



Media release

Legal and Social Issues Committee

Further hearings to consider responses to high-control groups

Over the next fortnight, the Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee will gather further evidence about the recruitment methods and impacts of cults and organised fringe groups.

On Monday 10 November from 3:15 pm to 5:00 pm the Committee will hear from representatives of RMIT University, Australian Catholic University and the Federal Office of Cult Affairs (Austria).

This will be followed by a further hearing on Monday 17 November from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as well as the University of Melbourne Student Union.

Both days of hearings will be broadcast live on the Committee's [website](#).

“These hearings will add to the body of evidence we are collecting on the way in which high-control groups operate and the impact they are having on people’s lives,” said Committee Chair Ella George.

“During these hearings we will be able to explore some of the financial issues relating to these groups and how some are trying to engage university students.”

The Committee has already held five days of public hearings and conducted an anonymous questionnaire that received [317 responses](#).

It is due to report to Parliament by September 2026.

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