



Forced adoptions inquiry invites people to share their experiences at regional hearings

Next week the Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee is conducting two regional hearings for its inquiry into historical forced adoptions in Victoria and is inviting community members with lived experience of forced adoption to speak with the Committee.

The first hearing will be in Bendigo on Tuesday, 30 March at the Kangaroo Flat RSL, 15/A Station Street, Kangaroo Flat commencing at 11:00 am, with the open forum for community contributions taking place from 3:00 pm.

This will be followed by a hearing in Geelong on Wednesday, 31 March at the Eastern Hub Geelong, 285A McKillop St, East Geelong commencing at 10:00 am, with the open forum for community contributions also taking place from 3:00 pm.

“As part of these hearings we want to give community members the opportunity to speak with us about the experiences they have had with forced adoption,” Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman said.

“We extend this invitation to any mothers who were forced to give up their children, or any people who were adopted, or family members who wish to be heard,” Ms Suleyman said.

The Committee is asking people who wish to speak at the hearing to register beforehand by either phoning 8682 2843 or emailing: lsic.assembly@parliament.vic.gov.au.

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.

“We want to ensure that anyone who has been affected by forced adoptions can have their say to this inquiry,” Ms Suleyman said.

“Taking into account the lived experience of people who endured these practices, we will be making recommendations on the responses that have been made and the support services available.”

More details on the inquiry are available from the Committee’s [website](#).