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AUDITOR GENERAL FINDS IMPORTANT LESSONS FOR ALL AGENCIES FROM FIONA STANLEY IT PROJECT

The stalled Identity Access Management (IAM) project that has cost \$6 million to date has added to the problems at Fiona Stanley Hospital, according to a report released today by the Auditor General Colin Murphy.

Mr Murphy said that while the IAM project was just one of several key information technology projects being carried out across Health, it would be a concern if it indicated a more widespread approach to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) project management.

“While I compliment the Acting Director General of Health for requesting this audit, I was concerned about the excessive delays and that the costs to date may realise no benefit.”

“As I have highlighted in the past, agencies often have difficulty in successfully delivering ICT projects, and this report contains some very important lessons for all agencies.”

“Unless we get better at bringing in ICT projects on time and budget, the state will continue to spend millions more than necessary,” he cautioned.

In a separate section of the report, the Auditor General examined the use of cloud computing, which is not a new technology, rather a new business model for delivering ICT resources.

“With more government agencies investigating the use of cloud computing, this report ought to serve as a timely reminder that agencies should understand and address the risks and the costs and benefits associated.”

The last item in the report contains the Auditor General's findings on his annual general computer controls audits which found a slight improvement across agencies overall when compared with last year.

There was a concern however that only around 40 per cent of agencies were achieving the benchmark for information security.

“It is disappointing to see that focusing on the fundamental controls is often overlooked, and I encourage all agencies to consider the recommendations throughout my report to improve their ICT projects.”

The Auditor General's report *'Information Systems Audit Report'* (Report 14 – June 2014) can be downloaded from the Office of the Auditor General website at www.audit.wa.gov.au

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