

**Monday 8 October 2012**

NSW Ombudsman  
**Media statement**

The NSW Ombudsman will be conducting an investigation into allegations of improper and/or unlawful conduct by officers involved in Operations Mascot and Florida, and associated matters.

The agencies involved in these operations were the NSW Police Force, the NSW Crime Commission and the Police Integrity Commission. Many of these allegations were subject of an internal police inquiry known as Strike Force Emblems.

The NSW Ombudsman has extensive Royal Commission powers. We are able to require the production of documents and information and compel witnesses to attend and give evidence at hearings. Amendments to legislation will ensure unhindered access to critical documents and witnesses, and if any other statutory impediments to the investigation are identified, the Government has committed to addressing these.

This will be a significant, complex and extensive investigation, and will involve both historical and contemporary matters. We will be provided with additional funding to establish a highly experienced and specialised team to conduct this investigation.

This investigation will not detract from the other important work of our office, including our oversight of the police complaints system.

Bruce Barbour  
**Ombudsman**