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Auditor General completes review of SafeWA application

The Auditor General today tabled in Parliament the [SafeWA – Application Audit](#) report.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said the audit examined the controls over the contact registration system to gain assurance that the integrity, availability and confidentiality of information generated by or stored on SafeWA and related systems was appropriate.

Ms Spencer said while WA Health successfully delivered the SafeWA contact registration system under significant time pressure, the audit found that personal information collected through SafeWA was used for purposes other than COVID-19 public health contact tracing.

During the audit, the State Government introduced legislation to prevent this happening in the future and to align with the publicly stated purpose that data is only being used for COVID-19 contact tracing.

WA Health has addressed weaknesses identified in SafeWA related to log retention and change management and in the front-end web application (used by WA Health contact tracers and the developer's helpdesk staff) which had a weak password policy and inconsistent use of multi-factor authentication.

Ms Spencer said people expect that their information collected through SafeWA, and other government systems, is safe and used in line with stated objectives.

'There is limited public information about the access and use of information collected by other government entities as part of contact tracing efforts.

'Transparency around the use of personal information improves public awareness and trust in government processes and will go a long way to ensure the success of contact tracing or other systems,' Ms Spencer said.

The PHOCUS system, which aggregates multiple sources of information for contract tracing, including SafeWA venue registration data, will be examined in a separate audit.

Report resources

- [PDF version](#)
- [summary video](#)