



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Legal and Social Issues Committee – Legislative Council

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Tell your story to the spent convictions inquiry**

Next Wednesday 19 June 2019, the Legislative Council’s Legal and Social Issues Committee is inviting community members to come and tell their stories on how a minor conviction has affected their lives.

The Committee is holding an open mic forum at Parliament House from 7:00 pm to around 9:00 pm as part of its public inquiry into a legislated spent convictions scheme for Victoria.

“As Victoria currently doesn’t have a legislated spent convictions scheme, we want to hear from people in the community who have been affected by this,” said Committee Chair Fiona Patten.

“We want to hear the personal stories of people whose employment prospects have been affected or who have faced other disadvantages because of a mistake they made earlier in their life that has carried through,” Ms Patten said.

Each community member will get up to 15 minutes to tell their story to the Committee at the open mic session, which will be held at Parliament House.

Community members are invited to register ahead of time by calling 0417322053 or can simply come to the forum next Wednesday night. Entry is via the front entrance of Parliament House on Spring Street.

“The Committee wants to talk to community members about their experiences so that we can consider a legislated spent convictions scheme that responds to the real-life situations people have faced,” Ms Patten said.

Under the terms of reference for the inquiry, the Committee is considering the design of a spent convictions scheme that would be appropriate for Victoria, including the types of criminal records that should be capable of becoming spent and the mechanism by which convictions become spent.

“This is an important opportunity for the community to share their experiences with the Committee so that we get to understand the real-life impacts of not having a spent convictions scheme in Victoria,” Ms Patten said.

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

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