MEDIA RELEASE

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Commencement of additional Performance Audits on:
Calvary Public Hospital’s Performance and Financial Reporting and Data Integrity in the ACT Health Directorate

The ACT Auditor-General, Dr Maxine Cooper, has announced that two performance audits will be undertaken in addition to those that were initially planned for this financial year.

Dr Cooper says ‘these audits are related to health and the reporting of information related to hospital services in the ACT. They are on:

- Calvary Public Hospital’s Performance and Financial Reporting; and
- Data integrity in the Health Directorate.’

Calvary Public Hospital is one of two primary hospital facilities in Canberra and provides nearly 30 per cent of public hospital services in the ACT. In 2013-14 the ACT Government paid $166.725 million for Calvary Public Hospital services.

Dr Cooper said ‘It is important for the community to have confidence in how ACT Health funds are managed and focusing on arrangements with Calvary Public Hospital is prudent given its significant role in providing public hospital services. This will be the first audit using new ‘follow-the-dollar’ powers in the Auditor-General Act 1996. ‘Follow the dollar’ means an audit can be undertaken specifically on non-public sector entities who receive funds from the ACT Government. Prior to the new powers this was not possible.’

The Calvary Public Hospital’s Performance and Financial Reporting audit will examine the:

- effectiveness of the contractual arrangement between the operators of Calvary Public Hospital and the ACT, including governance, financial and performance management; and
- adequacy of actions taken by Little Company of Mary Health Care and Calvary Health Care to identify and correct work practices that resulted in the provision of incorrect financial information to ACT Health in 2013-14.

Dr Cooper said ‘Data integrity is being examined as it is important with respect to payments from the Australian Government to the ACT for hospital services.’

The Data Integrity in the ACT Health Directorate audit will:

- consider the integrity of Activity Based Funding data reported by the ACT Health Directorate to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority; and
- report on the effectiveness of ACT Health’s management of the data. (Data from Calvary Hospital will also be considered in this audit).

Dr Cooper said ‘The audits are expected to conclude in mid 2015.’

The ACT Audit Office can be contacted on 02 6207 0833. This press release is available on the ACT Audit Office’s website www.audit.act.gov.au