



# MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC  
Attorney General  
Minister for Industrial Relations

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## ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

A digital one-stop-shop to help for victims of sexual assault is being launched by the Attorney General John Hatzistergos as he called on women who have been attacked to come forward and report the crimes against them to police.

"Sexual assault is an abhorrent crime which destroys the lives of victims and their families," said Mr Hatzistergos.

"It is important that women come forward and report incidents to authorities to ensure that sexual predators don't get away with these crimes."

Mr Hatzistergos said the new one-stop website ([www.sexualassault.nsw.gov.au](http://www.sexualassault.nsw.gov.au)) brings together support services and aimed to make the justice system more accessible for victims and encourage them to come forward.

"This website will be a central source of information for victims who may feel confused or daunted by the prospect of reporting a crime and going through a lengthy court process," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The site brings together helpful information and advice on the law regarding sexual assault and health and social services available for victims."

"As a Government we will do everything possible to support victims and make sure they get the help they need to recover from their ordeal."

Mr Hatzistergos said the website included sections including "What is Sexual Assault?" "Support and Counselling" "Safety and Protection" "Reporting to Police" "The Investigation" "Court Processes" and "Resources and Websites."

Rape Crisis Centre manager Karen Willis said the new website will be a vital resource for agencies and organisations which work with sex assault victims.

"Fear of going to court and a lack of knowledge about the justice system is one of the major reasons rape victims don't come forward to get help," said Ms Willis.

"Organisations such as the Rape Crisis Centre will now have a single, easy to understand tool which will prove them with the accurate, up to date information they need to advise victims."

Mr Hatzistergos said the Government had introduced a major package of legislative reform in recent years to make the justice system more responsive to the needs of victims.

“Accused persons are no longer allowed to personally cross-examine victims and judges are now required to stop lawyers asking questions which might be considered humiliating, insulting or harassing,” he said.

Other recent legislative changes passed by the NSW Parliament include:

- Establishing remote witness facilities and allowing complainants to give evidence via CCTV;
- Creating a presumption that the court will be closed when the victim gives evidence in sexual offence proceedings;
- Requiring the court to impose strict limits what can be published about a victim’s case on the internet and in the media;
- Reforming jury warnings and directions concerning delays by victims in reporting sexual assault;
- Requiring it to be made clear for judges and juries during trials when consent has or has not been given; and
- Expanding the circumstances in which evidence given in an original trial can be used in subsequent trials so that victims don’t have to re-testify.