

Sydney, Australia – 24 February 2011

NSW LIBERALS AND NATIONALS COMMIT TO REVIEW OF RECENT VICTIMS COMPENSATION

The NSW Liberals and National have committed to consult widely with stakeholders to review the efficacy of the recent changes to the NSW victim's compensation scheme.

In a response to the call from the Victims Compensation Coalition for wide consultation and a parliamentary enquiry into the recent changes to the NSW victim's compensation scheme, the NSW Liberals and Nationals released a joint Response on 22 February 2011 stating:

“Should the NSW Liberals & Nationals be elected to government on the 26th March 2011 we are prepared to review the efficacy of this amended legislation after a reasonable period of time has elapsed to ensure the Act is achieving its intended purpose. We would consult widely with stakeholders on any future review of the legislation.”

Mr Greg Smith MP, Shadow Attorney General and Ms Pru Goward, Shadow Minister for Women reaffirmed this commitment at the Victims Compensation Forum held at Parliament House yesterday. Mr David Shoebridge MLC, the Greens Justice Spokesperson and Parliamentary Leader of Family First NSW, Rev Dr Gordon Moyes also supported the review.

David Shoebridge MLC called for immediate reversal of the recent changes to the scheme.

Jemima Brewer, of Artemis Legal a solicitor who has acted for thousands of sexual assault victims and is a member of the Victims Compensation Coalition, said: “We welcome the commitment to review the legislation and to involve the victims, peak bodies and all stakeholders. However with each day that decisions are made at the Tribunal sexual assault victims are denied access to proper compensation. We urge the government to take immediate steps to implement the review and we will maintain our campaign for a parliamentary enquiry.”

Ms Brewer said; “The forum at Parliament House yesterday was well attended by victims and peak bodies assisting survivors of sexual abuse. It was an opportunity for the NSW Liberals to begin to hear how important the issue of compensation is for the victims of sexual abuse in NSW. We are looking forward to working with the government after the election to ensure that the voices of

sexual assault victims are heard when planning for the changes to the victim's compensation scheme and any implementation."

FOR MEDIA COMMENT

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The Victims Compensation Coalition is a group of concerned organisations who work on a daily basis with those affected by the changes to victim's compensation legislation.

<http://victimscompensation.wordpress.com/>



Victims
compensation
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