



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

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**Friday, July 3, 2009**

## **NEW FUNDING WILL HELP LOCAL WOMEN SEEKING AVOS**

Attorney General John Hatzistergos and Member for Maitland Frank Terenzini today announced new positions will be created to assist women at Maitland, Singleton, Cessnock and Muswellbrook Local Courts, after a funding boost for domestic violence advocacy.

Mr Hatzistergos said the three new advocacy workers will be recruited to work at the courthouses to assist women seeking Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders.

“Domestic violence is an abhorrent crime that destroys families and often thrusts women and children into the justice system for the first time in their lives,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

“The new advocacy workers will help women seeking Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders and will provide referrals to counselling, housing and material aid services that may be of assistance.”

Mr Terenzini said Carrie’s Place Women and Children’s Services had been awarded the funding to continue running the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program.

Carrie’s Place will receive \$241,288 for the 2009/2010 financial year, up by \$156,785 on last year.

“The additional advocacy workers will provide greater access to this vital service for vulnerable women and children in the Hunter Valley,” said Mr Terenzini.

Carrie’s Place chairperson Ruth Smith said the additional funding would allow the organisation to expand its support to women at Muswellbrook courthouse for the first time.

“The additional funding will also allow us to assist women during hearings, as opposed to just on list days, for domestic violence matters,” said Ms Smith.

She said the organisation planned to use part of the funding to extend the service to the local Aboriginal community.

The Rees Government has increased funding across the State by \$2.7 million, up to a total of \$7 million a year, extending the Women’s Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Program to more than 100 courthouses.