



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

Friday, May 1, 2009

FREE LEGAL ADVICE IN STATE'S WEST DURING LAW WEEK

A legal services road show will tour Western NSW during Law Week to provide free assistance to people having legal problems, Attorney General John Hatzistergos said.

"Legal problems can cause considerable stress, yet in some cases all you might need is half an hour with a lawyer to determine a solution," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Five legal service providers will accompany the road show, which will visit Dubbo (Sunday, 10 May), Coonamble (Monday, 11 May), Walgett (Tuesday, 12 May), Brewarrina (Wednesday, 13 May), Bourke (Thursday, 14 May) and Nyngan (Friday 15 May).

The services include Legal Aid NSW, Victims of Crime Bureau and LawAccess NSW, Older Persons Legal and Education Service and the Western NSW Community Legal Service.

"The road show will participate in open days at courthouses, deliver free talks for older people and host seminars about services available to victims of crime, and families and friends of missing people," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"Assistance will also be available on issues including debt, discrimination, accidents, fines, insurance, access to children and child support."

Mr Hatzistergos said the theme of Law Week 2009, which begins on May 11, is "The Law and Your Community."

"These events aim to reach out to people in regional areas who might not be aware of the free legal services available to them," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Legal Aid will also visit Aboriginal communities in Collarenebri (Monday, 11 May), Goodooga (Tuesday, 12 May), Lightning Ridge (Wednesday, 13 May) and Moree (Friday, 15 May) to publicise the approaching deadline for claims to the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme. Many Aboriginal people have yet to claim wages, pensions and child endowment payments that were held in trust by the NSW Government until 1969, and never repaid. The deadline for all claims in NSW is 31 May 2009.

Court House open days - Free legal information and assistance will be available at:

DUBBO COURTHOUSE Sunday 10 May 2009, 10.00 – 2.00pm Brisbane Street, Dubbo	COONAMBLE COURTHOUSE Monday 11 May 2009 3.00pm – 4.30pm Aberford Street, Coonamble	WALGETT COURT HOUSE Tuesday 12 May 2009 10.30am – 2.30pm Wee Waa Street, Walgett
BOURKE COURTHOUSE Thursday 14 May 2009 11.30pm – 2.30pm Oxley Street, Bourke	BREWARRINA MEMORIAL PARK Wednesday 13 May 2009 11.00 – 3.00pm Brewarrina	NYNGAN COURT HOUSE Friday 15 May 2009 11.00am – 12.00pm Cobar Street, Nyngan