



MEDIA RELEASE

**Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Justice**

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

NEW CEO APPOINTED TO LEGAL AID NSW

Attorney General John Hatzistergos today announced the appointment of Alan Kirkland as the new Chief Executive Officer of Legal Aid NSW.

Mr Hatzistergos said Mr Kirkland had demonstrated a strong personal commitment to ensuring disadvantaged people had access to legal services.

"I would like to congratulate Mr Kirkland on his appointment as CEO of Legal Aid NSW," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"His extensive knowledge of the law and management expertise will ensure Legal Aid remains in good hands."

Mr Kirkland is currently the Executive Director of the Australian Law Reform Commission and prior to that served as the Director of Community Access with the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care.

He has also been a member of the Community Services and Equal Opportunity Divisions of the NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal.

He holds a Master of Business Administration (Executive) from the Australian Graduate School of Management and a Bachelor of Arts/Law from the University of NSW.

As a former Director of Council of Social Service of NSW, Mr Kirkland has been involved in reforms related to older persons, homeless people, Aboriginal people and mental illness.

"I look forward to working with Mr Kirkland in order to maintain and improve access to legal aid for the most vulnerable members of the NSW community," Mr Hatzistergos said.

Mr Kirkland will commence his new role on 21 July 2008.

The NSW Government has significantly boosted the resources of Legal Aid NSW over the last 11 years, increasing funding from \$27.5 million in the 1996/1997 financial year to \$90.8 million in 2007/08. This represents an increase of a massive 230 per cent.

"This clearly demonstrates the Government's commitment to providing access to justice for everyone in NSW," Mr Hatzistergos said.

He also commended Acting CEO Steve O'Connor on his management over the last five months.

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