



17 June 2019

ROYAL COMMISSION ANNOUNCES HEARING THEMES

Suicide prevention and the stigma associated with mental illness will be two of the key themes explored at next month's public hearings as part of the Royal Commission into Victoria's mental health system.

Commission Chair Penny Armytage today announced there were 10 key themes that would be explored throughout the month of hearings, including 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.

"The themes for each day of our hearings will help us explore these important issues in much greater detail and will be critical to inform the next phase of our work, including the development of our interim report in November," Ms Armytage said.

"Public hearings are an important next step for the Commission. The hearings 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."

Hearings will commence on Tuesday 2 July and run until Friday 26 July at the Melbourne Town Hall.

The town of Maryborough in the Shire of Central Goldfields will also host a day of public hearings on Monday 15 July to consider the issues facing those accessing and delivering mental health services in rural Victoria.

The Commission 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.

A full list of the topics is available at www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au/hearings and daily schedules and witness lists will also be released online prior to the hearings commencing.

The hearings will be open to the public and will be streamed live on the Commission's website, except in particularly sensitive circumstances. Daily hearing schedules will be available online prior to the hearings commencing. Transcripts and witness statements will also be made available.

Online submissions remain open until **5 July** and can be made at www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au.

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**.

If you or a family member has immediate concerns or requires assistance, contact beyondblue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.