## Homelessness inquiry submission deadline extended to mid-March

The Legislative Council's Legal and Social Issues Committee has extended the submission deadline for its inquiry into homelessness until March 16.

"We have heard from a number of people who would like to participate in our inquiry but are currently fully committed to bushfire recovery efforts. We are responding to ensure that they can undertake that vital work without missing out on the opportunity to contribute their experiences, views and ideas to our inquiry into homelessness," Committee Chair Fiona Patten said.

For this inquiry, the Committee has set up an <u>online submission form</u> to make it easier for community members and organisations to share their views.

The inquiry is investigating the many social, economic and policy factors that impact on homelessness.

Public hearings commenced late last year, with the first hearings held in Melbourne, Bairnsdale and Morwell.

"At our hearings in Gippsland late last year, we started to hear about some of the ways in which people are addressing homelessness in regional Victoria and the challenges they are facing," Ms Patten said.

"By extending the submission deadline, the Committee hopes that more people and organisations from regional areas will get the chance to contribute their ideas on the solutions that are needed."

As part of its inquiry, the Committee is seeking to identify the policies and practices from all levels of government that have a bearing on delivering services to the homeless.

The list of upcoming public hearings scheduled to date is available from the Committee's website.

Issued: 30 January 2020