



Greg Smith SC MP

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MEDIA RELEASE

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POSITIVE ROLE FOR SOCIAL MEDIA AT COURT

The enormous community interest in the verdict in a Supreme Court case in Sydney today has shown the positive side of social media, Attorney General Greg Smith SC said today.

“Twitter provided an opportunity for people to be informed not just about a very tragic case which clearly captured the public imagination, but also about the justice process more broadly,” he said.

“Tweets have highlighted the thorough reasoning required from a judge and complimented the meticulous and considered fashion in which the decision was outlined.”

“This case, and its coverage in social and traditional media, offers the community a chance to engage with the court system and improve their understanding.”

Reports from the courtroom were coming in so regularly that the topic was trending on Twitter in Sydney, while the verdict was also widely reported in other media.

“We are often ready to criticise social media when they get it wrong in reporting on criminal matters, but from what I have seen today seems to have been a good example of broadly respectful and responsible reporting which helped educate the public.”

“There clearly is a role for all media to report accurately and fully, in a way that helps increase the public confidence in the justice system,” he said.

“I would also encourage anyone interested in reading the full verdict – and other court decisions – to visit the Caselaw website on www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au.”

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