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## **Auditor General finds access to methamphetamine treatment has improved, but performance data needs to be better used to realise more benefits**

Western Australia's Auditor General, Caroline Spencer, has presented a report to Parliament today about [Treatment Services for People with Methamphetamine Dependence](#).

The report details an Office of the Auditor General audit into the availability, accessibility, and effectiveness of treatment services for people with methamphetamine dependency, and it has found the Mental Health Commission is making strong progress delivering on the Government's [WA Methamphetamine Strategy](#) and plan.

The Mental Health Commission engages 41 service providers through 115 contracts to deliver services to those seeking alcohol or drug treatment.

As part of the [WA Methamphetamine Strategy](#), the Mental Health Commission has successfully contract managed the delivery of an extra 60 rehabilitation and withdrawal beds and 13 community alcohol and drug service staff to the existing network of drug and alcohol services.

The additional beds and staff were allocated to areas in WA based on a needs assessment and this has already increased access and uptake of treatment services by people living with methamphetamine dependency.

However, the audit also revealed that in order for treatment services to be effectively delivered when and where people need them, the Mental Health Commission needs to make better use of its performance data.

The Mental Health Commission is yet to conduct a comparative assessment of its service providers to understand what services are most effective for people with methamphetamine dependency, and to determine which contracts give best value for money.

'Differences in the way service providers report their performance data to the Mental Health Commission makes it hard to measure if client needs are being met or how effective each treatment program is. I have made a number of recommendations in the report to help improve these areas, and to provide additional assurance that services are efficiently and effectively delivered,' Ms Spencer said.

'This report provides valuable insight for Parliament and Government into the current availability, accessibility and effectiveness of treatment services, as they consider further action to tackle methamphetamine dependency,' she said.

The Office of the Auditor General also presented an *Opinions on Ministerial Notifications (report 11)* in Parliament today, and it reviews that reviews decisions made by Ministers not to provide information to Parliament.

*Opinions on Ministerial Notifications* assesses decisions by the Premier, and the Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food, not to provide information to Parliament about government agency targets for the Voluntary Targeted Separation Scheme. The report also looks into a decision by the Minister for Police not to provide information to Parliament about the WA Police Force's full time equivalent reduction to meet forward estimate targets.



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