

MEDIA RELEASE**27 November 2020****2019-20 Financial Audits
Overview**

Auditor-General, Mr Michael Harris, presented a report to the Speaker for tabling in the ACT Legislative Assembly today that provides an overview of the results of 2019-20 Financial Audits.

Mr Harris said, 'ACT Government agencies have met their reporting responsibilities in 2019-20 by accurately presenting their financial and operational performance to the ACT Legislative Assembly and the community in their financial statements and statements of performance.'

'ACT Government agencies made all required corrections to their financial statements and statements of performance during the audit process. This means that the ACT community can have confidence that they are provided with accurate and reliable information in these statements.'

'No modified reports were issued on ACT Government agencies' financial statements or statements of performance in 2019-20. Although some corrections to statements were required during the audits, the overall quality of reporting agencies' financial statements and statements of performance was high.'

Mr Harris thanked ACT Government agency representatives and ACT Audit Office staff involved in the 2019-20 financial audit process and acknowledged their efforts in overcoming the challenges arising from the remote working arrangements in place due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

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 2019-20 Financial Audits. The other report is 'Financial Results and Audit Findings' which will present the financial results of the Territory as well as selected 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.

Copies of **2019-20 Financial Audits – Overview: Report No. 9/2020** are available from the ACT Audit Office's website: www.audit.act.gov.au. If you need assistance accessing the report, please phone 6207 0833.

Extract from 2019-20 Financial Audits – Overview

Report No. 9/2020

Conclusions

RESULTS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AUDITS

No modified auditor's reports were issued in 2019-20 as all 58 financial statements audited in 2019-20 materially complied with the relevant accounting and financial reporting requirements. They also presented a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the reporting agencies.

The overall quality of financial statements submitted by reporting agencies to the Audit Office was high in 2019-20 with 89 percent of financial statements rated as good or satisfactory but declined from 96 percent in 2018-19. The decline in the quality of financial statements in 2019-20 reflects more changes being required to reporting agencies' financial statements during the audit process mainly due to the implementation of new Australian Accounting Standards.

All agencies provided their financial statements to the Audit Office in accordance with the whole-of-government reporting timetable except one agency which provided its financial statements within two days after the due date.

RESULTS OF STATEMENTS OF PERFORMANCE LIMITED ASSURANCE ENGAGEMENTS

No modified limited assurance reports were issued in 2019-20 as no matters were identified from the Audit Office's limited assurance engagements for reporting agencies' statements of performance which indicated that reported results were materially incorrect or unable to be independently verified. However, the limited assurance reports of two agencies contained an emphasis of matter paragraph indicating they did not measure the results of all accountability indicators as required by the *Financial Management Act 1996* due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The overall quality of statements of performance submitted by reporting agencies to the Audit Office for limited assurance remained high in 2019-20. The percentage of statements of performance rated as good or satisfactory was 93 percent in 2019-20 compared to 96 percent in 2018-19.

Reporting agencies' compliance with the whole-of-government reporting timetable for providing their statements of performance to the Audit Office for review declined from 88 percent in 2018-19 to 79 percent in 2019-20.