



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

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NEW LEGAL ADVICE SERVICE FOR TWEED VALLEY

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today opened a legal outreach service for disadvantaged people in the Tweed Valley.

“The office will provide face-to-face civil law advice, casework and community legal education services,” said Mr Hatzistergos.

“The service is targeted to women facing domestic violence, people with mental illness, young people at risk, people with disabilities, Aboriginal people, homeless people and ex-prisoners.”

He said the Murwillumbah office is part of the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre and will operate three days a week.

The Community Legal Centre is jointly funded by the State and Federal governments.

Mr Hatzistergos said the Murwillumbah office began operation in November and provided service to people living Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads and Pottsville.

“The establishment of the outreach office will significantly improve access to legal services for residents of the Tweed Valley.”

Mr Hatzistergos said community legal centres focus on early intervention and prevention.

He said they aim to educate people about the law so they can avoid legal disputes altogether, or where people have already encountered legal problems, to assist them to resolve disputes early, without resorting to costly litigation.

So far the Murwillumbah office has offered advice and assistance on employment, discrimination, credit and debt problems, motor vehicle accidents, neighbour disputes, victims of crime issues, contracts and wills.

Specifically targeted services include a women’s outreach service, a tenants service, a women’s domestic violence court advocacy service and an Aboriginal women’s family violence awareness project called ‘Mirrung Ngu Wanjarri.’