



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 30 August 2023

Commission of Inquiry: closing hearing

The Commission of Inquiry into the Tasmanian Government's Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings will hold its closing hearing in Hobart this morning.

To be held at TASCAT at 10:00am, the hearing will be an opportunity for Commissioners the Honourable Marcia Neave AO, Professor Leah Bromfield and the Honourable Robert Benjamin AM SC to deliver their final statements before the Commission concludes its work.

Over more than two years, the Commission conducted over 150 consultations, received more than 95,000 documents and held nine weeks of hearings.

The evidence was often harrowing.

The Commission pays tribute to the courage of so many Tasmanians – victim survivors, their families, supporters and other people with information – who came forward to assist the inquiry.

The Commission understands it has not been easy for people to share their experiences and reassures everyone who has engaged with the Commission, that they have been heard.

Commission President Marcia Neave said a powerful message had been delivered.

"We are grateful to everyone who has helped us to better understand child sexual abuse in Tasmania, how such abuse may sometimes remain unrecognised or hidden and how calls for help, complaints or other attempts to address abuse have been ignored or met with inadequate responses," Commissioner Neave said.

"Transparent and coherent mechanisms that enable institutions to prevent, identify, report and respond appropriately when concerns or allegations about child sexual abuse arise, must be embedded in all government institutions that engage with children."

The Commissioners will deliver the report to the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC tomorrow afternoon (31 August 2023) at Government House in Hobart.

After that, its work is concluded and the Commission will end.

As required by the Act, the report must be tabled in Parliament within 10 parliamentary sitting days.

Apart from those part of the report which the Commission considers should be omitted to avoid prejudicing current criminal proceedings the Commission hopes and expects the rest of its report will be published so that the community can view and understand its findings and recommendations.

The report will be available on the Commission's website after it is tabled in Parliament.

A list of external support services are available on the Commission's [website](#).

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