



Final call for submissions on historical forced adoptions

The Legislative Assembly's Legal and Social Issues Committee has issued a final invitation for public submissions to be made on responses to historical forced adoptions in Victoria.

"This inquiry is exploring the support services and responses provided to the people in our community who endured the past policies and practices of forced adoption going back several decades," Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman said.

"With all that has happened over the past few months, we wanted to give community members a final opportunity to share their experiences and views with the Committee before we move to public hearings in the second half of this year," Ms Suleyman said.

"We want to ensure that anyone who has been affected by forced adoptions can have their say to this inquiry."

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

Through forced adoption a child's parents, particularly their mothers, were forced to give up their baby for adoption without their willing or informed consent. Groups involved included governments, non-government organisations, religious institutions and professionals such as doctors and social workers.

In 2012, the Victorian Government issued a formal apology "to the mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who were profoundly harmed by past adoption practices in Victoria". This followed a recommendation from the 2012 Commonwealth Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs in its report on the *Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices*.

The National Apology for Forced Adoptions was delivered by the Federal Government on 21 March 2013.

Following the state apology, the Victorian Government committed to providing practical assistance to those affected by these practices.

"The terms of reference for this inquiry are broad, so the Committee will consider all issues raised by community members who make submissions and present at public hearings," Ms Suleyman said.

Submissions to the inquiry are welcome until Friday, 26 June 2020. The terms of reference for the inquiry and details on how to make a submission are available from the Committee's [website](#).

