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Ombudsman report highlights needs for single oversight body

The Police Association of NSW today slammed the Ombudsman's report, which criticises the highly skilled, independent investigative team working on the recent Laudicio Curti case.

The NSW Police Force's Critical Investigation Team was working under the direction and control of the Coroner, who in fact praised their work in what was a very difficult and complex case.

The Coroner commented "**strongly**" that the Police Officers "**demonstrated a skill and lack of bias, in my view, in a painstaking and distressing situation. I thank them for a job well done under various pressures, including those of time.**"

Other legal Counsel who appeared before the Inquest, including Senior Counsel who represented the family of the deceased, complimented the thoroughness of the investigation.

The Critical Investigation Team in question is an elite, highly skilled, independent team with a proven track record of top quality investigative work.

It is entirely inappropriate for the Ombudsman to have any role in directing police investigators who are already operating under the direction of the Coroner.

Police welcome oversight and transparency, however having multiple oversight bodies leads to unnecessary confusion and uncertainty.

When these agencies are engaged in a turf war, with police in the middle, it is a recipe for disaster.

This report highlights the need for the Government to act to rationalise the oversight bodies. NSW simply can't afford multiple agencies - the ICAC seems to be the logical answer for a single, comprehensive, oversight body.

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PRESS RELEASE