



Commission update – 18 July 2019

Public hearings under way

Our public hearings started on 2 July. During our hearings we will hear from more than 90 witnesses including people from the community with lived experience, families and carers, the workforce and other experts.

We are so grateful to all of our witnesses so far, who have so generously shared their experience and their time with us.

This [short video](#) shows some of our witnesses from the first week talking about their experience.



Earlier this week we were in Maryborough in the Central Goldfields Shire (above), hearing about the unique issues and experiences of rural and regional communities. We also had a dedicated day of hearings at the Aborigines Advancement League, to consider issues specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We're posting regular updates on our website, including daily hearing schedules, witness lists, witness statements and transcripts. Hearings will continue until **Friday 26 July** and you can read all about the hearings and themes on our website (<https://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/Hearings>).

Live stream

Our hearings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend. You can also watch the hearings via live stream on our website (www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au). In some instances, proceedings may not be live streamed to protect the identity of a community witness.

Submissions have now closed

Our online submissions have now closed. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a submission. It's been a real privilege to hear from so many people who are passionate about sharing their experience and ideas for change. We will start to publish formal submissions online after the public hearings are complete.

Animation about the current mental health system

As part of our hearings, we shared [this animation](#) that explains the complexities of the current mental health system. You may find this a useful resource to share with your networks.

Follow us on Twitter

Follow us on [Twitter](#) (@RCMentalHealth) to stay up to date with our latest news. We're posting regular updates here during the public hearings.

Penny Armytage

Commission Chair, Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system