Information Systems Audit Report

Background

The Information Systems Audit Report summarises the results of the 2013 annual cycle of audits as well as other work completed by the Information Systems group over the course of the financial year. This year the report contains four items:

- Identity Access Management Project at the Department of Health

- Cloud Computing Management

- Application Controls Audits

- General Computer Controls and Capability Assessments of Agencies

Identity Access Management Project

The Identity Access Management Project was one of a number of concurrent and interrelated projects planned to deliver a near paperless environment at the Fiona Stanley Hospital. In late 2013 the Acting Director General of the Department of Health informed us of difficulties experienced with the project and requested an audit.

The reasons why ICT projects run significantly over budget and over time were evident in the Identity Access Management Project. Project planning was deficient and governance and oversight including monitoring of progress was inadequate. Critical technical dependencies and difficulties that threatened the feasibility of the project were not identified in a timely manner. Risks and issues were not elevated to the appropriate levels of management to be actioned.

Cloud Computing Management

The objective of this audit was to assess whether a sample of five agencies were effectively managing their cloud computing arrangements. We also examined the extent to which agency data was

being held offshore under the cloud arrangement and whether there were appropriate controls to protect data sovereignty and security.

None of the five agencies could demonstrate effective management across all of the key areas relating to their implementation of a cloud based service with a consequent risk to the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.

Application Controls Audits

We reviewed key business applications across three agencies. All of the applications allowed the agencies to adequately manage those aspects of their business. However, we identified control weaknesses in each agency that warranted action being taken to address risks to data integrity and confidentiality.

General Computer Controls and Capability Assessments of Agencies

We conducted general computer controls audits at 54 agencies and did capability assessments at 42. This is the sixth year we have been assessing agencies against globally recognised good practice.

We reported 455 general computer controls issues to the 54 agencies audited in 2013.

From the 42 agencies that had capability assessments conducted only eight were meeting our expectations for managing their environments effectively. More than half of the agencies were not meeting our benchmark expectations in three or more categories. Nevertheless, the overall result was a slight improvement on the prior year.

Management of Changes and Physical Security were being managed effectively by most agencies, but the Management of IT Risks, Information security, Business continuity and IT Operations need much greater focus.