

Ombudsman report on the *Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000*

The Ombudsman's May 2005 report on the Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000 was tabled in Parliament today. The Act established a Child Protection Register in NSW Police with key information about people convicted of offences against children, including their address, employment and motor vehicle details.

“The implementation of the Child Protection Register by NSW Police has been largely successful. It is a significant measure to increase the safety of children in our community,” said Ombudsman Bruce Barbour.

During the 2 year Ombudsman review of the Register, which ended in October 2003:

- 916 persons had registered with NSW Police
- 98% of those persons registered at the end of the review were male
- 54 persons were charged with 60 offences for failing to comply with reporting obligations. 10 matters resulted in imprisonment for periods of up to 15 months.

By November 2004, more than 1650 persons were on the Register.

The report supports amendments made since the commencement of the Act, especially those requiring annual re-registration and additional information about the registered person's contact with children.

One aspect of police practice requiring improvement is the management of high risk offenders. **“I have called on police to establish minimum standards to monitor and manage registered persons. I have also encouraged police to target their energies towards monitoring those registered persons who pose the greatest risk to children in the community. High risk offenders should not be able to evade police monitoring simply by moving from area to area,”** Mr Barbour said.