



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

MEDIA RELEASE

COVID-19: Parliamentary inquiry to hold further hearing on Friday 17 September

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 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 Friday 17 September 2021 – particularly to explore issues relating to Sydney's west.

Chair of the committee, Mr David Shoebridge MLC, said, "The committee is undertaking this further hearing to examine the public health response to the COVID-19 outbreak in western Sydney and in particular those LGAs of concern, including the impact on some of the communities of western Sydney. In addition, the committee is also keen to look at the management of the prison system during this outbreak."

Witnesses appearing before the committee on Friday include:

- The Mayors of Penrith and Canterbury Bankstown Councils,
- Representatives of the Arab Council of Australia, the Lebanese Muslim Association and Turbans 4 Australia
- Representatives of Unions NSW and the Public Service Association of NSW
- Commissioner of Resilience NSW Shane Fitzsimmons, along with representatives of the South West Metropolitan Command, NSW Police Force and the South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Representatives of Justice Action and the National Justice Project
- Key figures in the corrective services space including the Acting Commissioner of Corrective Services NSW, the Inspector of Custodial Services, the NSW Ombudsman and the Executive Director of Clinical Operations from the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network.

"The committee will be taking evidence from those who have borne the brunt of the government's lockdown of certain Sydney LGAs, with a particular focus too on the management of the justice system during this extremely difficult time," Mr Shoebridge said.

The hearing will be held virtually, in the interests of the COVID safety of witnesses, committee members and staff. The hearing will be broadcast live on the Parliament's website between 9.45 am and 4.30 pm at www.bit.ly/webcastnsw and subsequently uploaded for public viewing on the Parliament's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/NSWParliament.

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