

Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service responses to domestic and family violence

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PO Box 12264, George Street Qld 4003

PRACTICE GUIDELINES – 02/2022

Public hearings – practical matters and witness arrangements

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Public hearings

1. Public hearings will be held in Brisbane, Cairns, Townsville and Mount Isa between 11 July 2022 and 9 August 2022.

The hearings will be open to the public and Brisbane-based hearings will also be livestreamed from the Commission's website. Hearings provide the community an opportunity to see and hear witnesses giving evidence to the Commission and also provide an opportunity for that evidence to be tested by the parties who have been given leave to appear at the hearings.

- a. **Week one**

Brisbane - hearings will take place from Monday 11 to Thursday 14 July 2022 in Court 17, level 4, Brisbane Magistrates Court, 363 George Street, Brisbane.

- b. **Week two**

Cairns - hearings will take place on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 July 2022 in the Cairns Magistrates Court, 5D Sheridan Street, Cairns.

Townsville - hearings will take place on Thursday 21 and Friday 22 July 2022 in the Townsville Magistrates Court, 31 Walker St, Townsville.

- c. **Week three and four**

Brisbane - hearings will take place from Monday 25 July to Friday 29 July 2022 and Monday 1 August to Friday 5 August 2022 in the Land Court of Queensland, Brisbane Magistrates Court, Level 8/362 George Street, Brisbane.

- d. **Week five**

Mount Isa - hearings will take place on Tuesday 9 August 2022 Mount Isa Court House, 7A Isa Street, Mount Isa.

Witnesses, witness statements and evidentiary material

2. Subject to any orders the Commissioner may make prohibiting publication of any document or information provided to the Commission, and in addition to [Part E. of Practice Guideline No. 1](#), while public hearings are on foot:

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- a. Where possible, the Commission will publish regularly to the parties and/or on its website a list of the witnesses to be called to give oral evidence and the proposed dates and times of their evidence;
- b. The published list of witnesses will be updated regularly (and remains, therefore, subject to change);
- c. If a witness statement has not already been made available to the parties, the Commission will, where possible, make the witness statement available to the persons with leave to appear at least 2 business days before the witness is called;
- d. Where possible, 2 business days before a witness is called, the Commission will give the witness or his or her legal representative notice of the Commission's area of interest and a list of the documents to which the witness may be taken (other than those attached to or referred to in the witness's statement) and provide all other parties with an interest in such issues or documents with copies of the notice and the list;
- e. At least 1 business day before the witness is to be called to give evidence, any person or party with leave to appear who wishes to cross-examine the witness must give notice to the Executive Director by email to enquiries@qpsdfvinquiry.qld.gov.au specifying -
 - i. The name of the witness proposed to be cross-examined;
 - ii. A considered estimate of the time which will be required for the cross-examination;
 - iii. In relation to expert witnesses, the topics and parts of the experts' reports which will be the subject of cross-examination, including the propositions and suggestions to be put to the experts, sufficiently to enable the experts to properly address all questions.
- f. If the person giving a notice of proposed cross-examination anticipates showing the witness any document -
 - i. If the document has already been provided to the Commission, it must be identified in the notice;
 - ii. A copy of the document must be provided with the notice, where possible, in one of the following electronic formats:
 - Text (.txt) for plain text records
 - Fully text searchable (.pdf) PDF/A or PDF for formatted document type records
 - JPEG (.jpg/.jpeg) for photos
 - MPEG4 (.mp4) for videos

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- MP3 (.mp3) for audio files.
 - CSV (.csv) for spreadsheet data
- g. Any person with leave to appear who wishes to have evidence adduced from a witness other than a witness proposed to be called by Counsel Assisting must give notice to the Executive Director by email to enquiries@qpsdfvinquiry.qld.gov.au accompanied by a witness statement from the witness.
3. Generally, and subject to the Commissioner's discretion:
- a. All witnesses giving evidence at the public hearings will be called and examined by Counsel Assisting the Inquiry. The examination-in-chief of a witness will usually involve the tendering of a statement provided by the witness to Counsel Assisting in advance of the hearing and the taking of additional oral evidence;
 - b. The order of further examination of each witness will usually be:
 - i. Examination by the parties given leave to appear;
 - ii. Examination by the lawyer or agent (if any) representing the witness; and
 - iii. Re-examination by Counsel Assisting.
4. The Commissioner may limit the issues about which a witness may be examined and limit the time available for examination by any person.
5. At the completion of the examination of a witness, the witness shall, unless excused from further attendance, be taken to have been stood down only and to be subject to recall at the direction of the Commissioner.
6. Nothing in this Guideline prevents a person seeking leave from the Commissioner to cross-examine a witness at any time during the Inquiry if something occurs during the Inquiry which leads that person to believe that his or her interests may be adversely affected.

Procedural matters

7. Any person or party with leave to appear who wishes to raise a procedural matter must give notice to the Executive Director by email to enquiries@qpsdfvinquiry.qld.gov.au identifying the matter, stating the outcome sought, and summarising the submissions to be advanced in support of that outcome.

HER HONOUR JUDGE DEBORAH RICHARDS

Commissioner