



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

Embargoed until 5am Saturday July 3, 2010

REVIEW OF CRIMINAL LAW – DEATH OF AN UNBORN CHILD

Attorney General John Hatzistergos today reminded interested parties that submissions to the review of laws relating to criminal actions which result in the death of an unborn child will close on July 16.

Justice Michael Campbell QC is undertaking the review– he has served as a former Justice of the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeal.

The review, to be handed down late this year, will include consideration of the following:

- Whether current offences which now invoke an extended definition of grievous bodily harm to cover the destruction of the foetus of a pregnant woman, including those relating to dangerous and negligent driving, enable the justice system to respond appropriately to criminal incidents involving the death of an unborn child;
- Whether maximum penalties for these offences are appropriate;
- Whether standard non-parole periods should be either introduced or varied for any of these offences;
- Whether the Crimes Act 1900 should be amended to allow a charge of manslaughter to be brought in circumstances where an unborn child dies;
- Whether NSW should introduce any other specific offences for cases involving the death of an unborn child;
- What further consultation, if any, should take place; and
- Any other relevant civil or criminal law matter.

Interested individuals and organisations are invited to make submissions to the review by 16 July 2010. More information can be found at <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/clrd>