



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

---

Friday, June 5, 2009

## DEBT REPAYMENTS EASED FOR PEOPLE IN HARDSHIP

The NSW Government will reduce financial hardship for people whose wages are deducted as part of a court order to pay a debt, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

“It is important to ensure that a person still has enough money for food, clothing and shelter when they are paying off a debt,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Currently, \$305.12 of a person’s weekly wage is protected from a garnishee order, which is a court order that enables a creditor to automatically receive part of a debtor’s salary.

Mr Hatzistergos said the Rees Government would increase the protected amount by 25 per cent to \$381.40 per week.

“The protected portion of a person’s salary will, from this point on, be the same as the weekly payment granted to a person receiving full workers compensation,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“Anything less than this amount could cause unreasonable hardship to people in debt, particularly during uncertain economic times.”

Mr Hatzistergos said the Government had introduced a range of measures to assist people experiencing financial difficulties.

“The Government has introduced a program that enables disadvantaged community members such as the homeless, mentally ill and people experiencing acute financial hardship to do charity work or treatment programs to pay off their fines,” he said.

“The Government also recently launched *The Mortgage Stress Handbook*, produced by Legal Aid NSW, which offers practical advice for anyone in danger of losing their home.”

In addition, people with a legal problem can contact the NSW Government’s free legal information service, LawAccess by telephone on 1300 888 529 or online at [www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au)