



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE TO VISIT ORANGE FOR REGIONAL AND RURAL PERSPECTIVES ON LONELINESS**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**4 February 2025**

On Friday 7 February 2025, the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues will travel to Orange to conduct the fourth and final hearing for its inquiry into the prevalence, causes and impacts of loneliness in New South Wales. This final hearing will include two roundtable discussions with community members and local service providers to further inform the committee's understanding of experiences of loneliness in regional areas.

Committee Chair, the Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC stated: 'The committee's decision to conduct a hearing and roundtables in regional New South Wales will ensure that peoples' experiences of loneliness in smaller and isolated communities is meaningfully captured in our evidence. Both the hearing and roundtable discussions will be conducted in public, and interested individuals are welcome to come along to observe the parliamentary committee in action, or tune in through NSW Parliament's live broadcast.'

Prior to this regional hearing, the committee will hold its third public hearing at Parliament House, Sydney on Thursday 6 February 2025. The hearing will focus on strategies to address loneliness in NSW.

To date, the committee has received 137 submissions, 86 responses to its online questionnaire and conducted two public hearings. Various stakeholders have given evidence, including peak bodies, academics, researchers, service providers and government representatives, and very importantly, people with lived experience. Evidence presented to the committee has highlighted how widespread the experience of loneliness is across communities, and also the diverse experiences of loneliness amongst different cohorts, including men and women, young people and older people, individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with disability, and carers.

Dr Kaine said: 'Throughout this inquiry, the committee has heard about the various drivers of loneliness and isolation in New South Wales. We are looking forward to hearing more about specific issues and challenges encountered in regional and isolated communities, and learning about existing initiatives and other potential strategies that could be used to effectively tackle loneliness in communities across our State.'

Further information about the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, is available on the inquiry [webpage](#).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Dr Sarah Kaine MLC, on (02) 9230 2444.*