



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Wodonga hearing for forced adoptions inquiry

A landmark parliamentary inquiry into responses to historical forced adoptions will next week return to regional Victoria to hold a hearing.

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee has been listening to mothers, adopted people, support services and government related agencies throughout the public hearing phase of its inquiry.

The Wodonga hearing will be held on Tuesday, 18 May at The Cube, 118 Hovell Street.

“We know mothers and adopted people across regional Victoria have been adversely affected by forced adoption and this is why it is important we listen to the impacts,” Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman said.

“The information community members provide helps us to assess the adequacy of support services and responses to historical forced adoptions throughout Victoria.”

Forced adoptions predominantly took place between the 1940s and 1980s in Australia, but also occurred outside of this time period.

Governments, non-government organisations (NGOs), religious institutions and professionals such as doctors and social workers were all responsible for carrying out the policies and practices of forced adoption.

The Committee has already held several hearings, including in regional centres Kangaroo Flat and Geelong. A further regional hearing is expected to be held in Mildura in June.

Tuesday’s hearing will not be broadcast, however transcripts of witness evidence will be published on the Committee’s [website](#) at a later date.

The Committee has received more than 80 submissions and is due to report by no later than 1 July.

Issued: 13 May 2021