



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **COVID-19: Parliamentary inquiry to hold further hearing on Monday 13 September**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**10 September 2021**

The NSW parliamentary inquiry exploring the circumstances of the recent COVID-19 outbreak and its management by the state government has announced that it will be holding a further public hearing on Monday 13 September 2021.

Witnesses include a panel of Aboriginal elders and community organisations from Wilcannia, Broken Hill and other areas severely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak in Western NSW, providers of Aboriginal health services, and representatives from the Ministry of Health, Aboriginal Affairs and the NSW Police Force.

Chair of the committee, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, stated, "The committee is undertaking a further hearing to examine the public health response to the COVID-19 outbreak in western NSW and in particular the management of the pandemic in First Nations communities."

He continued, "Covid is spreading rapidly in Wilcannia in far western New South Wales, with reports of long delays in test results, reportedly very poor rates of vaccination and concerns that not enough has been done to prepare for the outbreak. The committee will be taking evidence from those involved first hand in the management of the situation."

The hearing will be held virtually, in the interests of the safety of witnesses, committee members and staff. It is intended that the hearing will be broadcast live on the Parliament's website and uploaded for public viewing on the Parliament's youtube site soon after it concludes.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Mr David Shoebridge, on 0408 113 952*