



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SPECIAL CARE OFFENCES INQUIRY TO EXAMINE ADOPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 April 2018**

An Upper House committee has extended its terms of reference for the inquiry into the adequacy and scope of special care offences following a request by Attorney General Mark Speakman. The committee will now also consider adoptive relationships, and whether they should fall under the special care offence in s 73 of the *Crimes Act 1900* and the incest offence in s 78A of the Act.

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Law and Justice, the Hon Natalie Ward MLC said, “Currently, the special care offence in s 73 does not cover an adoptive parent and adopted child relationship and the incest offence in s 78A of the *Crimes Act 1900* likely does not extend to cases of sexual intercourse between an adoptive parent and adopted child. The committee has broadened its inquiry to examine whether this behaviour should be criminalised and, if so, how.”

The committee invites submissions to the inquiry by Wednesday 30 May 2018. Submissions should be lodged online via the committee’s website at the address below. It is expected that a public hearing will be held in June.

For more information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, please visit the committee’s website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/specialcareoffences](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/specialcareoffences).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact the Committee Chair,  
the Hon Natalie Ward MLC, on (02) 9230 2186*