



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

---

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

## LEGAL ADVICE OFFERED FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF

Attorney General John Hatzistergos has congratulated the Deaf Society of NSW on the launch of *Going To Court*, a web-based legal information resource for the Deaf Community.

Mr Hatzistergos said *Going To Court* consists of short instructional films offering information on the law and the court system in AUSLAN (the Australian sign language) with the equivalent information presented in plain English.

“People who are deaf should not be denied access to justice. It is important they have access to information about the court system in their own language,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

“I am delighted that the Deaf Society has launched this web-tool which makes it easier for the deaf community to get the information they need.”

Mr Hatzistergos said topics covered in the films include where to get legal advice, where to find a lawyer, help preparing for court, help for women living with domestic violence, legal help with divorce, and definitions of legal terms.

He said the development of the website follows a demographic study by the Deaf Society which found there was a need to improve access to public services, including the justice system, for the deaf community.

Part of the website includes a modified version of a 25 minute film the Attorney General's Department produced five years ago for people with disabilities called *So You Have To Go To Court!*

The *Going To Court* project is located on the Deaf Society of NSW website: [www.deafsocietynsw.org.au](http://www.deafsocietynsw.org.au), under the information tab.