

MEDIA RELEASE

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



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Sydney hosts International Meet on Children's Courts

The heads of Children's Courts from 14 jurisdictions in Australasia and the South Pacific region will converge on Sydney this week for a conference on youth justice and child protection, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos will open the annual meeting of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts (SPCYCC), which is being held in NSW for the first time in the council's 13-year history.

"It is a great honour for the NSW Children's Court to host this prestigious conference and to showcase the innovative work being done in this state to steer young offenders back onto the right path and protect the welfare of children at risk," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts conference will also include presentations from other member jurisdictions as well as from experts in the fields of juvenile justice and child protection.

"The sharing of information will help all participants, particularly those from developing countries, to learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions in the areas of juvenile justice and child protection," Mr Hatzistergos said.

The South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts conference will be held at the Judicial Commission of NSW in Sydney's CBD from Tuesday, July 27 to Thursday, July 29. The conference will move to Parramatta on Friday, July 30 to join the Youth Drug and Alcohol Court's 10th Anniversary Conference.

On the eve of the South Pacific Council of Youth and Children's Courts conference, Her Excellency Governor Marie Bashir will host a welcome reception for the participants at Government House in Sydney.

The NSW Government has provided funding for the conference, while AusAID has provided financial assistance to enable a number of participants from developing countries to attend.

"The government's investment in juvenile justice and child protection helps to ensure that troubled and vulnerable young people can reach their full potential and contribute to a safe and harmonious society," Mr Hatzistergos said.

In recognition of the increasingly important role the Children's Court plays in the justice system, the NSW Government has appointed a District Court judge as the president of the court and funded the appointment of five additional specialist Children's Registrars.