

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

22 February 2023

Environment and Public Affairs Committee: Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs today announced the commencement of an inquiry into historic forced adoptions. The Committee will inquire into the past adoptive policies and practices of the twentieth century, notably the years between 1939 and 1980.

In particular, the Committee will seek to:

1. understand the lived experiences of those affected by historical forced adoption practices;
2. examine the role of the State Government, health services and private institutions in these practices;
3. identify what measures are currently available to assist persons experiencing distress, their effectiveness, and how those persons may be supported further; and
4. consider any other matter that arises during the course of the inquiry deemed to be relevant by the Committee.

The inquiry arises from the Committee's consideration of a petition containing 318 signatures, presented by Jennifer McRae and tabled by Hon Lorna Harper MLC in the Legislative Council on 15 November 2022.

The Committee has called for written submissions from the public with a deadline of 21 April 2023. For information regarding providing a submission, please see our [website](#).

For media enquiries, contact Hon Peter Foster, Chair on (08) 9144 4187.

Other enquiries to Ms Kristina Crichton, Committee Clerk on (08) 9222 7231.

Hon Peter Foster
Chair