

MEDIA RELEASE

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Performance Audit Report

Whole-of-Government Information and Communication Technology Security Management and Services

Today the 'Whole-of-Government Information and Communication Technology Security Management and Services' Report was presented to the Speaker for tabling in the ACT Legislative Assembly by the ACT Auditor-General, Dr Maxine Cooper.

Audit Conclusion (Extract only – for full conclusion see pages 5 and 6 of the Report)

The protection of the ACT Government network is robust. Shared Services ICT Security Section's security regime has successfully defended against over one million attempts to access the ACT Government's network in the nine month period to 31 March 2012. Future similar breaches could be minimised if all directorate and agency websites were hosted on the ACT Government network or an ACT Government endorsed supplier.

While the administrative structures and processes that support whole-of-government ICT policies and procedures are overall satisfactory there are some shortcomings. ICT security governance is based on the *Protective Security Policy and Guidelines* which is the ACT Government's pre-eminent protective security document. However it is unclear if the status of this document is well understood or if adequate processes exist to ensure that directorates and agencies are complying with it.

It is particularly important that the role of the ACT Government IT security advisor be reinforced, its functions endorsed and supported by key cross-directorate committees and all directorates and agencies.

Despite it being a requirement, only 5% of the ACT Government's 1025 information management systems have a system security plan; and even fewer, some 2.24% have a threat and risk assessment. The reasons for this were not able to be ascertained.

The ACT Government does not have an electronic records management system. The need for such a system is likely to increase.

Recommendations

The audit made 3 recommendations (see pages 10 to 13 of the Report). The Under Treasurer of the Treasury Directorate, and the Director-General of Justice and Community Safety Directorate agreed with the recommendations.

The Report

Copies of the report are available from the ACT Auditor-General's Office website, www.audit.act.gov.au and the Office (please call 6207 0833 or go to 11 Moore Street, Canberra City).