

Call for public submissions and initial directions hearing - independent Commission of Inquiry into forensic DNA testing in Queensland

On 13 June 2022 the government appointed Walter Sofronoff QC to head an inquiry into the way in which DNA testing for criminal cases is done in Queensland. Today Mr Sofronoff invited public submissions.

“Anyone with information that might help me investigate how DNA testing has been done for criminal cases can give me a submission in writing or just contact the Executive Director of the inquiry, Ms Jess Wellard. This includes victims of crime, defendants, lawyers, forensic experts, public servants and police.”

Mr Sofronoff said that his inquiry is independent of outside influence and people giving information to him are protected by law. “They are freed from duties of confidentiality when they talk to me and also when they give me documents. They are also protected against retribution or harassment, just like witnesses giving evidence in court.”

Information about how to make a submission can be found at www.dnainquiry.qld.gov.au. The website also includes communication from Mr Sofronoff to victim-survivors who may find the inquiry concerning.

A public directions hearing will be held on Friday 26 August 2022. Details of the hearing and how to seek leave to appear can also be found on the Commission website.