



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

**SHOULD NSW HAVE A ‘SUPER TRIBUNAL’?
New inquiry to examine opportunities to consolidate tribunals**

The NSW Attorney General, the Hon Greg Smith MP, the Minister for Finance and Services, the Hon Greg Pearce MLC, and the Minister for Fair Trading, the Hon Anthony Roberts MP, have asked the NSW Parliament’s Standing Committee on Law and Justice to conduct an inquiry into opportunities to consolidate tribunals in NSW.

Committee Chair, the Hon David Clarke MLC said, “there are numerous separate tribunals in NSW which exercise decision-making, arbitral or similar functions in relation to employment, workplace, occupational and professional disputes or matters.”

“The Committee will consider what opportunities are available to rationalise these various tribunals, in order to increase overall efficiency and effectiveness. In particular, we will examine the jurisdiction and workload of the Industrial Relations Commission, the Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal, the Administrative Decisions Tribunal and various health disciplinary tribunals, to determine whether any (or all) of these tribunals should be merged.”

A number of other jurisdictions have rationalised their tribunals, with integrated civil and administrative tribunals or ‘super tribunals’ now existing in Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland, the ACT and the UK.

Mr Clarke said, “The Committee will look at existing consolidated or ‘super tribunals’, such as the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, to learn from their experiences in amalgamating tribunals.”

The Committee is inviting submissions addressing the terms of reference by 25 November 2011, and will be holding public hearings in December.

Submissions can be submitted via email to: lawandjustice@parliament.nsw.gov.au or faxed to (02) 9230 2981 or mailed to: The Director, Standing Committee on Law and Justice, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000. The terms of reference for the inquiry and information about making a submission can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on (02) 9230 3504 or via the Committee’s website at: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice .

*For further comment please contact the Hon David Clarke MLC, Committee Chair,
on 9230 2260.*