

Media Release

NSW Legislative Council

Portfolio Committee 5 – Justice and Communities



7 July 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE HANDS DOWN ITS REPORT FOR THE INQUIRY INTO IDENTITY PROTECTIONS FOR PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING CHILDREN

An Upper House committee has today handed down its report into identity protections for proceedings involving children. The inquiry was established to examine whether the identity protections regime for children in New South Wales remains fit for purpose.

Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities, Hon Robert Borsak MLC said: 'The committee is reassured by evidence that the system for protecting children's identities is generally working well, but recognises that steps could be taken to improve its effectiveness. We support the Law Reform Commission's proposal to clarify terminology in the legislation regarding "information tending to identify" a person. We also recommend that the NSW Government extend the prohibition on disclosure to pre-trial stages and urge the Minister for Police to implement relevant training for the NSW Police Force.'

The Chair continued: 'An important focus of our inquiry is a case study involving the disclosure of a young person's name to the media and the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Sally Dowling SC, and her office in the matter. Notwithstanding that a breach of the relevant legislation was not established, this inquiry has highlighted that the disclosure by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to the media should never have occurred. The committee majority is highly critical of Ms Dowling's role in relation to many aspects of the case study. Certain members of the committee, including myself, were frustrated by Ms Dowling's perceived failure to cooperate fully with the committee's attempts to understand the relevant facts.'

'The committee has made several findings and recommendations relating to Ms Dowling's conduct and the operation of her office that are designed to prevent such disclosures from ever happening again', the Chair concluded.

The inquiry received 8 submissions and held four hearings at Parliament House. Details concerning the inquiry, and a copy of the final report, can be found on the inquiry [webpage](#).

For more information, please contact:



Hon Robert Borsak MLC, Committee Chair



02 9230 2753



Portfoliocommittee5@parliament.nsw.gov.au