

The (rough and ready) difference between courts and inquiries.

	Parliamentary Inquiry	Board of Inquiry	Royal Commission	Coroner	Criminal Courts	Civil Courts
How established	By the Parliament	By the Governor on the advice of the Premier	By the Governor on the advice of the Executive council (ie the government)	Standing institution created by the <i>Coroners Act 2008</i> (Vic)	Standing institutions	Standing institutions
Evidence	NOT bound by the rules of evidence	NOT bound by the rules of evidence	NOT bound by the rules of evidence	NOT bound by the rules of evidence	Bound by the rules of evidence	Bound by the rules of evidence
Witnesses	Asked questions by the Committee members	May be examined and cross examined by counsel	May be examined and cross examined by counsel	May be examined and cross examined by counsel	May be examined and cross examined by counsel	May be examined and cross examined by counsel
Powers	Can make recommendations; cannot adjust peoples legal rights, determine guilt or negligence	Can make recommendations; cannot adjust peoples legal rights, determine guilt or negligence	Can make recommendations; cannot adjust peoples legal rights, determine guilt or negligence	Can make recommendations; cannot adjust peoples legal rights, determine guilt or negligence	Does not make recommendations. Can make final determination of guilt and impose punishment.	Does not make recommendations. Can make final determination on issues of law and fact and make binding orders that affect the legal rights of parties.
Compelling witnesses	Witness may be compelled to answer questions	Witness may be compelled to answer questions but can claim privileges such as the privilege against self incrimination	Witness may be compelled to answer questions	Witness may be compelled to answer questions but can claim privileges such as the privilege against self incrimination	Witness may be compelled to answer questions but can claim privileges such as the privilege against self incrimination	Witness may be compelled to answer questions but can claim privileges such as the privilege against self incrimination