



# Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General  
Minister for Justice

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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**23 September 2011**

### **SENTENCING LAWS TO BE REVIEWED**

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today announced the NSW Law Reform Commission would examine sentencing laws to ensure courts have adequate options when dealing with offenders.

Mr Smith said he also wanted the Commission to look at ways that decisions could be better explained.

“This announcement reflects the Government’s election commitment to review sentencing legislation,” Mr Smith said.

“I have asked the Commission to review the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* and, in particular, to look at simplifying the law and providing a consistent and transparent framework for sentencing decisions.

“We need to encourage the use of more non-custodial and community-based sentences as a viable alternative to full-time incarceration for less serious offences,” Mr Smith said.

The Government is committed to investing money and resources in diversionary programs and breaking a cycle in which more than 40 per cent of all NSW criminals reoffend after leaving prison.

The Attorney General has asked the Law Reform Commission to consult closely with the Sentencing Council.

“The Sentencing Council has considerable knowledge and experience in sentencing laws, and I want to make sure the Law Reform Commission takes full advantage of its expertise,” Mr Smith said.

The Review will be led by the Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission, the Hon James Wood AO QC, who is also deputy Chairperson of the Sentencing Council.

The Commission has been asked to report by the end of October 2012. The Commission will undertake extensive consultation in the course of developing its recommendations. More information and the terms of reference are available from [www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lrc)