



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

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WAVERLEY COURT REACHES OUT TO ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Staff at Waverley Courthouse have launched a free outreach service to help La Perouse's Aboriginal community with legal issues, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Court staff and an Aboriginal Client Service Specialist will attend Yarra Bay House at La Perouse from 2pm until 4pm on the first Monday of each month.

"The outreach service is useful for community members who may find it difficult to get to the courthouse, such as the elderly and people who don't have access to a vehicle," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the service was also helping to break down barriers between the justice system and the Aboriginal community.

"Court staff are raising awareness among La Perouse's Indigenous community about how courts operate and the services available to help people through the legal process," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The outreach program provides information and assistance on a range of matters including:

- Apprehended Violence Orders (AVOs)
- Victims' rights
- Neighbourhood disputes
- Mediation services
- Payment of court fines and recovery or payment of debts
- Bail applications and other court appearances
- Applications for birth, death and marriage certificates
- Power of Attorney and Enduring Guardianship applications.

Over the past two years, the NSW Government has introduced outreach programs across the state, including a service for Aboriginal people in Campbelltown, a service for the homeless in Sydney's CBD and programs for people in remote communities in north-western NSW.

The Government has also expanded its free legal helpline LawAccess, which provides information and referrals for people who have a legal problem. The service is accessible by telephone on 1300 888 529 or online at www.lawaccess.nsw.gov.au