

Health and Community Services Committee

Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 8 for 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*

Report No. 41

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly note that it has examined the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 8 for 2013-2014 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*.

Background

1. The Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 8 for 2013-2014 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 21 November 2013 and referred to the Health and Community Services Committee for consideration on 19 December 2013.
2. The report summarised the results of 2012-13 financial audits conducted by the Auditor-General of the 17 Hospital and Health Services, which are the principal providers of public health services across Queensland. Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) are statutory bodies; each is independently and locally controlled by a Hospital and Health Board, and is accountable to their local community and to the Parliament. All HHSs were required to prepare financial statements for 2012-13 and include them in their annual report.¹ This was the first year that HHSs have prepared financial statements.
3. The Auditor-General reported that "all 17 HHSs performed well in discharging their financial reporting obligations in their first year",² and all received unmodified audit opinions for 2012-13. In addition, all HHSs met the two-month legislative time-frame to finalise their financial statements.³ The Auditor-General noted that, although the quality of the HHSs' report preparation process for the majority of HHSs was satisfactory, for some HHSs it could be improved.⁴ All 17 HHSs generated operating surpluses in 2012-13, and no significant concerns were raised by the Auditor-General about their long term sustainability.⁵
4. The committee received a briefing on the report from the Queensland Audit Office.

1 Report to Parliament 8: 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*, 2013, p.7

2 Report to Parliament 8: 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*, 2013, p.1

3 Report to Parliament 8: 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*, 2013, p.7

4 Report to Parliament 8: 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*, 2013, p.7

5 Report to Parliament 8: 2013-14 - *Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services entities 2012-13*, 2013, p.1

No further examination

5. The committee commends the 17 HHSs for the timely preparation of their financial statements, given that it was the HHSs' first year of operation. As all 17 HHSs received unmodified audit opinions for 2012-13, the committee does not consider that further examination of the Auditor-General's report is necessary.



Trevor Ruthenberg MP

Chair

Health and Community Services Committee

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Mr Dale Shuttleworth MP, Member for Ferny Grove

Contact details Health and Community Services Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Telephone +61 7 3406 7688

Fax +61 7 3406 7070

Email hcsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Web www.parliament.qld.gov.au/hcsc