



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
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YOUTH CONDUCT ORDERS TO ARREST JUVENILE CRIME

Teenagers who commit anti-social offences such as graffiti, possession of knives, possession of liquor and theft will be put on orders to restrict their behaviour and deter them from re-offending, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos said today

“This is a tough new approach to tackling youth crime and getting young people to face up to their anti-social behaviour before they embark on a life of crime,” he said.

“The Youth Conduct Orders can impose strict limits on offenders’ movements and behaviour such as enforced curfews, school attendance requirements and non-association orders.”

Mr Hatzistergos said the two-year \$1.4 million trial begins next Wednesday, July 1 in the New England, Campbelltown and Mount Druitt local area commands.

“The rollout of this Australian-first scheme demonstrates the NSW Government’s commitment to cutting crime and re-offending among our youth,” the Attorney said.

“It mobilises the resources of key government agencies to deal with troubled young offenders aged 14 to 17 before they wind up in detention.

“The scheme zeros in on the underlying causes of anti-social behaviour in youths’ family and school lives to try to divert them from spiralling into a life of crime.”

Under the pre-sentence scheme, young people who commit low level anti-social offences can be placed on a Youth Conduct Order.

The order, which could apply for up to 12 months, would subject offenders to intensive case management. Conditions of the order could include:

- Strict limitations on the offenders’ movements and behaviour;
- School attendance requirements;
- Non-association orders, such as not mixing with gang members;
- Drug and alcohol programs or referral to treatment for mental health problems.

Mr Hatzistergos said the orders require young people to work with their families to address the causes of their behaviour. In addition, families may be given extra help with parenting support and housing.

“Offenders risk facing even tougher penalties including juvenile detention if they fail to comply,” he said.

NSW Police Minister Tony Kelly said police wholeheartedly supported the orders because they would facilitate finding local solutions to youthful anti-social behaviour.