



MEDIA RELEASE

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

12 December 2007

NEW PRIVACY COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCED

NSW is set to have a new Privacy Commissioner with the appointment of District Court Judge Ken Taylor to the state's top privacy office, Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

Mr Hatzistergos said Judge Taylor would serve a five year term commencing in January next year.

"I would like to congratulate Judge Taylor on this appointment and to recognise his ongoing contribution to law and justice in NSW," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"His appointment comes at a time with both the NSW and Australian Law Reform Commissions undertaking wide ranging inquiries into privacy," he said.

Mr Hatzistergos said that Judge Taylor's recent service at the Health Care Complaints Commission also provided unique experience on recent privacy challenges.

"Changes to laws relating to health records have increased the role and scope of the Privacy Commissioner," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"These changes have meant that individuals, public and private sector organisations can all be investigated as a result of a privacy complaint.

"Judge Taylor's background will be of assistance in conciliating and investigating these concerns, as well as other privacy disputes," he said.

Mr Hatzistergos also paid tribute to the current Acting Privacy Commissioner, Mr John Dickie who has held the position since September 2003.

"Mr Dickie has served with distinction in the role of Privacy Commissioner and I wish him well in the future," Mr Hatzistergos said.

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