

ACT Audit Office

AUDITOR-GENERAL AN OFFICER OF THE ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Strategic Plan

2026–2031

Our vision

An ACT public sector that is accountable, high performing and continually improving, which provides value for money services to the ACT community.

Our purpose

To promote accountability and improvement in the public administration of the Territory, through independent evidence-based reports and advice to the ACT Legislative Assembly and broader ACT community.

Our role

The ACT Auditor-General is an independent Officer of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

The role of the Audit Office is to:

- Promote accountability in the administration of the Territory.
- Provide independent, trusted reports and advice to the ACT Legislative Assembly and broader ACT community.



Our values

Independence
Impartial and evidence-based reporting and advice is our most powerful influence.

Integrity
We are honest, truthful and fair.

Professionalism
We fulfil our obligations and uphold the highest ethical and professional standards.

Respect
We seek to understand and be trusted by our stakeholders, and we foster an inclusive workplace.

Learning & innovation
We strive to realise our full potential. We approach our work with curiosity, are contemporary, and committed to continuous improvement.

Our strategic context

This plan responds to the environment we expect between 2026 and 2031.

- Independent, evidence-based advice and assurance is increasingly important in informing public knowledge and awareness of public administration.
- Technology is reshaping public administration, workforce capabilities continue to evolve and the way we work will need to continue to adapt.
- We need to demonstrate the value of what we do.

Our strategic choices for 2026–2031

Alongside delivering our core audit activity to a high standard, we are making these deliberate choices:

- Identify and embrace opportunities to extend the impact of our work.
- Recognise and embed the Closing the Gap principle in our work.
- Responsibly embrace innovation and implement smart technology including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics.
- Invest in the capability, growth and wellbeing of our people.

Objectives, strategies & indicators of success

We have identified four objectives for 2026 to 2031. Each objective sets out key strategies and indicators of success.

Indicators of success are markers for us to gauge progress at key points across the life of our plan. They keep the plan focused at the strategic level by helping us make progress visible without being prescriptive. They provide opportunities to reflect and adapt where needed as a living organisation.

They are not intended to replace Accountability Indicators against which we annually report.

OBJECTIVES

① Audit Quality

Maintain the highest professional audit standards while safeguarding our independence.

② Impact & Engagement

Identify opportunities to help drive tangible improvements in ACT Public Sector administration.

③ Capability & Workforce

Invest in people, skills and culture to sustain and enhance organisational performance.

④ Continuous Improvement & Innovation

Use emerging technologies to modernise audit and office administrative processes responsibly.

STRATEGIES

- Plan and complete an annual program of financial and performance audits.
- Produce reports that are high quality, impartial, accurate, evidence-based and balanced.
- Maintain the highest professional standards and comply with auditing standards.
- Safeguard our independence and objectivity in every engagement.
- Continuously improve professional practice by drawing on benchmarking and better practices across our peers and industry.

- Produce reports with recommendations to improve administration and performance of ACT Public Sector agencies.
- Use plain language and infographics for clarity and accessible.
- Enhance reach and impact through additional and supporting communication and engagement.
- Engage with ACT Public Sector agencies to:
  - develop relationships that promote cooperation;
  - understand their functions, operational context and challenges;
  - promote understanding of the Office's role and obligations; and
  - identify and promote better practices to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the Territory's services and programs.
- Engage proactively with Legislative Assembly Committees and Members to understand and meet their needs.
- Work with the Kiribati Audit Office (KAO) through our twinning arrangement.
- Embed the Closing the Gap principle in our work.

- Cultivate a collaborative and inclusive workplace that reflects and upholds the Office's values.
- Sustain flexible work and actively support staff wellbeing.
- Empower staff to learn and develop capabilities required for success.
- Strengthen workforce planning to identify critical skills and competencies, including data and digital, and track progress in closing any gaps.
- Develop staff Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural capability and promote cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Maintain effective and ongoing communication with the Executive, Management, and the Office Consultative Committee.

- Embrace review and evaluation opportunities and learnings.
- Collaborate with peers and engage with our service providers to identify better practices.
- Identify and adopt innovative work practices.
- Adopt AI, data analytics and automation responsibly, with the policies, methods and safeguards to use them safely.
- Staff provide ideas and suggestions to the Innovation and Digital Committee on opportunities for improvement.
- Ensure the Office continues to have contemporary ICT capability and systems.

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS

- Audits are timely, efficient and delivered to a high quality.
- Independence and objectivity underpin the audit process.
- Audits are held in high regard by stakeholders, including the ACT Legislative Assembly, auditees and our peers.

- Our activities influence improvement in the administration of ACT Public Sector agencies.
- Stakeholders provide positive feedback on our work and professionalism.
- Our activities and contributions have impact and are valued by our stakeholders and peers.

- Staff satisfaction, wellbeing and feeling of inclusion.
- Staff feel informed and consulted on significant workplace matters.
- Professional development and growth in capability across the Office.

- Continuous improvement and innovation in audit practices.
- Responsible use of AI and data analytics in audit practices.
- Number of suggestions considered and implemented from suggestions provided to the Innovation and Digital Committee.



Making it happen

This plan is a living document that continues to evolve and adapt as priorities and opportunities change.

The Executive Committee reviews it with staff annually and updates priorities and indicators of success as needed. It cascades into branch operational plans, team action plans and individual work plans.

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