

AWARENESS

Accounting and Auditing Developments ISSUE 1 - MARCH 2009

AUDIT OFFICE UPDATE

Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2009: Financial Audits Volume One

This volume summarises the results of a number of our financial audits. Significant items include:

Health Overview

Completion of the Department of Health and its controlled entities' financial reports were again delayed. Statutory dates were not achieved.

The consolidated entity budgeted for a \$13.4 million operating surplus for 2007-08, but the actual result was a \$380 million deficit. Budget monitoring during the year did not detect the extent of the overrun.

Amounts owing to trade creditors were \$312 million at 30 June 2008, a significant increase from \$162 million at 30 June 2007. Creditors over 45 days totalled \$75.1 million. We found that in some cases invoices were placed 'on hold' or 'in dispute' because Area Health Services did not have funds to pay them.

Last year we recommended a review be undertaken on the appropriateness of the continued use of fully depreciated plant and equipment. Some initial review was undertaken but more is required.

The Department still has not resolved whether the Treasurer's Directions apply to Area Health Services. This issue has been outstanding for a number of years.

Improved data collection on the use of contract staff is required for monitoring and reporting purposes. Appropriate data was unable to be provided to us.

Hospital bed occupancy ranged from 90.9 percent in the South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Area Health Service down to 71.0 per cent in the Greater Southern Area Health Service.

All eight Area Health Services achieved the Category 1 target for critical care triage for life threatening situations. For Category 2 life threatening situations, six Area Health Services achieved the target compared to eight last year. For the remaining life threatening situation, Category 3, four Area Health Services achieved the target compared to three last year.

Patients on elective surgery waiting lists increased from 56,630 to 58,173 over the year. However, the number of patients waiting more than waiting period benchmarks reduced by more than half compared to last year.

CONTENTS

AUDIT OFFICE UPDATE	1
ACCOUNTING UPDATE	2
AUDITING UPDATE	4
ETHICS UPDATE	5
ASIC UPDATE	6
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE	7
PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE	7
TREASURY UPDATE	8
INTERNATIONAL UPDATE	8
MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS	11
AUDIT OFFICE BETTER PRACTICE GUIDES	14
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	15
COPIES OF REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS	16



THE AUDIT OFFICE
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Patients on elective surgery waiting lists increased from 56,630 to 58,173 over the year. However, the number of patients waiting more than waiting period benchmarks reduced by more than half compared to last year.

New South Wales triage performance, based on 2006-07 data was equal to or better than the national average in all five triage categories.

A large amount of funds are held in trust and special purpose accounts. The use of these funds for health operations is restricted. Some of these funds have been held for a number of years.

Health Administration Corporation

The Corporation again did not meet the statutory timeframe for preparation of its accounts.

The Corporation is taking action to ensure expected savings from the centralising of corporate services to the health sector are realised.

Salary overpayments to health entities' staff were not being adequately reported or monitored.

There was insufficient claims history at 30 June 2008 to determine any reliable valuation of outstanding claims in the newly created Ambulance Death and Disability Fund.

Department of Primary Industries

The Department's 2007-08 annual report did not disclose actual results for its key performance indicators.

Forestry Commission of New South Wales (trading as Forests NSW)

For the second year in a row we were unable to obtain sufficient evidence on the valuation of native forests worth \$333 million on 30 June 2008. Additionally, there was uncertainty over the tax deductibility of significant plantation costs.

Further information

The full report is available on the Audit Office of New South Wales [website](#).

ACCOUNTING UPDATE

AASB Exposure Drafts and Invitations to Comment

Proposed Interpretation on the Australian Superannuation Contributions Tax for Defined Benefit Plans

This Proposed Interpretation requires an employer sponsor to include the impact of Australian superannuation contributions tax payable by the plan when measuring a defined benefit obligation. This clarifies that the impact of superannuation contributions tax should be included in the cash flows of the defined benefit obligation and not in the return on plan assets.

The Proposed Interpretation is available on the [AASB website](#) and comments are due to the AASB by 31 March 2009.

Source: AASB website and Accounting & Assurance News Today Issue 07 (20 February 2009).

ED 175 Post-implementation Revisions to AASB Interpretations

This is the Australian equivalent of an IASB exposure draft issued in January 2009 proposing that entities applying IFRS 3 'Business Combinations' should also apply the proposed IFRIC 9 'Reassessment of Embedded Derivatives' amendments. It also proposes that the amendments of IFRIC 16 'Hedges of a Net Investment in a Foreign Operation' be made applicable to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 October 2008. Under Australian law, there is an impediment to making a legislative instrument that applies to a date prior to the instrument being made. Whilst this would not affect the AASB interpretations themselves, it would affect AASB 1048 'Interpretation and Application of Standards', which gives AASB interpretations legislative authority.

The exposure draft is available on the [AASB website](#) and comments were due to the AASB by 25 February 2009. Comments were due to the IASB on the 2 March 2009.

Source: AASB website and Accounting & Assurance News Today Issue 06 (13 February 2009).

ED 176 Proposed Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Borrowing Costs of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

This Exposure Draft proposes to amend AASB 123 'Borrowing Costs' by reintroducing the option to expense borrowing costs for not-for-profit public sector entities. Subject to the requirements in AASB 1049 'Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting', this will allow an entity to choose whether it expenses or capitalises borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset.

The exposure draft is available on the [AASB website](#) and comments are due to the AASB by 3 April 2009.

Source: AASB Website.

AASB Meeting

AASB Meeting Highlights - 5 February 2009

At its meeting, the AASB discussed the following items:

- **Superannuation Plans and Approved Deposit Funds** - The Board considered a revised version of a draft ED 'Superannuation Plans and Approved Deposit Funds' and decided to make further amendments. The draft ED will be reconsidered at the April 2009 meeting with a view to approve it for public comment.
- **Income from Non-Exchange Transactions** - The Board decided that the ED based on IPSAS 23 *Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions* should be issued to Australian constituents, as a replacement for AASB 1004 *Contributions*. Constituents will be asked whether more guidance and/or illustrative examples are required. The draft ED will be considered at the March board meeting for approval.
- **Borrowing Costs** - The Board approved ED 176 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Borrowing Costs of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities'. This amendment will allow not-for-profit public sector entities to continue to choose whether to expense or capitalise borrowing costs relating to qualifying assets.
- **Interpretations** - The AASB approved the following for issue:
 - ED 175 'Post-Implementation Amendments to AASB Interpretations', which includes IASB ED 2009/1. Comments are sought by 25 February 2009 and will be considered when preparing the submission to the IASB.
 - Proposed Interpretation 'Australian Superannuation Contributions Tax for Defined Benefit Plans' with comments sought by 31 March 2009.

- **Consolidated Financial Statements** - The Board received a presentation on ED 171 'Consolidated Financial Statements' that includes IASB's ED 10. ED 171 proposes a single standard on consolidation. Submissions were due by 22 February 2009 and will be considered when preparing the submission to the IASB.
- **Emissions Trading Schemes** - The Board noted that the White paper on carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: Australia's Low Pollution Future issued on 15 December 2008 indicated that the IASB should determine accounting requirements for emission related assets and liabilities. They are expected to issue an exposure draft of the proposed requirements in 2009, and the AASB will re-issue the draft for comment in Australia.

Source: AASB Action Alert No 122 (5 February 2009) and Accounting & Assurance News Today Issue 05 (6 February 2009).

AUDITING UPDATE

Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB)

AUASB Meeting Highlights - 23 and 24 February 2009

At its meeting, the AUASB discussed the following items:

- **Going Concern Issues in the Current Economic Environment** - The Board considered and agreed on the need for further guidance to auditors on going concern issues in periods of economic uncertainty.

Whilst it was agreed that the Auditing Standards adequately address going concern issues, the Board considered that further guidance in the current economic environment, will assist in raising auditors' awareness of their responsibilities in assessing an entity's ability to continue as a going concern.

This guidance will be in the form of a Bulletin to be released in March 2009. The AUASB is also working with the Australian Institute of Company Directors to develop a publication focusing on the responsibilities of directors, in relation to going concern issues.

- **ASA Redrafting (Clarity Format)** - The Board noted a progress report on the 'Clarity' project and noted that the project is still on track for completion, as planned, for October 2009.
- **Approval of redrafted Auditing Standards** - The Board considered final draft versions in 'Clarity' format of the following proposed Auditing Standards:
 - ASA 260 'Communication with Those Charged with Governance'
 - ASA 570 'Going Concern'
 - ASA 200 'Overall Objectives of the Independent Auditor and the Conduct of an Audit in Accordance with Australian Auditing Standard's'
 - ASA 250 'Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of a Financial Report'
 - ASA 320 'Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit'
 - ASA 450 'Evaluation of Misstatements Identified During the Audit'
 - ASA 510 'Initial Audit Engagements - Opening Balances'
 - ASA 550 'Related Parties'
 - ASA 580 'Written Representations'
 - ASA 720 'The Auditor's Responsibility in Relation to Other Information in Documents Containing an Audited Financial Report'.

The Board cleared these Standards for final approval later this year.

- **Approval of release of Group 5 Exposure Drafts** - The Board considered draft versions, in 'Clarity' format, of the following exposure drafts (EDs) of proposed revised Auditing Standards:
 - ED 01/09 ASA 500 'Audit Evidence'
 - ED 02/09 ASA 501 'Audit Evidence - Specific Considerations for Selected Items'
 - ED 03/09 ASA 700 'Forming an Opinion and reporting on a Financial Report'
 - ED 04/09 ASA 705 'Modifications to the Opinion in the Independent Auditor's Report'
 - ED 05/09 ASA 706 'Emphasis of Matter Paragraphs and Other Matter Paragraphs in the Independent Auditor's Report'
 - ED 06/09 ASA 800 'Special Considerations - Audits of a Financial Report Prepared in Accordance with Special Purpose Frameworks'
 - ED 07/09 ASA 805 'Special Considerations - Audits of a Single Financial Statement and Specific Elements, Accounts or Items of a Financial Statement'
 - ED 08/09 ASA 810 'Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements'.

The Board approved the issue of the above EDs, which will be released with a one month comment period ending 6 April 2009.

- **Engagements to perform Agreed-upon Procedures** - The Board considered and approved a project plan to revise AUS 904 'Engagements to Perform Agreed-upon Procedures'. The proposed standard will be reissued as ASRS 4400 'Agreed-upon Procedures'.
- **National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007 and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)** - The Department of Climate Change is drafting amendments to the NGER Act, and an additional legislative instrument concerning the conduct of audits, reporting and regulations for the registration of auditors under the NGER Act. The AUASB is being consulted on the development of these documents, which are due for public exposure over the next few months.
- **Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions** - A Project Advisory Group (PAG), including practitioners from large and mid-sized audit firms, was formed to provide industry and specific technical advice to the AUASB on issues relating to this project. The AUASB and PAG met during February to discuss working drafts of the proposed new Guidance Statement. The AUASB will consult further with the PAG and APRA in the coming months. A first draft of the proposed new Guidance Statement will be tabled at the 6-7 April AUASB meeting for Board consideration and comment.
- **Responding to Questions at AGMs** - The Board considered a proposed revision of AGS 1046 'Responding to Questions at an Annual General Meeting'. A final version of the proposed Guidance Statement will be released early next month.
- **Access to Audit Working Papers** - The Board considered a proposed revision of AGS 1038 'Access to Audit Working Papers'. A final version of the proposed Guidance Statement will be subject to further review and subsequent out-of-session approval.
- **IAASB Task Force on Prospective Information** - Mr D Simmonds (correspondent member on the IAASB taskforce) provided an update on the work of the taskforce. Key items in an issues paper to be considered at the March IAASB meeting include the definition of what is prospective information and that assurance is on the compilation of the report and not on the underlying data.

Source: [AUASB website](#), Meeting Highlights (23 and 24 February 2009).

ETHICS UPDATE

Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board (APESB)

APESB Meeting Highlights - 9 February 2009

At its meeting, the APESB discussed the following items:

- The APESB's 2009-2010 Technical Work Program is now available on the [APESB website](#).
- Six-month reviews for APES 205 'Conformity with Accounting Standards', APES 220 'Taxation Services' and APES 305 'Terms of Engagement' were considered. The Board resolved to make a minor amendment to the wording of APES 305.
- It is anticipated that a revised 'Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants' (the Code) incorporating proposed changes to section 290 (independence) and revisions to improve the drafting conventions of the Code will be issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants in April 2009 with the APESB to initiate a project to implement these changes shortly thereafter.
- The Board considered ED 01/09 APES 320 'Quality Control for Firms' and agreed that subject to further minor re-drafting, the proposed revised standard be issued as an exposure draft in late February 2009 for a period of 45 days.
- The Board considered ED 0X/09 'Client Monies' and agreed that further consideration of the impact of upcoming Anti-Money Laundering (AML) legislation as well as the scope and application of the proposed standard is required. A revised exposure draft will be presented to the May 2009 meeting of the APESB with a view to issuing an exposure draft shortly thereafter.
- The Board considered a progress report on the development of a proposed standard governing members' participation in due diligence committees, and considered the need for a report template for an accountant's report in this context. The Board will consider a draft exposure draft of the proposed standard at the May 2009 meeting.

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 07 (20 February 2009).

ASIC UPDATE

AD09-26 ASIC seeks comment on proposals to facilitate equity capital raising and participation by retail investors

As part of its efforts to manage the impact of current market conditions and build confidence in Australia's financial markets, ASIC has issued a consultation paper which considers measures to facilitate capital raising, building on existing exemptions in the law.

The consultation paper is available on the [ASIC website](#) and comments are due to ASIC by the 30 March 2009.

Source: ASIC Website, Media Release (24 February 2009).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007

On 24 February, a draft amendment bill to the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (NGER Act) was released for public comment.

The amendment bill is intended to strengthen the external audit framework established by the NGER Act by requiring auditors to register with the Greenhouse and Energy Data Officer (GEDO). It also includes a number of other amendments clarifying the application of the audit requirements and removing the obligation on the GEDO to publish energy production data as outlined in the consultation paper released early in 2009.

The amendments include:

- removal of the term 'external auditor', as this was deemed by stakeholders to be confusing, and replacing it with the term 'registered greenhouse and energy auditor'
- introduction of a new offence to cover situations where confidential audit information is released by the audit team other than under the NGER Act or other Commonwealth laws.

The draft amendment bill is available on the Department of Climate Change [website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 08 (27 February 2009).

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Premier's Department Circulars

The following is a list of recent Premier's Department Circulars available at: www.dpc.nsw.gov.au.

- [C2009-04](#) International Women's Day 2009-03-03.
- [C2009-05](#) Leave for Staff Affected by the Bush Fire Emergency.
- [C2009-06](#) Leave for Staff Affected by the New South Wales' Floods.

Premier's Memoranda

The following recent Premier's Department Memoranda are available at: www.dpc.nsw.gov.au.

M2009-04 Official Travel within Australia and Overseas

This Memorandum revises the Government's air travel policy to require that the 'lowest logical fare of the day' be used for all domestic flights and makes other significant changes in the policy.

The following is a summary of the key changes:

- All domestic and international travel bookings are to be made through the New South Wales Government's appointed Travel Management Company. (Further information can be obtained from the [Department of Commerce](#)).
- The 'lowest logical fare of the day' is to be used for all domestic flights. This means the cheapest fare available meeting the traveller's logistical needs.
- In line with the 'lowest logical fare of the day', public officials may only specify destination, date and nominated time of the required travel; and not specify airlines. The Travel Management Company will allocate tickets within 20 minutes either side of the nominated time of travel on the most appropriate airline.
- Senior officials may now only fly business class to Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

This Memorandum applies to all agencies and employees in the Government Service (Public Service Departments, Non-Public Service Divisions and Special Employment Divisions), the Teaching Service, NSW Police and the NSW Health Service.

The Treasurer will write separately to State Owned Corporations and Public Trading Enterprises concerning adoption of the provisions in this Memorandum.

Please see [M2009-04](#) for further details.

Other Premier's Memoranda

- [M2009-03](#) Lobbyist Code of Conduct and register.

TREASURY UPDATE

Treasury Policy Papers

TPP 09-1 Fringe Benefits Tax Manual

The Treasury issued the Fringe Benefits Tax manual as a policy and guidelines paper in February 2009. It outlines legislation, rulings, determinations and other relevant information relating to Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT).

The manual has been prepared to assist New South Wales Government agencies to comply with the requirements of the FBT regime.

This FBT manual outlines how to identify and value each type of fringe benefit and includes discussion of the interaction between FBT and GST. Users should refer to the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act 1986* (FBTAA) for specific details and rules.

Source: [NSW Treasury website](#).

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

IASB Meeting Highlights - 19-23 January 2009

At its meeting, the IASB discussed the following items:

- Global financial crisis
- Annual improvements
- Conceptual framework
- Financial instruments with characteristics of equity
- IFRIC
- IFRS for non-publicly accountable entities (NPAAE's)
- Income tax
- Leases
- Post-employment benefits
- Technical plan.

For further information see the [IASB website](#).

Source: IASB website (January 2009 IASB Update).

IASB Meeting Highlights - 17-20 February 2009

At its meeting, the IASB discussed the following items:

- Global financial crisis
- IFRS for non-publicly accountable entities
- Interim financial reporting
- Insurance contracts
- Post-employment benefits
- Rate-regulated activities
- Annual improvements.

For further information see the [IASB website](#).

Source: IASB Website (February 2009 IASB Update).

International Federation of Accountants Committee (IFAC)

Exposure Draft 'Framework for International Education Standards'

The International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB), an international standard setting body within IFAC issued this exposure draft in January 2009. The new initiative aims to enhance the relevance, clarity and consistency of its standards, as well as their applicability to IFAC members and associates.

The proposed framework comprises two parts:

- Part One - deals with the educational concepts of competence, initial professional development, continuing professional development and measurement of the effectiveness of learning and development.
- Part Two - describes the nature of the IAESB's International Education Standards, as well as the related IAESB pronouncements and IFAC member-body obligations.

The exposure draft is available at the [IFAC website](#) and comments are due to the IASB by 30 April 2009.

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

New IFAC guidance on corporate governance addresses risks and organisational accountability

The Professional Accountants in Business (PAIB) Committee of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) has released a new International Good Practice Guidance document 'Evaluating and Improving Governance in Organisations'.

The guidance is for professional accountants in business and provides a framework, a series of fundamental principles, supporting guidance and references on how they can contribute to the evaluation and improvement of governance in organisations. The document complements existing governance codes by encouraging a balance between conformance with rules and regulations, and driving organisational performance.

For further details refer to the [IFAC website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 06 (13 February 2009).

New IFAC Sustainability Framework

The PAIB has developed a comprehensive 'Sustainability Framework', which supports professional accountants and their organisations in integrating a sustainable way of thinking and working in all business processes. It illustrates how a commitment to sustainability can lead to improved products/services of an organisation, heightened motivation, cost minimisation and an enhanced reputation.

The framework incorporates four different perspectives (business strategy, internal management, financial investors and other stakeholders), thereby challenging conventional knowledge in economic, social and environmental endeavours.

It is a web-based tool that allows users to explore the sustainability issues that are most relevant to their particular roles, and to select those examples of good sustainability practice that can be implemented in their organisations.

For further information refer to the [IFAC website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 06 (13 February 2009).

International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC)

Proposed global guidance for valuing intangibles

The International Valuation Standards Council (IVSC) has released two exposure drafts on the valuation of intangible assets:

- Revised Guidance Note No. 4 'Valuation of Intangible Assets' identifies and defines the principal approaches and methods used in intangible asset valuation, with the aim of reducing the diversity of terminology and making valuation reports more widely accessible to users globally.
- Guidance Note No. 16 'Valuation of Intangible Assets for IFRS Reporting Purposes' draws the attention of valuers and those commissioning valuations for use in financial statements, to the principal accounting requirements of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) under which the valuations are prepared and provides guidance on the appropriate valuation response.

This guidance note is available on the [IVSC website](#) and comments are due to the IVSC by the 30 April 2009.

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

Preliminary view on valuing investment property under construction

The IVSC plans to issue guidance for the measurement of the value of investment property under construction. This follows a change made by the IASB which brought investment property under construction into the scope of IAS 40 'Investment Property' with effect from 1st January 2009.

In January, the IVSC issued an Interim Position Statement to summarise major valuation issues and provide its preliminary view of the valuation principles. They will issue a draft Guidance Note for public consultation during the second quarter of 2009.

This Interim Position Paper is available on the [IVSC website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATIONS

Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO)

COSO released 'Guidance on Monitoring Internal Control Systems' on 4 February 2009. It is addressed at organisations wanting to better monitor the effectiveness of internal control systems and take timely correction actions where necessary.

Unmonitored controls tend to deteriorate over time. Monitoring, as defined in the COSO Framework, is implemented to help ensure internal control systems continue to operate effectively. When monitoring is designed and implemented appropriately, organisations benefit because they are more likely to:

- identify and correct internal control problems on a timely basis
- produce more accurate and reliable information for use in decision-making
- prepare accurate and timely financial statements
- be in a position to provide periodic certifications or assertions on the effectiveness of internal control.

Organisations may select from a wide variety of monitoring procedures, including but not limited to:

- periodic evaluation and testing of controls by internal audit
- continuous monitoring programs built into information systems
- analysis of, and appropriate follow-up on, operating reports or metrics that might identify anomalies indicative of a control failure
- supervisory reviews of controls, such as reconciliation reviews as a normal part of processing
- self-assessments by boards and management of tone they set and the effectiveness of their oversight functions
- audit committee inquiries of internal and external auditors
- quality assurance reviews of the internal audit department.

For further information refer to the [COSO website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 07 (20 February 2009).

G30 Issues Report on Next Steps for Financial Reform

The Group of Thirty (G30) has released a report titled 'Financial Reform: A Framework for Financial Stability'. The report addresses flaws in the global financial system and provides specific recommendations to:

- redefine the scope, boundaries and structure of prudential regulation, thereby improving supervisory systems
- enhance the role of central banks
- improve governance practices and risk management
- address pro-cyclicality via capital and liquidity standards
- enhance accounting practices
- strengthen the financial infrastructure
- increase co-ordination internationally.

For the complete list of all eighteen recommendations, the full report is available on the [G30 website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

GAA Complexity Report on Financial Reporting

The Global Accounting Alliance (GAA) recently completed their project on the principles and complexities in financial reporting. Its objective was to ascertain views from a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the international arena on the barriers to the practical application of a more principles-based accounting regime, as well as how the current complexity and detail in listed company financial statements could be reduced so as to focus on better communication with financial statement users.

They published the report, 'Getting to the Heart of the Issue - Can Financial Reporting be made simpler and more useful?' in December 2008.

For more information, see the report on the [GAA website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

ICAA Auditing Standards Checklist - updated as at 31 December 2008

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia has updated its Auditing Standards Checklist, 'Mandatory Requirements as at 31 December 2008 in Respect of Audits of Historical Information'. It sets out the mandatory paragraphs of the Auditing Standards, which are the minimum requirements for conducting an audit.

You can download this document from the [Institute website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 04 (30 January 2009).

Update of Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS)

The Department of Climate Change has released a guidance paper for the formal assessment of activities for the purposes of the emissions-intensive trade-exposed (EITE) assistance program under CPRS. The paper also includes an assurance framework for the data provided in relation to the assessment. This is the next step in implementing the decisions made in the White Paper.

The assessment process, along with the policy framework outlined in the White Paper, will allow the Government to make final decisions as to which activities in the economy are eligible for EITE assistance. Chapter 5 of the guidance paper provides details of the assurance framework for both the entities concerned and the assurance providers. Lead auditors must be Registered Company Auditors for the duration of the EITE engagement and engagements should be conducted in accordance with ASAE 3000 'Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Review of Historical Financial Information'.

As part of the formal assessment process, entities are required to:

- collate required emissions, trade and financial data consistent with activity definition
- have data assured by an assurance provider that meets the requirements as outlined in the guidance paper
- submit assured data to the Government by 1 May 2009 (please take particular note of the due date as it constitutes a tight deadline).

This guidance paper is available on the [Department of Climate Change website](#).

Source: Accounting and Assurance News Today Issue 07 (20 February 2009).

Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)

AICD has issued a new set of guidelines to assist boards of publicly listed companies when designing, negotiating and monitoring remuneration arrangements for CEOs and overseeing the basis on which other senior executives are appointed.

Source: Company Directors Website, Media Release (12 February 2009).

Australian National Audit Office Reports

- Centrelink's Complaints Handling System.
- The Approval of Small and Medium Sized Business System Projects.
- CMAX Communications Contract for the 2020 Summit.
- The Administration of Grants under the Australian Political Parties for Democracy Program.
- Administration of Job Network Outcome Payments.
- Approval of funding for Public Works.

These publications are available at the [ANAO website](#).

Victorian Auditor-General's Office Reports

- Preparedness to Respond to Terrorism Incidents Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure (2008-09:15).
- Literacy and Numeracy Achievement (2008-09:16).

These publications are available at www.audit.vic.gov.au.

Northern Territory Auditor-General's Office Report

- February 2009 report to the Legislative Assembly.

This publication is available at www.nt.gov.au.

AUDIT OFFICE BETTER PRACTICE GUIDES

The Audit Office produces guides to better practice to assist agencies. The following is a list of those guides and the dates that they were published. All these guides are available on the Audit Office website at www.audit.nsw.gov.au.

Title of Guide	Date issued
Monitoring and Reporting on Audit Recommendations	March 2008
Implementing Successful Amalgamations	5 March 2008
Fraud Control Improvement Kit - Meeting your Fraud Control Obligations	20 July 2006
Fraud Control: Current Progress and Future Directions	9 February 2005
Shared Corporate Services: Realising the Benefits	November 2004
Management of Intellectual Property	October 2001
E-ready, e-steady, e-government: e-government readiness assessment guide	September 2001
Monitoring and Reporting on Performance Audit Recommendations	June 2001
Internal Financial Reporting	June 2001
Reporting Performance: A guide to preparing performance information for annual reports	November 2000
Contracting Out Review Guide	June 1999
Public Sector Corporate Governance - ready reckoner	April 1999
Methodology for the review of Residential Services for People with Disabilities	June 1998
On Board: guide to better practice for public sector governing and advisory boards	April 1998
The Corporate Credit Card: guidelines for internal control	January 1997
Ambulance Service of New South Wales: debtors administration	September 1996
Ethnic Affairs Commission: administration of grants	December 1995
Joint operations in the Education Sector: a review of establishment, management and effectiveness issues	September 1995
Fraud Control: developing an effective strategy Volume 1: conceptual framework Volume 2: strategy Volume 3: diagnostics Volume 4: Fraud control self audit kit	March 1994 March 1994 March 1994 March 1998

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAS	Australian Accounting Standards
AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
AIFRS/AEIFRS	Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards
APRA	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
ASA	Australian Auditing Standard
ASEA	Australian Standard on Assurance Engagements
ASIC	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
ASRE	Australian Standard on Review Engagements
AUASB	Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
ED	Exposure Draft
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board (USA)
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GG	Government Gazette
GG SS	Government Gazette Special Supplement
GGS	General Government Sector
GPFR	General Purpose Financial Report
IAASB	International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
HoTARAC	Heads of Treasuries Accounting and Reporting Advisory Committee
IAS	International Accounting Standard
IASB	International Accounting Standards Board
IFAC	International Federation of Accountants
IFRIC	International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
IPSASB	International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board
ISA	International Standards on Auditing
ISQC	International Standards on Quality Control
IVSC	International Valuation Standards Council
PCAOB	Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
UIG	Urgent Issues Group

COPIES OF REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

All performance audit reports are available on The Audit Office web site at www.audit.nsw.gov.au and can be purchased from the New South Wales Government Information Service (Phone 9743 7200).

Publications of the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AUASB) including auditing and assurance standards, guidance statements, other guidance and exposure drafts are available direct from the AUASB as follows:

Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board
Phone: (03) 8080 7400
Fax: (03) 8080 7450
Postal Address: PO BOX 204 Collins Street West, Victoria 8007
Website: www.auasb.gov.au.

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