

**MEDIA RELEASE****30 November 2023****2022-23 Financial Audits - Overview**

Today the Speaker tabled a report in the ACT Legislative Assembly from the Acting ACT AuditorGeneral, Mr Brett Stanton, that provides an overview of the results of 2022-23 Financial Audits.

Mr Stanton said ‘overall, ACT Government agencies are meeting their reporting responsibilities by accurately presenting their financial results and operational performance to the ACT Legislative Assembly and the community in their financial statements and statements of performance’.

Mr Stanton also said ‘most ACT Government agencies made the required corrections to their financial statements and statements of performance during the audit process. However, as in the prior year, a modified auditor’s report was issued on Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority’s financial statements. Further, the ACT Health Directorate, Canberra Health Services, Legal Aid Commission (ACT) and ACT Local Hospital Network Directorate’ statements of performance received modified limited assurance reports, as these agencies did not measure the results for some or all of their accountability indicators for the reporting year as required by the *Financial Management Act 1996*. Unmodified reports were issued on all other reporting agencies’ financial statements and statements of performance’.

Mr Stanton noted ‘agency staff have continued to work constructively with the Audit Office to continue to improve the quality of their financial statements and statements of performance. The corrections made as part of the audit process ensures that readers are provided with easy to understand and accurate information in these statements’.

An extract of the conclusions from this report is attached to this media release.

This report is the first of two reports to be tabled on 2022-23 Financial Audits. The other report is ‘Financial Results and Audit Findings’ which will provide insight into the financial results of the Territory as well as selected reporting agencies. It will also present significant findings reported to agencies where improvements can be made and the results of the review of controls over key information systems.

**2022-23 Financial Audits – Overview: Report No. 9/2023** is available to download from the ACT Audit Office’s website [www.audit.act.gov.au](http://www.audit.act.gov.au). If you need assistance accessing the report, please phone 6207 0833.

## Conclusions

### RESULTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITS

The Audit Office completed 59 audits in 2022-23 comprising 58 financial statements audits and 1 compliance audit.

The Audit Office issued 57 unmodified auditor's reports on financial statements prepared by reporting agencies as they materially complied with the relevant accounting and financial reporting requirements and presented a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the reporting agencies.

One modified auditor's report with an adverse opinion was issued in 2022-23 on the financial statements of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority.

The overall quality of the financial statements submitted to the Audit Office in 2022-23 remained high with 86 percent (44 of 51) of the financial statements submitted rated as either good or satisfactory.

All reporting agencies provided their financial statements to the Audit Office in accordance with the whole of government reporting timetable except for one agency, which was granted an extension from Treasury to allow time for the agency to seek external accounting advice.

Overall, given the high quality of financial statements submitted to the Audit Office in a timely manner, the risk of non-compliance with the whole of government timetable and modification of the auditor's report is low.

### RESULTS OF STATEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE LIMITED ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS

Twenty-six reporting agencies' statements of performance received an unmodified limited assurance report in 2022-23. Four reporting agencies' statements of performance received a modified limited assurance report in 2022-23. These reporting agencies were unable to measure the results for one or more of their accountability indicators as the underlying data was not available or unable to be provided for all or part of the reporting period.

The overall quality of the statements of performance provided by reporting agencies remained high with 87 percent (26 of 30) of statements of performance rated as either good or satisfactory.

All agencies submitted their statements of performance to the Audit Office in accordance with the whole of government reporting timetable.

Overall, a high quality of statements of performance were submitted to the Audit Office in a timely manner. As the four agencies that received modification of their limited assurance reports on their statements of performance had one-off issues, the risk of non-compliance with the whole of government timetable and modification of the limited assurance report is considered low.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS**

Most reporting agencies included accurate and complete versions of their financial statements with the auditor's report, and statement of performance with the limited assurance report, in their annual report. Where errors were identified these were subsequently corrected by these reporting agencies.