



MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE

**Embargoed until 11am Thursday 4 November 2010**

## NSW Ombudsman **Reviews of child deaths in NSW**

The Ombudsman tabled a special report to Parliament today entitled *Unresolved Issues in the transfer of the NSW Child Death Review Team to the Office of the NSW Ombudsman*.

Following on from a recommendation made by Justice Wood's 2008 Inquiry into Child Protection Services in NSW, the *Children Legislation Amendment (Wood Inquiry Recommendations) Act 2009* provided for the transfer of responsibility for coordinating the Child Death Review Team from the Commission for Children and Young People to the Ombudsman's office. Parliament passed this Act in April 2009.

This transfer has as yet not occurred.

**'From the time Parliament passed the Wood Act, I have been actively working to achieve the resources and legislative framework that my office needs to make sure reviews of child deaths in this state are conducted properly and effectively'** Mr Barbour said. **'To this end, last year I raised with government a range of legislative problems. I advised government that, if enacted, some parts of the legislation would significantly impact on the independence of my office, and some would create confusion and duplication in undertaking this important work. I proposed a range of practical and simple amendments that would resolve these problems and anomalies and properly put into effect the more unified system Justice Wood recommended.'**

**'Up until this point, I have raised my concerns directly with the government, and I have tried to negotiate these issues for over a year'** said the Ombudsman. **'However, as all the necessary changes have still not been made, I believe it is important that I bring this matter to the attention of Parliament.'**

**'The government's failure to effectively address the very clear problems I have identified raises questions about its commitment to a complementary and unified approach to the review of child deaths in NSW.'**