



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

MEDIA RELEASE

Hearings commence for historical forced adoptions inquiry

This Monday 7 December 2020, the parliamentary inquiry into historical forced adoptions will begin its hearings.

The inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee is exploring the support services and responses provided to the people in our community who endured the past policies and practices of forced adoption.

Through forced adoption, a child's parent, or parents, were compelled 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.

"At this hearing, we will be taking evidence from people who were affected," said Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman.

"As we are dealing with sensitive issues, we will ensure that the hearings are conducted in a safe and supported way," Ms Suleyman said.

Another hearing is scheduled for Wednesday 16 December, and further hearings will be conducted next year.

"We have received many submissions, from organisations and individuals, and we are grateful to the people who have shared their stories with us," Ms Suleyman said.

"The hearings will provide us with the opportunity to explore in more detail the support services and responses that have been provided," she said.

More information on the inquiry is available on the Committee's [website](#).

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