

How can I engage in the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes?

Support for victim-survivors of hate crimes and self-care when making a submission

Sharing personal stories, experiences and perspectives can be difficult, especially in official settings. There is no obligation to share anything you are not comfortable with.

For some people, revisiting experiences of harm can be distressing, and the process itself may feel daunting and uncertain. You may also have concerns about being believed, being blamed or protecting your privacy.

At the same time, many victim-survivors find it meaningful and empowering to share their stories and contribute to change. If you do make a submission, it is important to take care of yourself and seek support if needed.

What is a parliamentary inquiry?

A parliamentary inquiry is when the Parliament of Victoria asks a committee of MPs to investigate an issue and suggest solutions.

The inquiry is independent from government. Once the committee reports back to Parliament, the government considers each recommendation and decides whether to accept and implement it.

What will this inquiry address?

This inquiry is being held by the Legislative and Social Affairs Committee of the Legislative Council. You can see the members of the committee [here](#).

The committee will investigate the scale and scope of anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes occurring in Victoria including:

1. the communication and recruitment methods of anti-LGBTIQ+ influencers and hate groups
2. current strategies to counter hate crimes
3. hate crime prevention initiatives
4. existing public and online safety initiatives
5. the role and responsibilities of social media and digital platform owners
6. existing data regarding the prevalence and trends of hate crimes Australia-wide
7. the impact of hate crimes on diverse LGBTIQ+ communities
8. interjurisdictional strategies to combat hate crimes across borders, and
9. the relevant work of the Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities and relevant government advisory groups.

What is the inquiry timeline?

The deadline for submissions is 1 May 2026. If you are unable to meet this deadline, contact antilgbtqjahatecrimes@parliament.vic.gov.au or any of the organisations listed below.



The committee will give its report to Parliament by 1 September 2026, and the government is expected to respond within six months.

This timeframe is not affected by the Victorian election on 24 November.

How does app-facilitated violence fit into this inquiry?

Recent violent crimes involving dating apps are one of the main reasons this inquiry is being held.

However, the Parliament of Victoria also wants to understand other related challenges facing LGBTIQ+ communities including experiences of violence or hate that may be unreported or not well understood.

Why is it important to contribute to this inquiry?

MPs involved in this inquiry may not fully understand the experiences of LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Sharing your story can help them understand the impacts of hate crimes and the solutions needed to prevent and respond to them. It can also help to build support among other MPs.

Your contribution provides valuable insights and perspectives to inform the committee's recommendations.

How can I contribute to this inquiry?

Your options include:

1. Making your own submission

Most submissions are written in A4 format and submitted electronically in Word or PDF form, but there is a lot of flexibility - they can take the form of a letter, for example. If you want to provide other material (such as video), contact the committee's office. If you are sending your submission electronically, provide your name and contact details.

You can contribute through the form [at this link](#) or [by email at antilgbtqiahatecrimes@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:antilgbtqiahatecrimes@parliament.vic.gov.au).

You can find more guidance on the Parliament of Victoria's website [here](#).

2. Contributing your story to Thorne Harbour Health's submission

Community members can get support and contribute their experiences in writing to include in Thorne Harbour's submission by April 22 at reporting@thorneharbour.org.

You can find more support resources at thorneharbour.org.

3. Contributing to Transgender Victoria's survey

Transgender Victoria is also conducting a survey on transgender, gender diverse and non-binary communities' experiences of hate crimes. You can fill out the survey [here](#). Please note that survey responses will be de-identified and included in a trans-specific submission.

4. Making a personal submission with 1:1 support from Switchboard

This involves individual 75-minute sessions with a Switchboard staff member or volunteer who can help guide you through the process and provide advice. Sessions will be available online or in-person, in St Kilda or Brunswick East.

If you are interested in taking part in a 1:1 session, contact Switchboard to book in a time at parliamentaryinquiry@switchboard.org.au



Can I make a confidential submission?

Submissions accepted by a committee are public documents, which means they may be published on the committee's website and quoted in the committee's report to the Parliament.

However, you can request that your submission be kept confidential – and ask for any identifying information, like your name and address, to be removed.

The committee won't publish or disclose submissions accepted on a confidential basis.

You can find more information [here](#), or contact the committee (contact details [here](#)).

Should I contribute even if I haven't experienced a hate crime?

Yes. Hate crimes are part of a broader pattern of discrimination against LGBTIQ+ communities.

Sharing your experience of prejudice or exclusion can help the committee better understand these patterns and inform its recommendations.

Do I have to talk about all the topics the inquiry is looking into?

No. You can simply share your story and its impact, though it can help to note which areas your submission relates to.

You can also make suggestions about what the government should do to help inform the committee's recommendations.

If you have experienced app-facilitated violence or another hate crime, it can be useful to include how it happened – such as how perpetrators approached you and the methods or language they used.

Once someone makes a submission, what happens to it?

Unless you request confidentiality or de-identification, your submission may be published online.

Information may be redacted to protect privacy, minors or ongoing investigations.

All submissions are reviewed by the committee secretariat and used to inform the final report, though they may not be directly quoted.

Will I get to speak to the committee about my submission?

The committee may invite people who have made a submission to speak at a public hearing. You can choose whether or not to accept this invitation, and you can contact one of the organisations listed above for support.

Where can I find more information?

You can find the official webpage for the inquiry [here](#), or contact any of the organisations listed above.

