

Media release
John Hatzistergos - Attorney General
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NSW ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES START OF PARRAMATTA COURT UPGRADE

Parramatta's reputation as one of the Australia's most important legal centres will be strengthened by a \$14 million courthouse upgrade, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

"The Parramatta Courthouse, built in the 1970s, will be given a 21st Century makeover to bring it in line with the standards set by the courts in the neighbouring Parramatta Justice Precinct," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"It's due to the hard work of local MP Tanya Gadiel that Parramatta has been a focus for the Government's court infrastructure program, delivering state of the art facilities, government services and an economic and employment boom to the local area."

The revamped Parramatta Courthouse will comprise six local courtrooms, a drug court and a callover court.

The upgrade, which begins today, will deliver state-of-the-art videoconferencing facilities for bail hearings and remote witness testimony, additional areas for the legal profession to interview clients and will make prisoner movements more secure.

"The entire ground floor and all public areas will be refurbished, resulting in more comfortable facilities for court users and staff," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Parramatta Courthouse will be closed during the upgrade with its services to be temporarily relocated to Parramatta Children's Court, Sydney West Trial Courts and courthouses in Bankstown, Hornsby and Ryde. The upgrade is due to be completed by June next year.

Improvements to Parramatta Courthouse will include:

- Videoconferencing/remote witness facilities in five courtrooms
- four additional holding cells
- five new non-contact interview rooms
- enhanced disability access
- new prisoner transfer lifts and stairs
- a new roof

Earlier this year, the \$330 million Parramatta Justice Precinct was completed on budget and ahead of schedule. The precinct features the largest children's courthouse in NSW, a high security trial court complex and a new headquarters for the Attorney General's Department.

"Western Sydney is growing faster than any other region in NSW and the lemma

Government is ensuring the area has the public facilities necessary to support its expansion," Mr Hatzistergos said.