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MINISTER FOR FINANCE
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M E D I A R E L E A S E

Performers to get better deal

July 5, 2009

Regulatory Reform Minister Joe Tripodi today called on actors, musicians, models, dancers and other performers in NSW to have their say in an important industry review.

“A review by the NSW Better Regulation Office has found that the existing licensing scheme is not protecting performers in the entertainment industry and just creating red tape,” Mr Tripodi said.

“We want to make sure performers are getting a fair go and that agents and managers are following the rules.

“The NSW Government has long been a supporter of the arts and we want to encourage our own local talents to make the most of this exciting industry.”

The Better Regulation Office and the Office of Industrial Relations have released an Options Paper that seeks to identify alternative ways to regulate the industry and cut unnecessary red tape.

The review aims to ensure that effective protections for performers are in place once licensing requirements are removed.

The NSW Government regulates agents, managers and venue consultants through the *Entertainment Industry Act 1989*. NSW is the only state that currently requires representatives to be licensed.

Separate to licensing, there are rules around how much commission representatives can charge performers, how they handle money on behalf of performers, and what records must be kept.

“Performers and their managers have a unique commercial relationship, and a number of factors make employment in the entertainment industry a different playing field to more conventional industries.

“The entertainment industry employs thousands of people in NSW and generates economic activity worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

“This is a key employment industry for NSW and we need to get the regulatory framework right so it remains fair and vibrant,” Mr Tripodi said.

“While industry representatives have a vital role in finding work for clients, safeguards are needed to ensure that our talented actors, musicians and other performers don’t get a raw deal.”

The Options Paper is available at www.betterregulation.nsw.gov.au or www.industrialrelations.nsw.gov.au.

Interested persons are encouraged to submit written comments by August 3 2009.