



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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## NSW COURTS ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos has welcomed interest from international delegations which have come to NSW to see our new high-tech courtrooms and hear about advances in crime prevention.

“NSW is a world leader for technologically advanced courts and innovative crime prevention programs.” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“In the past six months, government officials from six nations have visited Sydney to see if they can adopt aspects of our justice programs and court facilities in their own countries.”

Papua New Guinea’s (PNG) Chief Magistrate was today part of a delegation to visit the headquarters of the Attorney General’s Department of NSW in Parramatta.

Mr Hatzistergos said PNG’s Restorative Justice Team had a strong interest in programs designed to reduce re-offending.

He said the PNG delegation had learned about NSW programs such as the Drug Court, Circle Sentencing, Forum Sentencing, Magistrates Early Referral Into Treatment (MERIT) and the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Model.

“A common link among many of these programs is their focus on addressing the causes of offending behaviour and giving participants a pathway to a law abiding future”.

Other recent visitors to NSW include legal delegations from:

- **China** – inspected NSW District and Local Courts and discussed domestic violence programs
- **Sweden** – studied strategies to combat youth crime and organised crime
- **Papua New Guinea** (a separate delegation visited in October 2008) – examined the JusticeLink computer case management system
- **Thailand** – learnt about how NSW conducts drug trials
- **Ukraine** – examined court facilities for people with a disability
- **Vietnam** – discussed victims’ support programs

- **Singapore** – toured the high security Sydney West Trial Courts with a view to building a similar complex.

The NSW court system is consistently rated among the best performing in Australia, according to the Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services.

The Member for Parramatta Tanya Gadiel said the new \$330 million Parramatta Justice Precinct had attracted international attention.

“The court includes state-of-the-art audio visual technology, CCTV links from prisons and witness rooms, and the latest security equipment to protect judges and hold terrorism trials.

She said it had provided a major boost to the region as it offers shopfront services and has attracted local business investment.

The NSW Government is investing \$46.1 million in court-related services and facilities in 2008-09.