
Appendix four – About the audit

Audit objective

To assess the effectiveness of the NSW Police Force in responding to domestic and family violence; and supporting victim-survivors.

Audit criteria

We addressed the audit objective by answering the following questions:

1. Does the NSW Police Force effectively conduct capability planning for responding to domestic and family violence and support victim-survivors?
2. Has NSW Police Force effectively resourced its approach to respond to domestic and family violence and support victim-survivors with the required capability?
3. Is the effectiveness of domestic and family violence policing and NSW Police Force support to victim-survivors improving over time?

Audit scope and focus

In assessing the criteria, we checked the following aspects:

1. workforce planning
2. recruitment, training and development
3. other supports for officers responding to domestic and family violence
4. reporting and accountability
5. compliance activities
6. complaints and other feedback on service.

The audit examined the period from 2016 to 2021.

Audit exclusions

The audit did not:

- include a detailed inspection of misconduct or other complaints
- include a detailed inspection of the response to sexual assault separate from the domestic and family violence response.

Audit approach

Our procedures included:

1. interviewing:
 - a) relevant NSW Police Force staff
 - b) key government and non-government stakeholders
2. examining:
 - a) relevant documents
 - b) research into relevant practices in other jurisdictions
3. analysing:
 - a) workforce data
 - b) police administrative data.

The audit approach was complemented by quality assurance processes within the Audit Office to ensure compliance with professional standards.

Audit methodology

Our performance audit methodology is designed to satisfy Australian Audit Standard ASAE 3500 'Performance Engagements' and other professional standards. The standards require the audit team to comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance and draw a conclusion on the audit objective. Our processes have also been designed to comply with requirements specified in the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the co-operation and assistance provided by the NSW Police Force and the many community stakeholder groups we spoke with about this topic.

Audit cost

Including staff costs, travel and overheads, the estimated cost of the audit is \$749,000.