



# Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CHILD PROTECTION INQUIRY HEARS SUBMISSIONS IN MELBOURNE**

The Inquiry into child protection has begun holding its metropolitan Public Sittings, with Sittings in Melbourne on 28 June and 5 July as part of its consultations with the community.

The Inquiry Panel, composed of Hon Philip Cummins (Chair), Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott OAM and Mr Bill Scales AO, will be hearing verbal Submissions from organisations and individuals. Written Submissions formally closed on 29 April 2011.

The Melbourne Public Sittings will be followed by Sittings in the other metropolitan locations of Broadmeadows, Werribee and Dandenong. The Inquiry has also commenced its regional consultations by holding Sittings in Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Morwell and Mildura, and will hold Sittings in other regional cities.

Mr Cummins said that the Inquiry has received more than 200 written Submissions from a range of organisations and from individuals, and looks forward to hearing directly from people at the Public Sittings.

"We have been encouraged by the response we have received from the sector and from the community. We look forward to their further contribution to the Inquiry," Mr Cummins said.

Written Submissions and transcripts from Public Sittings will be published on the Inquiry website from 1 July.

The *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry* was announced by the Victorian Government earlier this year to inquire into and develop recommendations on improving the overall child protection and related services system, and reduce the incidence and negative impact of child abuse in Victoria. The Panel will present a Report to the Minister for Community Services by 4 November 2011. The Report will be tabled in Parliament.

For more information on the Inquiry, the Submissions process and upcoming Public Sittings, visit [www.childprotectioninquiry.vic.gov.au](http://www.childprotectioninquiry.vic.gov.au)

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