



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations**

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**Wednesday, July 1, 2009**

## **FEE RELIEF FOR MENTALLY ILL AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced further fee relief for clients of the Office of the Protective Commissioner (OPC).

He said the news coincided with the commencement of a new law to amalgamate the OPC and the Public Trustee, which will now be called the NSW Trustee & Guardian.

As of today, the Rees Government will reduce the annual cap that the OPC can charge its clients for management fees from \$50,000 to \$15,000.

“The reduction in fees for clients of the Protective Commissioner recognises the Government has an obligation to provide fair and equitable services, especially when it comes to vulnerable members of the community,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

The reduction follows those implemented in April following recommendations by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

They included capping the 4% annual income fee for privately managed clients at \$2,000 and removing the 50% threshold test for pension income for privately managed clients.

Another IPART recommendation being implemented today will see a small increase in the fee for account keeping from \$100 to \$200, or \$300 for complex accounts.

The Protective Commissioner is an independent office responsible for managing the financial affairs of approximately 9,000 people with a disability or mental illness.

The Public Trustee acts as executor in deceased estates, provides legal and financial services to some 27,000 clients annually and has made over 900,000 wills.

As part of the amalgamation, the existing branch structure of the Public Trustee will enable clients of the Protective Commissioner to access services beyond metropolitan Sydney in places such as Gosford, Newcastle, Armidale, Broken Hill, Lismore, Port Macquarie, Wollongong and Bathurst.

Imelda Dodds, the current Protective Commissioner and Public Guardian, has been appointed the acting CEO of the NSW Trustee & Guardian.