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MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE ICE DEALERS FACE LIFE UNDER TOUGH NEW LAWS

Ice manufacturers and dealers have been put on notice that they now face the increased prospect of life behind bars from Tuesday 1 September, Attorney General Gabrielle Upton and Assistant Minister for Health Pru Goward announced today.

The NSW Government has delivered on a key election promise to halve the threshold required to charge people with manufacturing or supplying large commercial quantities of Methylamphetamine or ice, from 1 kilogram to 500 grams.

Ms Upton said the NSW Government was taking decisive action to meet community expectations and ensure the most serious ice manufacturers and dealers are brought to justice.

“Drug manufacturers and dealers, particularly those involved in ice, profit from the misery and misfortune of others. We believe serious drug manufacturers and dealers spreading this poison throughout the community must be held to higher account,” Ms Upton said.

“Put simply, halving the threshold will mean more serious ice manufacturers and dealers will face the prospect of life behind bars.”

Under the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 all amphetamines, including ice, are prohibited. Charges of manufacture and supply of these drugs carry terms of up to life imprisonment.

The changes come into effect from Tuesday 1 September, 2015. From that date, anyone found manufacturing or in possession for the purposes of supply of a quantity of ice of or above 500 grams will be charged with an offence which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, rather than the 20 years previously available.

Ms Goward said the NSW Government recognises the need to focus on earlier detection and expanding treatment services for people trying to get clean from this life destroying drug before addiction takes hold.

“Our \$11 million investment will deliver more targeted services that keep people off ice and out of emergency rooms,” Ms Goward said.