



# Media release

## Legal and Social Issues Committee

### More witnesses to speak about impact of cults

Next Monday 13 October, individuals with lived experience of high-control groups will present to the parliamentary inquiry into the recruitment methods and impacts of cults and organised fringe groups.

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee will hear from Laura McConnell at 1 pm and Clare Heath-McIvor at 4 pm, with the hearings to be broadcast live on the Committee's [website](#).

The Committee has received written submissions from a range of people and also conducted an anonymous questionnaire which had 317 responses. Insights from the questionnaire have been published on the Committee's [website](#).

"We are grateful to all the people who are bravely stepping forward to provide evidence to the Committee about the impacts that coercive high-control groups are having on people's lives," Committee Chair Ella George said.

"It is this vital evidence that will help the Committee understand the way these groups operate and will be an important basis for our recommendations."

The first public hearing was held in July, and further hearings are scheduled for later in October and November, with the Committee due to present its report to Parliament by 30 September 2026.

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