

Executive Summary

The Committee held General Meetings on 22 February 2013 with the Police Integrity Commission, the Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission, the NSW Crime Commission, the Information and Privacy Commission, the Ombudsman and the Child Death Review Team. The Committee has decided to cover the evidence received from all agencies in a single report, so that thematic and overlapping issues are more easily identified.

Chapter One introduces some key themes and common challenges facing the agencies oversighted by the Committee. These include the compliance obligations of small agencies, examples of IT and database challenges, and general resourcing and staffing matters. The chapter also looks at an unresolved area of concern in relation to the management of complaints about the Crime Commission, which involves both the Police Integrity Commission and the new Inspector of the Crime Commission.

Chapter Two covers the Police Integrity Commission (PIC) and discusses critical incident investigations; handling and assessment of complaints; and relationships with other bodies (the Crime Commission, the Inspector of the PIC and Inspector of the Crime Commission).

Chapter Three looks at the work of the Inspector of the Police Integrity Commission, including the Taskforce Emblems matter; the relationship between the PIC and Inspector of the PIC; and communication with other agencies and key personnel.

Chapter Four covers evidence taken from the NSW Crime Commission, including overview of the new structure of the Commission under its modernised legislation; relationships with the Police Integrity Commission and the NSW Police Force; the Commission's involvement in investigations of recent shootings; audits; and confiscation work.

Chapter Five discusses the Information and Privacy Commission and covers issues including the experiences and challenges since the merger of the Information Commission and the Privacy Commission; relationships with external practitioners of information and privacy policy; challenges to privacy raised by technology; and issues experienced by local councils on privacy and information policy.

Chapter Six looks at the Ombudsman's Office and discusses Operation Prospect; oversight of custodial environments; the use of Tasers by the NSW Police Force; child protection issues; and the management of asbestos.

Chapter Seven covers the current work and future projects of the Child Death Review Team and includes a discussion of IT and database difficulties the Team has encountered.

Chapter Eight provides financial resourcing and staffing information for each agency over 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Chapter Nine looks at two oversight matters of continuing interest to the Committee—the issue of integrity checks on affidavits supporting warrants for the use of surveillance devices, and confidential settlements.

* All references to Committee documents can be found on the Committee website at: <http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/ombudsmanpic>.