



ROYAL COMMISSION INTO DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDE TO BEGIN HEARING EVIDENCE TODAY (EMBARGOED UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29)

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide will hear from its first witnesses during a public hearing to begin in Brisbane today.

The hearing, to be held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, is the first public hearing since the Royal Commission was announced on 8 July 2021.

It will hear from witnesses with lived experience of suicide, including family members of Defence personnel who have taken their life.

Royal Commission Chair Nick Kaldas said the Brisbane hearing represented the first of many public hearings to be held in capital cities and regional centres across Australia.

“We want to hear from as many people affected by Defence and veteran suicide as possible,” Commissioner Kaldas said.

“Your stories will help the Commission identify the systemic issues and risk factors for suicide, to address these issues to help reduce the suicide rate among serving and former military personnel.”

Commissioner Kaldas acknowledged the Brisbane hearing may contain material and images that could be distressing for those attending or [watching the livestream](#) and said support would be available.

Royal Commission counsellors will be onsite and anyone who needs support can call 1800 329 095.

The hearing will begin at 9:30am AEST and will be livestreamed on the [Royal Commission website](#) and [Facebook](#).