PETITION SEEKING THE RELEASE OF KYLIE HOPE FITTER

To the Honourable the President and Members of the **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL** of New South Wales in Parliament Assembled: The petitioners and citizens of New South Wales humbly request that the Legislative Council observe the following facts:

a) On 22 August 2002 Kylie Hope Fitter (aged 15 years) was found not guilty of the murder of her mother, Fiona Ellen Fitter, by reason of mental illness. While under the psychotic influence of her father and older brother, Ms Fitter was drawn into events that led to the death of her mother on 16 October 2001.
b) Ms Fitter did not inflict any injury on her mother and was found by the presiding judge to have been suffering from a *temporary shared delusional state.* That state caused Ms Fitter to lose the capacity to discern reality from unreality as she complied with her father's order to hold her mother as he and his son inflicted fatal wounds.
c) Ms Fitter was ordered by the judge to be detained at Yasmar Juvenile Justice Centre until the Minister for Health saw fit to release her, having received recommendations to that effect from the Mental Health Review Tribunal.
d) Several months after being detained, Ms Fitter's delusional state lifted. Though continuing to suffer from post-traumatic stress and depression for some time, after two years in detention, Ms Fitter was found by her treating psychiatrists to be free from any psychiatric indications whatsoever. That was in 2003.
e) Since early 2004, the Mental Health Review Tribunal has recommended four times to successive Ministers for Health that Ms Fitter be granted conditional release. However, Ms Fitter remains incarcerated in Juniperina Juvenile Justice Centre where she has maintained a stable and excellent profile for nearly 3 years.

And your petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Council urge the Minister for Health and the Minister for Health (Mental Health), to approve and adopt the recommendation of the Mental Health Review Tribunal to release Ms Fitter, and as in duty bound, will ever pray.

NAME (PRINTED)	**ADDRESS** *Give your full home address*	**SIGNATURE** *Sign your own name. Do not print.*

SIGNATURES ON FRONT ONLY

Please return all completed petitions to Bob and Jan Johnston (Ms Fitter's carers):
44A Plateau Parade Blaxland NSW 2774