

Nicola Roxon MP  
Shadow Attorney-General  
Shadow Minister Assisting the Leader on the Status of Women

Media Release

### **Labor to review Freedom of Information Act**

Federal Labor will review the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, the Shadow Attorney-General, Nicola Roxon announced today.

Ms Roxon said that the Howard Government had ignored the spirit and purpose of the current law, and that Labor would look at strengthening and expanding the operation of the current Act.

"Public scrutiny of government is essential to any vibrant and dynamic democracy," Ms Roxon said.

The Howard Government has become addicted to cover-ups, and has repeatedly rejected requests from information about core areas of government service provision including the first-home buyers scheme, bracket creep and government contracts.

Labor intends to reform the FOI laws so the public has all the information it is entitled to, and can judge their government's performance with all the facts.

Labor is reviewing all areas of the current FOI regime including (but not limited to):

- ... The breadth of the public interest test
- ... The growing use of the commercial-in-confidence exemption
- ... Implications of new technology
- ... The use of conclusive certificates

"We commence consultations today to assess where the biggest problems currently lie, and how we can fix them," Ms Roxon said.

Anyone interested in making a submission should address it in writing to:

The Office of Nicola Roxon MP  
Shadow Attorney-General  
204 Nicholson Street  
Footscray VIC 3011  
Email: [nicola@nicolaroxonmp.com.au](mailto:nicola@nicolaroxonmp.com.au)

Submissions close Tuesday 16 March 2004.