



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON AUSTRALIA'S FAMILY LAW SYSTEM

MEDIA RELEASE

The Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System unanimously expresses its condolences to the family and friends of the victims of the two tragic domestic violence incidents in Queensland last week. Committee members are mindful of the importance of this inquiry, given the terms of reference in relation to further improvements relating to the interaction between Australia's Family Law System and family and domestic violence jurisdictions.

Upcoming hearings—10–13 March

The committee is due to hear from witnesses in Townsville, Rockhampton, Brisbane and Sydney from 10–13 March 2020. The committee has invited organisations and individuals to appear at these hearings. Programs will shortly be made available on the committee's website.

Rescheduling of Bendigo hearing

The committee has agreed to cancel the Bendigo hearing scheduled for 8 April 2020 and will instead hold a hearing on Melbourne on this day. This will result in two hearings in Melbourne, on 8 and 9 April 2020. Programs will be made available on the committee's website for the Melbourne hearings—as well as the hearings in Launceston and Hobart on 6 and 7 April—in due course.

Announcement of further hearings

The committee has agreed to further public hearings in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia, which will take place in April and June 2020, in the following locations:

- 28–30 April 2020: Darwin, Alice Springs and Adelaide; and
- 9–11 June 2020: Kalgoorlie and Perth.

Witnesses and locations

The committee will decide upon further details of the hearings, including venues, times and witnesses. Further information about public hearings will be published on the committee's website in due course.

The committee intends to hear from individual witnesses as well as organisations. Witnesses will be selected from those people who have made a submission to the inquiry.

The committee will have in place safeguards to protect people who have experienced family violence or trauma to ensure no further harm is caused to vulnerable people.

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