



ACT AUDITOR-GENERAL'S OFFICE



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PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

The ACT Auditor-General, Mrs Tu Pham, has today presented a Performance Audit report titled '**Performance Reporting**', to the Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly.

Most ACT government agencies are required to present in their budget papers two types of performance indicators -accountability and strategic indicators-, and report on the achievement of their targets in their annual Statement of Performance and also in the Annual Reports.

Through an effective performance measurement and reporting system, the ACT Government and its agencies can be accountable for their performance to the Legislative Assembly and the general community, and can improve their performance over time.

The audit examined the accuracy, relevance and completeness of the reporting of performance by selected agencies and statutory authorities. In particular, the report assessed the quality of indicators used by agencies for performance reporting in the budget papers, their Statement of Performance and Annual Reports.

Audit key findings and conclusions

- Performance reporting by audited agencies was in most cases accurate, and sufficiently covered key activities set out in agencies' Budget Papers.
- The relevance and usefulness of agencies' performance measures vary significantly between agencies. In some agencies, many performance measures were still unclear, unhelpful, or were not well aligned to strategic or operational objectives. In particular, a number of strategic indicators were merely descriptions of activities or strategies rather than outcome-based and long-term focussed.
- The Statements of Intent of some audited statutory authorities lacked clarity, had some poor performance measures, and did not cover sufficiently their legislative functions. This can lead to inadequate performance reporting, and can undermine the purpose of the Statements of Intent as a key accountability mechanism to the Legislative Assembly.
- Some agencies prepared performance indicators only to comply with external reporting purposes, and did not monitor, analyse or use the results of performance indicators for management purposes, and hence missed opportunities to improve performance.

- Annual Reports reviewed were generally accurate and reasonably complete. However, there is scope for further improvement in reporting on ecologically sustainable development.

Recommendations

The audit made eight recommendations to address the issues raised. The Chief Executive of the Chief Minister's Department, on behalf of the audited agencies, agreed, or agreed in part, with all recommendations.

Further Information

For further information, please contact Rod Nicholas, Director of Performance Audits and Corporate Services on 62070827. Copies of the report are available from the ACT Auditor-General's Office (Level 4, 11 Moore Street, Canberra City) and from its website, www.audit.act.gov.au.