



MEDIA RELEASE

Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Citizenship
Minister for Regulatory Reform

Thursday April 1, 2010

FIRST INFORMATION COMMISSIONER FOR NSW

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos today recommended to a joint parliamentary committee the appointment of Deirdre O'Donnell as the state's first Information Commissioner.

"The role of the Information Commissioner is to maintain transparency and accountability in government agencies, which is something Ms O'Donnell has helped to achieve in other parts of Australia during her distinguished career," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The appointment of the state's first Information Commissioner demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to open and accountable government."

Ms O'Donnell served as State Ombudsman in Western Australia between 2002 and 2007, before being appointed as Australia's Telecommunications Ombudsman in 2007.

In 2008, she was awarded a Public Service medal as part of the Australia Day Honours awards for her work as the Western Australia Ombudsman.

"Ms O'Donnell has a reputation for independence, fairness and accountability and I have no hesitation in recommending her appointment as NSW Information Commissioner," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"She is a highly respected investigator with more than a decade of experience in investigating corporate and government compliance."

The appointment needs to be considered and endorsed by a joint parliamentary committee before it is officially made by the NSW Governor, Her Excellency Marie Bashir.

The Office of the Information Commissioner was created last year as part of far-reaching reforms to freedom of information laws designed to make the NSW Government the most open and accessible Government in Australia.

The Government intends to bring the Privacy Commissioner and the Information Commissioner within a single office as part of the future reform of privacy legislation.

Media contact: Adam Bell 0448 302 533