



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

PUBLIC HEARINGS ANNOUNCED FOR THE INQUIRY INTO THE NSW GOVERNMENT'S MANAGEMENT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1 May 2020

The Chair of the NSW Upper House inquiry into the Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic has today announced details for the committee's initial round of hearings.

The inquiry was established earlier this year to provide parliamentary oversight of the Government's response to and handling of the COVID-19 health emergency, examining in detail the measures implemented by various government authorities in response to the pandemic.

Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, stated 'Following constructive discussions with the Government, I am pleased to release details for the first in a series of ongoing public hearings for this inquiry.'

'The State is still facing an enormous public health and economic crisis, the legacy of which will be felt for years to come. This inquiry is not about armchair criticism of the actions taken to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Instead, this is about ensuring the highest levels of public accountability and oversight at a time when governments everywhere are being given unprecedented powers, and the normal parliamentary checks and balances on executive government are being temporarily suspended,' the Chair added.

The first public hearing is scheduled for 10.00 am on Thursday 7 May and will hear from the Minister for Health and senior officials from the health portfolio. This will be followed by a hearing on 15 May to hear evidence from senior officials from the education and treasury portfolios, and then again on 21 May to gather evidence on the police response to the pandemic and on residential and commercial lease issues.

While the social distancing measures remain in place, public hearings for this inquiry will be conducted via videoconferencing. This will enable the committee to continue its work as a scrutiny body of the executive government without compromising the health and welfare of participants. It is anticipated that hearings will be broadcast via the webstream on the NSW Parliament website.

The inquiry will be ongoing in order to follow developments as they unfold. For information about the inquiry, including the committee membership, terms of reference and detailed hearing schedules, please visit the committee's [website](#).

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For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge, on 9230 3030