



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations

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FREE HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MORTGAGE PROBLEMS

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos said a free forum to help people having problems with their mortgages will be held at the Newcastle Panthers tomorrow night.

Mr Hatzistergos said the forum, being organised by Legal Aid, will provide a range of experts including financial counsellors and legal advisors to help homeowners who might be affected by the current financial crisis.

“The forum will also provide tips on avoiding mortgage problems for first home buyers” said Mr Hatzistergos.

The forum is free and open to all people who want to know what they can do if they are having difficulties paying their mortgage, or how to avoid getting into that situation in the future. The forum is also for service providers who are working with people in these situations.

The Legal Aid Mortgage Stress Forum will run from 6-8.30pm on Thursday 23 April at Newcastle Panthers, King St, Newcastle.

Speakers at the forum will present information on crucial financial issues currently affecting many homeowners and take questions from the public. People will also be able to get free, confidential, one on one advice from Legal Aid lawyers from 7-8.30pm.

Mr Hatzistergos said many people are worried about losing their jobs and what how they will cope with their mortgage payments if this happens.

“Expert advice will be made available to homeowners about possible options and on the importance of acting early if they are having problems with their mortgage” said Mr Hatzistergos.

Agencies taking part include the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, LawAccess NSW, community legal centres and financial counsellors.

Legal Aid NSW also publishes the Mortgage Stress Handbook, a free user-friendly guide to assist people facing problems with their mortgage as well as a range of helpful brochures on the topic of dealing with mortgage stress, all of which are available at www.legalaid.nsw.gov.au.

Anyone requiring urgent assistance can call LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529.

