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MEDIA RELEASE

General Meetings report released today

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Ombudsman, the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission today tabled its report on the *2013 General Meetings* with the following agencies: The Police Integrity Commission, the Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission, the NSW Crime Commission, the Information and Privacy Commission, the NSW Ombudsman, and the Child Death Review Team.

‘Over the course of conducting our general meetings, the Committee heard about issues that are common to several of the agencies it oversees,’ said Committee Chair, the Hon Catherine Cusack MLC. ‘These include matters relating to complaints handling, compliance obligations and relationship management between agencies.’

‘With regard to relationships between the agencies, the Committee discussed the history of litigation between the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission. In light of this history the Committee has made recommendations around the need to review the *Premiers Guidelines for Litigation involving Government Authorities: M1997-26*. The Committee also made recommendations around the need to develop clear protocols between the Police Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission, as well as the Police Integrity Commission and the Crime Commission, in order to clarify the responsibilities of each agency as well as providing frameworks for alternatives to litigation.’

Ms Cusack explained that ‘The Committee is keen to increase its effectiveness in monitoring the agencies it is responsible for, and this year is the first time the General Meetings reports from each agency have been consolidated into one. The Committee hopes that this will provide an effective overview of all the agencies and their work, while also allowing for common issues to be identified and discussed.’

‘The agencies overseen by the Committee have total financial resources worth \$71.151 million and 463 staff. This includes \$19.285 million allocated to the operational work carried out by the Crime Commission with its 108 staff. These figures highlight the importance of the agencies we oversee in contributing to the integrity of the NSW public sector and the Committee looks forward to continuing to work with these agencies to review and improve both our own and their effectiveness’, Ms Cusack said.

A copy of the report may be downloaded from www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ombudsmanpic.

For further comment please contact The Hon Catherine Cusack MLC, on 02 9230 2915.