

MEDIA STATEMENT



Media Contact: Rachel Edwards

Mobile: 0450 965 401

Email: rachel.edwards@audit.wa.gov.au

9 November 2011

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT DELIVERS MIXED RESULTS

The Auditor General's annual financial Audit Results Report – covering 160 audit opinions and 88 certifications – tabled in Parliament today, shows some important signs of improvement, however some areas of concern remain.

Acting Auditor General Glen Clarke, said overall agencies had improved their annual financial reporting for 2010-11, with more than half the agencies now rated as 'better practice' for their financial reporting and controls.

"Encouragingly, significant 'financial control deficiencies' fell 20 per cent and significant and moderate 'information system control' weaknesses fell 12 per cent," Mr Clarke said.

Six agencies received qualified opinions on one or more issues relating to financial statements, controls and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department for Communities, the Legal Contribution Trust, the WA Country Health Service, the WA Land Information Authority and the Metropolitan Public Hospitals.

Mr Clarke said an area of concern was the increase in KPI deficiencies with 79 deficiencies reported this year compared to 45 last year. Most of the issues identified were around relevance to the agency's outcomes, and the collection of data.

"This increase was partly a result of putting a greater focus onto KPIs this year but given these results and the importance of KPIs in ensuring transparency and accountability, we will continue this focus on KPIs in 2011-12."

An ongoing issue again identified in this latest report is the lengthy delay in the tabling of annual Statements of Corporate Intent (SCIs) of government corporations. SCIs are an important accountability document and are required by legislation.

At 30 September 2011, the SCIs of 11 of the 23 agencies had not been tabled by the responsible Minister.

"Parliament and the community need to know the State's finances are well managed and I expect all agencies to take note and act on the findings of this report," Mr Clarke said.

The complete Audit Results Report: Annual 2010-11 Assurance Audits can be downloaded from the Office of the Auditor General website at www.audit.wa.gov.au

ENDS