affairs secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, is available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

**Media enquiries:** Office of Senator Rachel Siewert, Committee Chair on (02) 6277 3587

**For background information:** contact the committee secretariat.

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**DATE REFERRED**

17 October 2019

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**

28 February 2020

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**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

To be advised

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**REPORTING DATE**

August 2020

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Senator Rachel Siewert  
(Chair)

Senator Wendy Askew  
(Deputy Chair)

Senator Hollie Hughes

Senator Malarndirri McCarthy

Senator Deborah O'Neill

Senator Anne Urquhart

*Participating members:*

Senator the Hon Sarah  
Henderson

Senator Kimberley Kitching

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**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE**

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## **Inquiry Terms of Reference**

Investigations into a possible cancer cluster on the Bellarine Peninsula, Victoria, with particular reference to:

- (a) the health concerns of local residents;
- (b) the incidence of cancer cases in the area, and any possible environmental or other contributing factors;
- (c) the evidence, approach and outcomes concerning the Victorian Chief Health Officer's investigation of cancer rates on the Bellarine Peninsula; and
- (d) any other related matter.

## **Public hearings**

The committee will hold hearings as part of this inquiry so that it can hear from people who have relevant experience or expertise.

The dates and locations for the committee's hearings will be published on the inquiry website.

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet:

[www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearing is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#)