



Media contact: Natasha Farrell

Mobile: 0427 953 993

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

30 June 2023

Unresolved audit issues need addressing

Today, the Auditor General tabled in Parliament the results of the 2022 tertiary sector financial audits and the remaining results from the 2021-22 State sector audits.

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said we issued clear opinions for all the universities and TAFEs on their financial statements, controls and key performance indicators.

‘Although, of concern is the continuing increase in control weaknesses, of which 39% financial and management and 59% information systems control weaknesses remain unresolved from previous years,’ Ms Spencer said.

‘During the 2021-22 State sector audits we took the unprecedented step of withdrawing from the financial audits of some entities who were not audit ready.

‘From these nine entities there were an additional 10 qualification matters, 67 control weaknesses (with 23 rated as significant) and \$614.9 million of adjusted and \$16.5 million of unadjusted audit differences.

‘This means that the final results for the State sector are stark, with 45 qualification matters identified at 25 entities, a record for the State.

‘The increase in audit qualification matters is due, in part, to failures by entities to resolve audit findings related to financial management and information system control weaknesses, many unresolved from the prior year.

‘Across the public sector, entities will need determination and commitment of sufficient effort and resources to resolve their significant issues.

‘Without such attention though, risks of error and fraud are high and this may erode the public’s confidence in administration of public finances, Ms Spencer said.

To assist entities be better prepared for their annual financial audit, an [Audit Readiness - Better Practice Guide including tools](#) is available on the OAG website.

It is hoped the new guide and tools will help to reduce the number of qualifications, audit queries, issues, adjustments and time.

‘Ultimately smoother and more efficient audit processes will be better for the sector, stakeholders and the community,’ Ms Spencer said.

Report resources

- PDF versions
 - [Audit Readiness – Better Practice Guide](#)
 - [Financial Audit Results - Universities and TAFEs 2022](#)
 - [Financial Audit Results - State Government 2021-22 – Part 3: Final Results](#)