



# Hon Greg Smith SC MP

Attorney General  
Minister for Justice

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

1 March 2012

### HOTLINE TO TACKLE GRAFFITI MENACE

The NSW Attorney General, Greg Smith SC, today launched a free State-wide hotline for the reporting of graffiti.

“Graffiti is a scourge on our community and the cause of great anger for people who take pride in their surroundings,” Mr Smith said

“Until now there has been no single number to notify authorities about graffiti, which has caused confusion and delays in removal.

“From this morning, the NSW Graffiti Hotline will make it easier to report graffiti in NSW, which will result in faster clean ups.”

The hotline (free call **1800 707 125**) will operate from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Each Local Government area in NSW has established an email address to receive referrals from the Graffiti Hotline and police will also be given the data.

“Anyone can phone the hotline to report graffiti in NSW and callers can remain anonymous if they are concerned for their privacy and safety,” Mr Smith said.

“After receiving a report, hotline operators will send the information to the Government agency or local council responsible for cleaning it up.”

The O’Farrell Government has also funded clean-up squads run by Rotary and other community groups and is working with local councils on reducing graffiti.

The Graffiti Hotline will provide the O’Farrell Government with important statistics on the extent of the graffiti problem and those locations most often under attack.

“Information gathered from the hotline will help police respond to graffiti and assist in the development of innovative programs to prevent this crime,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the hotline delivered on an election promise and would form a key part of the NSW Government’s strategy to reduce the impact of graffiti on local communities.

“Each year, graffiti attacks cost the state more than \$100 million, and State Rail alone spends more than \$50 million alone cleaning up trains,” Mr Smith said.

“This is money that the government would prefer to be spending on our schools, libraries and roads.

“The perpetrators might like to think of themselves as artists, but they are really vandals who show no respect for other people’s property.

“The rapid removal of unsightly tags will discourage vandals by denying them the notoriety they crave.

“It will also help build community pride and reduce fear of crime.”