



Media contact: Natasha Farrell

Mobile: 0427 953 993

Email: natasha.farrell@audit.wa.gov.au

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Generally sound public school review system to help schools self-reflect

The Auditor General's report, [*Effectiveness of Public School Reviews*](#), tabled in Parliament today.

The audit assessed if the Department of Education's public school review (PSR) process provides an effective basis for oversight of school performance and supporting school improvement.

The PSR process is a key part of the Department's oversight toolkit using a three-year cycle of review.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said while there are improvements that could be made to how the PSRs are managed and the support that schools receive after a review, my Office found that the Department has designed and implemented a generally sound way to help schools self-reflect and identify areas for improvement.

'My team observed sincere dedication and effort (by both departmental PSR staff and principals engaged as peer reviewers in the process) to help schools assess their own performance and make changes for the benefit of their students,' Ms Spencer said.

As PSRs are only one part of a broader oversight system, it is important that the role of PSRs is not overstated and that expectations are managed accordingly among stakeholders.

Ms Spencer said there was an opportunity for the Department to better support schools to address shortcomings identified in the PSRs and to better use the information in examining performance across the education system.

'I am pleased that the Department has accepted all recommendations from this audit to better support schools to meet the needs of their students and communities,' Ms Spencer said.

Report resources

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