



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

Thursday March 4, 2010

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPENS THE OFFICES OF THE NSW TRUSTEE & GUARDIAN IN LISMORE

Attorney General John Hatzistergos today visited Lismore to officially open the refurbished offices of the NSW Trustee & Guardian on Zadoc Street.

“As part of the major renovations, the entire building has been repainted in keeping with the heritage style of the house and a ramp for disabled access has been added,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“The new sealed car park will make it easier than ever for people of Lismore and surrounds to pop in to update their will, undertake estate planning, or simply ask questions about our attorney services.”

Mr Hatzistergos said the NSW Trustee & Guardian moved into the house in 1990 and began offering services including will making, executor services, powers of attorney, trusts and financial management.

The single storey building was once the Rectory of St Andrew’s Anglican Cathedral and its style encompasses both Victorian and Federation architecture.

“The heritage-listed building was built in 1893 and was in genuine need of a facelift,” Mr Hatzistergos said. “Importantly, renovations have been carried out in accordance with guidelines of the NSW Heritage Office.”

The renovations were designed by local firm Lyon Architects and Interiors and the building project managed by Bennett Industries (Constructions) Pty Ltd.

Jackie Foord, Lismore Branch Manager, NSW Trustee & Guardian welcomed the Attorney to Lismore and thanked the NSW Government for funding the renovations. Ms Foord noted the building had not gone unscathed by the severe weather on the North Coast in recent years.

“Thankfully, the building is located in a flood-free part of town but we haven’t been completely lucky with Mother Nature because, after the hailstorms in September 2007, the roof was seriously damaged and was in need of repair,” she said.

The NSW Trustee & Guardian was formed on 1 July 2009 with the merger of the NSW Public Trustee and the Office of the Protective Commissioner,

Mr Hatzistergos said the NSW Trustee & Guardian provides the full range of services including managing the financial affairs of approximately 9,000 people in NSW with a disability or mental illness. He said it also acts as executor in deceased estates, provides legal and financial services to some 27,000 clients annually and has made over 900,000 wills.

“The NSW Trustee & Guardian gives top priority to the welfare of clients with disabilities and encourages clients to live, as far as possible, a normal life in the community,” he said.

“It also works to protect the rights of people with a disability and enables people with impaired decision-making capacity to live with dignity and as much autonomy as possible.