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Tuesday November 6, 2007

Ombudsman announces immediate investigation into child death

The NSW Ombudsman, Bruce Barbour has commenced an immediate inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of a seven year old girl in the Lower Hunter region on Saturday, 3rd November.

Reports in The Newcastle Herald state that the child appears to have died from starvation and dehydration. It is alleged that the girl and her family have been known to the Department of Community Services for some time.

While the NSW Police Force is conducting its own inquiry, the office of the Ombudsman will review and investigate the adequacy of responses by all relevant agencies to any child protection concerns relating to the child and her family.

‘We will pursue all necessary avenues of enquiry’, said Mr Barbour, **‘to ensure a thorough and proper examination of the circumstances leading to the tragic death of this child.’**