

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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Environment and Public Affairs Committee listens to those affected by forced adoption

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs has heard from 28 individuals affected by WA's past policies and practices as part its inquiry into forced adoption, launched in February. Members travelled to hear from witnesses in Albany in September, as well as holding hearings in Perth and over videoconference in October and November.

The Committee heard how forced adoptions caused trauma that ripples through generations and continues to affect people's lives today. Committee Chair Peter Foster acknowledged the courage of mothers, fathers, adoptees, adoptive parents and family members in sharing their experiences.

The Chair said:

'While there have been other Australian inquiries into forced adoption, this is the first focused on experiences that took place in WA. We are striving to understand the unique aspects of these experiences, as well as how they relate to those that happened elsewhere.'

The Departments of Communities and Health, Jigsaw Search and Contact, Adoption Research Counselling Service, Sisters of Mercy, Salvation Army and Ngala also attended public hearings, in Perth and online.

To date, the Committee has received 148 submissions. Late submissions will continue to be accepted for the length of the inquiry.

The Committee is now consolidating the evidence gathered to begin formulating a draft report. The final inquiry report will be tabled in 2024.

- Further information regarding the inquiry is available through the [Parliament of Western Australia website](#).
- For media inquiries, contact Hon Peter Foster, Chair on 0412 459 454.
- Other inquiries to Kate Keegan, Committee Clerk on (08) 9222 7231, or at env@parliament.wa.gov.au.