



Media Release
4 May 2007

Justice For Youbert

The NSW Taxi Council today supported NSW Government calls for an appeal on the leniency of the sentence awarded to two 14 year old girls who killed taxi driver Youbert Hormozi.

“I support the concept of compassion and I appreciate that justice is not about revenge, but the sentence seems insultingly inadequate for what was an act of cowardice and bastardry,” said Mr Howard Harrison, CEO of the NSW Taxi Council.

Youbert died of a heart attack after being bashed and left for dead by the girls, who during a drinking and drugs binge targeted him late on the night of 31 January 2006. Justice McClellan sentenced both girls to a maximum jail term of six years and ordered they serve at least three-and-a-half years behind bars. With time already served, the girls will be eligible for parole in August 2009.

“I can not comprehend why it is so difficult to convince the Judiciary to take a hardline approach and send a message to the community that harming a taxi driver is a serious crime not a misdemeanor,” said Mr Harrison.

“Several years ago the NSW Government included taxi drivers in specific legislation to increase the sentence of those found guilty of criminal offences against public servants. The legislation has only been tested a couple of times, but on each occasion there appears to be yet another excuse why it should not be applied by the Judiciary.

“Out of respect for our colleague Youbert, we support the NSW Government’s inquiry into the verdict and hope that justice will become a fairer concept as a result.”

Media Contact: Tracey Cain on 0411 644 999.