



What to expect at the public hearings

Public hearings will run from 2 July until 26 July between 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 4pm daily. People will be asked to leave the hearing room during the lunch break. The overflow room will remain open during the break, but please note that lunch will not be provided and food cannot be taken into the Town Hall.

The hearings will take place in a formal setting, so there are some things to be aware of if you're planning to attend.

The hearings will focus on identifying and solving system-wide issues, rather than investigating individual cases or incidents.

The hearings will also be live streamed, and you can watch at www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au.

Venues

Anyone can attend and you do not need to register. You might prefer to watch proceedings using the live stream at www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au.

The hearings will be held at three venues:

- Melbourne Town Hall (Tuesday 2 July – Friday 12 July, and Wednesday 17 July – Friday 26 July)
- The Community Hub in Maryborough (Monday 15 July)
- Aborigines Advancement League, Thornbury (Tuesday 16 July)

The Melbourne Town Hall will have an overflow room where people can watch the live stream if the hearing room reaches capacity. The hearing and overflow rooms will be set up with rows of chairs facing the front of the rooms.

Formalities

If you are present in the hearing room prior to the commencement, or at the conclusion, of the proceedings, please stand (when requested) and remain standing until you are told to sit. This will occur as the Commissioners enter and exit the hearing room.

If you arrive while the proceedings are underway, you'll still be able to enter the hearing room, and we'll ask you to do so quietly.

To ensure that witnesses can be heard, audience members will be asked to be silent in the hearing room while the hearings are being conducted. Anyone having a loud conversation or otherwise disrupting the hearing may be asked to leave or invited to follow the proceedings online from another room.

There is no dress code, but these are formal proceedings so we encourage people to dress neatly. Hats will not be permitted in the hearings room.

Access

The Melbourne Town Hall is located at 90-120 Swanston Street (corner of Collins Street), Melbourne. Entry to the hearings is via the copper door to the right of the main entrance and the accessible entrance is through the copper door to the left of the main entrance. There will be staff there to assist you.

All venues are accessible. If you would like to attend and have specific requirements, please contact us beforehand at contact@rcvmhs.vic.gov.au or **1800 00 11 34**.

Light refreshments will be available, including water, tea and coffee. People will be able to take water into the Town Hall and into the hearing room, but food can't be taken in.

Security

Those wishing to attend the public hearings should arrive at 9.45am for a 10.00am start and travel light, as you will be subject to a security search.

Please avoid bringing unnecessary items, including oversized bags or backpacks. Bag check services will be in operation and Town Hall security will be using metal detecting hand wands and walk-through metal detectors prior to guests being permitted to enter. This is to ensure the safety and comfort of all attendees as well as meet the requirements of the host venue.

Similar security arrangements will also be in place in Maryborough and Thornbury.

Media

The nature of public hearings means media will be present and reporting on activity each day. You should be aware that there may be journalists and news crews with cameras recording at each location.

Support

There will be counselling support available in a private room on site during the hearings should you need it.

If you need help, please speak to a Royal Commission staff member. Staff will be wearing a name badge.

If you or a loved one requires support, the following services can help you:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636

Mobile devices

Mobile devices must be turned off in the hearing room and overflow room. Please take calls in an area away from the vicinity of the hearing room.

Photography/recording

Photography and video/audio recording of any kind are not permitted in the hearing venues.

Have any questions?

Please contact us at contact@rcvmhs.vic.gov.au or **1800 00 11 34**. You can also contact us via a phone interpreter service on **03 7005 3010**.