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## **Ombudsman critical of police investigation into the death of Brazilian student**

The NSW Ombudsman, Bruce Barbour, has today tabled a special report in Parliament on his office's monitoring of the police investigation into the death of Roberto Laudisio-Curti. The report details how police investigated Mr Laudisio-Curti's death in the lead up to the coronial inquest and outlines a number of inadequacies or failings with the police investigation into the conduct of the involved police officers and other systemic issues. The respective roles of the Ombudsman and Coroner are set out in the report.

Mr Barbour said, **'The police investigation into the death of Mr Laudisio-Curti failed to adequately identify and deal with the question of whether there was any police misconduct.'** The report identifies deficiencies with the police investigation including:

- failure to comply with established police procedures for conducting critical incident investigations
- failure to effectively examine the lawfulness of the actions of the involved police officers
- failure to properly analyse each use of force to determine whether each use complied with the law and police operating procedures.

The Ombudsman has made recommendations aimed at strengthening police guidelines to ensure all relevant evidence is gathered during future critical incident investigations and to make it clear that any identified misconduct or systemic issues can and should be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

**'The report also highlights why independent civilian oversight of police critical incident investigations is so important'** Mr Barbour said. **'The changes I have recommended are essential to ensuring that the public can have complete confidence in critical incident investigations.'**

The Ombudsman noted that, **'Currently my office can only monitor a police critical incident investigation if a complaint is made about police conduct. Because of this, I have recommended a mandatory notification scheme be introduced. The scheme would require police to immediately notify my office of all incidents involving the death or serious injury of persons during policing activities. The scheme would also require my office to determine whether it is in the public interest to oversight the police investigation.'**

As matters associated with this investigation are now the subject of review by the Police Integrity Commission, the Ombudsman will not be making any further public comment on this report.

The full report is available on the Ombudsman website: [www.ombo.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au).