



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

MEDIA RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE PREVALENCE, CAUSES AND IMPACTS OF LONELINESS IN NSW

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
16 AUGUST 2024

The NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues has launched an inquiry into the prevalence, causes, and impacts of loneliness in NSW. The inquiry was referred to the committee by the Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Water, Housing, Mental Health, Youth, Homelessness and Minister for the North Coast.

Committee Chair, the Hon Dr Sarah Kaine MLC, stated:

‘This inquiry will examine the extent of loneliness and social isolation in NSW, including how it is measured and opportunities for improved data capture. The committee will consider populations at risk of loneliness and social isolation and look at the psychological and physiological impacts on certain groups in the community, including young people, the elderly, those living with disabilities, regional residents, and the bereaved’.

Dr Kaine continued: ‘The inquiry will also evaluate existing initiatives by government and non-government organisations to mitigate loneliness and social isolation, as well as policies and initiatives in other jurisdictions that address loneliness as a public health issue’.

In addition, the inquiry will:

- explore steps the State Government can take to reduce the prevalence and impacts of loneliness in the community
- examine the role of community, technology and social media companies, organisations, and individuals in mitigating the impact of loneliness on individuals and society
- consider the financial costs of loneliness to the economy and measures that be implemented to reduce this.

Contributions to the inquiry can be made by [lodging a submission](#) or completing an [online questionnaire](#) by 1 November 2024.

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

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