



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
VICTIMS COMPENSATION**

REPORT:

**Ongoing Issues Concerning the
NSW Victims Compensation Scheme**

FEBRUARY 2000

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Terms of Reference.....

Membership of the Committee.....

Chairman's Foreword

Summary of Recommendations

CHAPTER 1:Background

- 1.1.....Background to the 1996 legislative scheme and a discussion of its intent;
- 1.2.....Brief discussion of comparative schemes;
- 1.3.....Summary of the previous Committee's findings in its Second and Fifth Interim Reports into the long term financial viability of the Fund and Shock;.....
- 1.4.....Discussion of the 1998 Amendments in terms of how they have addressed the former Committee's recommendations.....

CHAPTER 2: Concept of Psychological Injury

- 1.1 Intents of its inclusion in the 1996 legislation;
- 1.2 Difficulty with diagnosis;
- 1.3 Current cost and administrative burden to the scheme;
- 1.4 Abuses of the shock/psychological injury within the 1996 scheme;
- 1.5 Possible effects of the 1998 amendments;
- 1.6 Comparative look at other jurisdictions in relation to psychological injury.....

CHAPTER 3: Rehabilitation for Victims of Crime

- 1.1 Discussion of the existing rehabilitative system;.....
- 1.2 What victims/victims groups/psychologists have told the Committee victims need;
- 1.3 Rehabilitation as the preferred way forward for victims;
- 1.4 Possible additional methods and resources for rehabilitation;
- 1.5 A more whole of government co-ordinated approach for victims.

CHAPTER 4: Victims of Homicide

- 1.1 The intent of the 1996 legislation relating to family members of homicide victims;
- 1.2 Current access to counselling services;
- 1.3 Current provisions for interim payments;
- 1.4 Current time taken for compensation payments;
- 1.5 Current ceiling of \$50,000 amongst family members.
- 1.6 Comparative discussion of homicide provisions in schemes in other jurisdictions.

CHAPTER 5: Current Operations of the Victims Compensation Tribunal

TERMS OF REFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Joint Select Committee consists of four members of the Legislative Assembly and three members of the Legislative Council. These members are:

Legislative Assembly

Mr Anthony Stewart, MP (Chairman)
Ms Marianne Saliba, MP
Mr Wayne D Smith, MP
Mr Thomas George, MP

Legislative Council

The Hon John Hatzistergos, MLC
The Hon. John P. Hannaford, MLC
The Hon. Peter J. Breen, MLC

Consultant to the Committee

Mr Keith Ferguson

Secretariat:

Ms Catherine Watson, Director
Ms Sue Want, Research Officer
Ms Glendora Magno, Asst. Committee Officer

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS