



**24 October 2007**

**Legislative Council  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

**INQUIRY INTO THE PROHIBITION  
ON THE PUBLICATION OF NAMES OF CHILDREN  
INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS**

**Committee commences inquiry**

The NSW Attorney General, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, has asked the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on Law and Justice to conduct an inquiry into the current prohibition on the publication and broadcasting of the names of children involved in criminal proceedings.

Committee Chair, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC said, "the prohibition protects the identity of people under the age of 18 who are involved in criminal proceedings including the accused, witnesses, and victims."

"A number of recent crimes perpetrated by people under the age of 18 have highlighted the need to reconsider the prohibition on naming young offenders who have been charged with serious crimes," said Ms Robertson.

Ms Robertson said, "this inquiry will examine whether or not the policy objectives behind the existing prohibition on the naming of children involved in criminal proceedings remains valid."

"There is a fine balance between the need to protect young people, whether they be perpetrators who can be rehabilitated or the victims of crimes, and the need for transparency in the administration of justice," she said.

"There are many sensitive issues at play here, and we are keen to hear as many views as possible," Ms Robertson said. "We are inviting submissions on this important matter, which are due by 12 December 2007. Public hearings will be held early next year."

Further information about the inquiry can be obtained from the Committee's Secretariat on 02 9230 3311, or on the Committee's website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice).

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on 9230 3311 or for comment, please contact the Hon Christine Robertson MLC, Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2971*