



MEDIA RELEASE

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WEBSITE TO GUIDE VICTIMS OF CRIME THROUGH JUSTICE SYSTEM

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today launched a new user-friendly website that will help victims through every stage of the criminal justice process.

“Victims of crime have experienced anguish and trauma and need all the support we can offer them to ensure they find answers to questions about the justice system,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“From reporting a crime and police investigations to getting ready for court and the court process itself – this new website offers valuable and easy-to-understand information for victims and their families.”

Mr Hatzistergos said the new Victims Services site at www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/vs features a colour-coded *Justice Journey* section that takes victims through a step-by-step guide to the criminal justice system.

“*Justice Journey* pulls together information people need to understand the justice process in one place, from details about the roles of courts and Police to the Director of Public Prosecutions and Corrective Services,” he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the site also provides specialised information about crimes such as domestic violence and homicide.

“Victims of violent crime such as domestic violence are at their most fragile when they first come in contact with the justice system and may require specialised assistance accessing counselling or AVOs,” he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said the website is intuitive featuring easy-to-use interactive tools designed to be used by the wider community. The site features:

- A new Smart Form that allows victims to apply for compensation online without the need for a lawyer;
- Information on Apprehended Violence Orders;
- A guide for witnesses;
- Details about how courts deal with children in sexual assault proceedings;
- Games to help children prepare for their day in court; and
- Information for people from non-English speaking backgrounds, the elderly and people with a disability.

Executive Director of the Homicide Victims Support Group, Martha Jabour applauded the initiative, saying the website is a world first, one-stop-shop that will be an invaluable support for victims and their families.

“This website sets all victims, regardless of their age, on a path where they have the opportunity to access support, counselling and advocacy very quickly – nothing like this exists anywhere else in the world,” Ms Jabour said.