

Media release

Select Committee on Early Education and Care Sector in Victoria

Hearings begin on early childhood education and care sector

Next week, a Legislative Council Select Committee will hold its first hearing for its inquiry into the early childhood education and care sector in Victoria.

On Monday 8 December, the Committee will hear from key public agencies, including representatives from the Department of Education and the Commission for Children and Young People.

The public hearing will be broadcast live on the Committee's <u>website</u> from 8:45 am to 5:10 pm.

Pam White PSM, who provided the Rapid Child Safety Review report to the Victorian Government in August, and the Victorian Ombudsman will also be among those providing evidence.

The full <u>schedule</u> of witnesses is available on the Committee's website, along with <u>submissions</u> received.

"This first hearing is a key opportunity to scrutinise agency decisions to ensure accountability in the early childhood education and care sector," said Select Committee Chair, Anasina Gray-Barberio.

"Thank you to everyone who shared their views and suggestions with us in submissions. Your input is vital to forming robust recommendations and greater transparency across the sector," Ms Gray-Barberio said.

The Select Committee was established after serious revelations about child safety impacting the sector.

At the hearing, the Select Committee will examine the adequacy of current quality and safety standards, as well as explore the quality and oversight of educator training, professional development and qualifications.

Further public hearings will be held next year. Future hearing dates and schedules will be published on the Committee's <u>website</u> when they are confirmed.

The Select Committee will present an interim report in early 2026 and a final report to Parliament by 30 July 2026.

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