



Commission update – 20 June 2019

Public hearings announced

We've announced the details of our public hearings, which will run from Tuesday 2 July until Friday 26 July.

Ten key themes will be explored during the hearings, including suicide prevention, stigma, access and navigation, prevention and early intervention, the role of carers and families, and the barriers that culturally and linguistically diverse communities face when accessing mental health services.

You can read the full list of topics on our hearings page (<https://rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/Hearings>).

The public hearings are an important next step for the Commission. They will help us formally collect evidence from expert and community witnesses to build on the reflections and insights we have heard during our community consultations and through the submission process so far.

The hearings will be held at the **Melbourne Town Hall**. They will be open to the public and will be streamed live on our website, except in particularly sensitive circumstances. Daily hearing schedules and witness lists will be available online prior to the hearings commencing. Transcripts and witness statements will also be made available.

A hearing day will also be held in Maryborough in the Shire of Central Goldfields on **Monday 15 July** to consider the issues facing those accessing and delivering mental health services in rural Victoria.

We will also hold a dedicated day of hearings on **Tuesday 16 July** to consider issues specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities, taking place at the Aborigines Advancement League in Thornbury.

Online submissions

There's still time to have your say – **online submissions are open until 5 July**.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to go to www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/submissions and share your views and ideas. You can make a brief comment or a longer, more formal submission.

If you need help to make a submission or have any questions, please call **1800 00 11 34** (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) or email contact@rcvmhs.vic.gov.au.

The Commission can also be contacted using a phone interpreter service on **03 7005 3010**. Submissions made in languages other than English will be translated where possible.

To stay up to date with our progress, you can register for updates on our [Contact us](#) page, and you can follow us on [Twitter](#) (@RCMentalHealth).

Penny Armytage

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