



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **INQUIRY LAUNCHED INTO THE ADEQUACY AND SCOPE OF SPECIAL CARE OFFENCES**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**26 February 2018**

An Upper House inquiry has been established to examine the adequacy and scope of special care offences under s 73 of the *Crimes Act 1900* following a referral by the Attorney General, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP.

Committee Chair, the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, said: ‘section 73 criminalises a person having sexual intercourse with a 16 or 17 year old child who is under their special care. The section lists the type of special care relationships covered, such as where the offender is a teacher and the child is their pupil’.

‘The NSW Parliament is currently considering the Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 which, if passed, will ensure that s 73 also includes principals, other teachers at the school and any employed school worker who has students under their care or authority’, Ms Ward said.

‘This inquiry will investigate whether the scope of special care offences should be further broadened, for example by, including volunteers at schools, school workers who were recently ex-students, school workers who no longer work at the school and youth workers. In addition, the committee will consider whether offences should apply where a special care relationship is no longer in effect’, Ms Ward said.

The closing date for submissions is Wednesday 30 May 2018. The committee intends to hold public hearings in June.

For further information about the inquiry, including its terms of reference, or for more information on how to make a submission, please go to our website: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice), or call the committee secretariat on (02) 9230 3750.

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*For further information please contact Committee Chair, Ms Natalie Ward MLC, on 9230 2186.*