

MEDIA RELEASE

Paul Lynch MP
Shadow Attorney General
Shadow Minister for Justice



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The NSW State Opposition will not support legislative change to allow senior barristers in the State to be appointed as a ‘QC’.

“Amending legislation to allow barristers to be appointed QC’s or to revert from SC to QC will be opposed by Labor” said Shadow Attorney General Paul Lynch.

“Such an amendment would be wrong at a number of levels.”

“The conferral of the title suggests a connection with the monarch who must act on the advice of their ministers. Unlike some other Australian jurisdictions the Government in this State has no role in the appointment of Senior Counsel. The appointment of QC’s suggests otherwise.”

“Unless the Government has a role in their appointment, the creation of QC’s in NSW is wrong. I do not support the Government reclaiming a role in the appointment of Senior Counsel- and I’d be surprised if the profession did.”

“There is an almost Victorian nostalgia evident in the yearning for the title QC. With recent announcements about knights and dames, the bunyip aristocracy pilloried by Daniel Deniehy appears to want to make a comeback.”

“There seems little rational place for conferring titles like, Sir, Dame or QC in contemporary Australia.”

“The alleged competitive benefits that accrue to people titled ‘QC’ can be charitably described as minute.”

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