

Significant Items

This summary shows those matters I identified during my audits that I believe are the most significant issues agencies need to address.

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New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	
Rural properties to be transferred to Local Aboriginal Land Councils provided there is a suitable business case	14
Discussion has commenced on the sustainability of the Land Council network	16
More than 26,000 land claims are still awaiting determination	16
The NSW Aboriginal Land Council's investment portfolio received a return of 8.26 per cent in 2010–11 (12.07 per cent in 2009–10)	18
Art Gallery of New South Wales Trust	
There were over 305,000 visitors to the 'First Emperor – China's Entombed Warriors' exhibition	23
Australian Museum Trust	
The Museum remains uncertain as to the benefit of valuing its collection	26
At its current pace it will take the Museum between 77 and 99 years to record its current collections in an electronic database	27
Library Council of New South Wales	
The Library has now recorded about 80 per cent of its collection in its electronic catalogue	30
Sydney Opera House Trust	
The Sydney Opera House needs \$1.1 billion to upgrade its facilities to remain viable and to address access and safety concerns	34
Trustees of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences	
Visitors to the Powerhouse Museum fell by 19.3 per cent in the past two years	38
The decrease in the number of exhibitions held by the Powerhouse Museum led to reduced admissions	39
In 2010–11, the Powerhouse Museum's collection acquisition program slowed significantly	39
Department of Education and Communities	
The Department coordinates the delivery of education and training for 753,596 primary and secondary students in New South Wales	43
The former Department of Education and Training was renamed the Department of Education and Communities	43
The Department's computer system replacement project has been deferred to ensure it will meet future business requirements	44
The first phase of the Department's computer system replacement project failed to provide all expected benefits	44
At 30 June 2011, the Department had spent \$176 million of the total project cost, estimated at \$386 million	45

New South Wales Government Schools received \$3.5 billion in Australian Government Building the Education Revolution funding	45
Total estimated cost of the BER program expected to be within the original budget	45
Up to 31 October 2011, 2,353 projects have been completed at 1,775 schools under the BER	46
The National School Pride program was completed within the approved budget	46
The Science and Language Centre program was completed within the approved budget	46
New South Wales students continue to perform consistently better than the national average	47
New South Wales' Year 12 retention rates are 4.7 per cent below the national average	48
The achievement gap between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal students remains significant	49
Participation in sport and recreation across New South Wales is consistently below the national average	52
The Department has spent \$137 million on the Connected Classrooms Program	52
The Department has installed Interactive Classrooms in 2,204 schools	53
192,000 laptops have been issued to students	53
Approximately 1,815 (less than one per cent) of laptops provided under the program have been stolen or lost	53
The average cost of providing schooling in 2011 was \$11,610 per student	53
The Department provided \$828 million to non-government schools during 2011	54
In 2011, the New South Wales Government provided an average of \$2,177 per non-government school student	54
Forty four per cent of New South Wales teachers are over 50 years of age	56
New South Wales Technical and Further Education Commission	
TAFE NSW is Australia's largest vocational education and training provider and is among the largest in the world	61
The average cost per enrolment decreased 8.7 per cent since 2007	61
There has been a 26.8 per cent increase in the number of enrolments in higher level qualifications since 2006	62
There has been a 51.4 per cent increase in Aboriginal student enrolments from 2006	62
67 per cent of permanent TAFE NSW teachers are over 50 years of age	63
Department of Family and Community Services	
Ongoing out of home care service delivery is at significant risk if Community Services cannot maintain its accreditation	69
The Out-of-Home Care caseworker to clients' ratio remains significantly more than desired benchmark	69

More Out-of-Home Care cases need to transfer to non-government organisations to achieve quality casework and to meet statutory requirements	69
The average waiting time on the children and young persons' Helpline increased by almost one minute from 2:58 to 3:49 minutes in 2010–11	70
Indigenous children continue to be over-represented in the child protection system	72
People accessing disability and home and community care services increased by nine per cent to 323,000 in 2011	73
Wentworth Park Sporting Complex Trust	
The Trust has licensed land to the National Rugby League for construction of Rugby League Central	95