



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee – Legislative Assembly

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Public hearings begin on Victoria’s anti-vilification protections**

The Legislative Assembly’s Legal and Social Issues Committee has announced a series of public hearings on Victoria’s anti-vilification protections.

The public hearings will begin on 25 February and will continue on March 11, 12, 25 and 26. Media and public are welcome to attend.

The Committee’s inquiry is focusing on the effectiveness of the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*, its possible expansion and/or extension of protections beyond existing classes.

“Our anti-vilification laws are designed to prevent conduct that incites hatred against particular groups based on their race or religion, and these public hearings will help us determine whether our laws are adequate or need to be strengthened,” said Committee Chair Natalie Suleyman.

Submissions have been received from a range of organisations and individuals. The hearings will give the Committee the opportunity to hear in more detail from many of those who have made submissions.

“We are interested in any evidence of increased vilification or hate conduct in Victoria,” Ms Suleyman said.

The Committee will be considering whether there are any groups not currently protected under the legislation who should be.

The schedule for each public hearing will be posted to the Committee’s [website](#) when witness lists are finalised.

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