



PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULE - JULY 2019

RELEASED 14 JUNE 2019

Between 2 and 26 July 2019 the Royal Commission will conduct its first public hearings. The public hearings are an important part of the activities the Royal Commission and will allow us to gather evidence about Victoria's Mental Health System. They will inform our deliberations leading up to the production of our interim report in November 2019.

At the public hearings, the Royal Commission will hear from witnesses about issues and questions relevant to the Royal Commission's Terms of Reference. Witnesses will include consumers and carers, service providers and their workforce, experts and government representatives.

The Royal Commission values and respects the contribution that people living with mental illness provide and as such a significant proportion of the hearings will be dedicated to listening to them and hearing about their experiences.

The public hearings will be conducted around a series of topics, with key issues and questions relevant to the mental health system explored.

The schedule below sets out the topics to be explored each day. The schedule may be subject to variation, and the Royal Commission may depart from it before or during the hearings if it considers it appropriate to do so.

LOCATIONS

The hearings will be held on weekdays in Melbourne (2 – 12 July and 17 – 26 July), Maryborough (15 July) and Thornbury (16 July). The schedule below includes the location and address for each day of the public hearings.

The hearings will be live streamed on our website www.rcvmhs.vic.gov.au, unless the Royal Commission orders otherwise.

SCHEDULE

Day and date of hearing	Topic
Day One 2 July 2019 Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria	Opening Day Opening statements will be made by the Chair of the Royal Commission, and Counsel Assisting. The Royal Commission will hear from people with lived experience, including consumers with experiences of the Victorian mental health system.
Day Two 3 July 2019 Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria	Stigma The Royal Commission will explore stigma, and how to reduce it. Consideration will be given to issues of prevalence, the lived experience of stigma, and the impact it has on individuals, including their wellbeing and participation in the workforce.

<p>Days Three and Four 4 - 5 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Prevention and early intervention</p> <p>The Royal Commission will explore prevention and early intervention, including factors contributing to mental illness. Consideration will be given to mental health promotion and literacy, and intervention early in life, early in episode and early in illness.</p>
<p>Days Five to Eight 8 - 11 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Access to and navigation of the mental health system</p> <p>The Royal Commission will consider access and navigation of the mental health system in Victoria. Topics will include the design of the mental health system and the distribution of services, demand for mental health services and accessibility, and crisis supports. Key components of the mental health system, including primary care, acute care, and specialist services will be considered.</p>
<p>Day Nine 12 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Carers and family</p> <p>The Royal Commission will hear from families and carers of people living with mental illness.</p>
<p>Day Ten 15 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Maryborough Community Hub, 48 Burns Street, Maryborough, Victoria</p>	<p>Rural</p> <p>The Royal Commission will explore the unique issues associated with the accessibility and delivery of mental health services in rural Victoria. Consideration will be given to suicide prevention, the particular challenges faced by farming communities, and the issue of isolation.</p>
<p>Day Eleven 16 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Aborigines Advancement League, 2 Watt Street, Thornbury, Victoria</p>	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</p> <p>The Royal Commission will consider how the mental health system engages with and recognises and responds to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>
<p>Days Twelve and Thirteen 17 - 18 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>LGBTIQ+ and culturally and linguistically diverse communities</p> <p>The Royal Commission will consider how the mental health system engages with and recognises and responds to the needs of diverse communities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer people; and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p>
<p>Day Fourteen 19 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Community resilience</p> <p>The Royal Commission will explore the role of community-based services, including universal services such as schools, in the prevention of mental illness, and the provision of support to individuals living with mental illness. The importance of community resilience and social connectedness will be considered.</p>

<p>Days Fifteen and Sixteen 22 - 23 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Suicide prevention</p> <p>The Royal Commission will explore suicide prevention. Consideration will be given to the prevalence of suicide and its impact, suicide prevention initiatives, support programs, and at-risk populations. The Royal Commission will also consider programs that could inform approaches to reducing suicide.</p>
<p>Days Seventeen to Nineteen 24 - 26 July 2019</p> <p>Location: Melbourne Town Hall, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne, Victoria</p>	<p>Prioritisation and governance of mental health services</p> <p>The Royal Commission will explore the issue of prioritisation and funding of mental health, and governance within health service providers and government agencies.</p>