



**ATTORNEY-GENERAL
THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND MP**

NEWS RELEASE

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AGREEMENT FOR NATIONAL SUPPRESSION ORDER REGISTER

Attorney-General Robert McClelland today welcomed in-principle support for a national register of suppression orders by his State and Territory colleagues at today's meeting of the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG).

"A national electronic register would reduce confusion, helping the media to serve the public's right to know, while reducing the risk of suppression orders being breached," Mr McClelland said.

"The Rudd Government is delivering on its election commitment to pursue reform in this area."

"A national approach would make it much easier for the media to find out whether a suppression order is in place for a particular court case and what jurisdictions would be affected."

The National Register will be subject to the development of a proper legal and administrative framework.

Attorneys also asked for proposals to be developed on greater harmonisation of suppression order laws.

"In the 21st century, the media should not have to negotiate a maze of different laws and procedures when they are reporting on court decisions from around Australia."

"A harmonised system for the granting, use and operation of suppression orders would help to avoid this."

SCAG will examine proposals for the national register and options for harmonisation at its next meeting in November.

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