

Appendix E

External scrutiny

Auditor-General

The Auditor-General is an independent officer of parliament, appointed for a fixed seven-year term. The QAO enables the Auditor-General to fulfil this role by providing professional financial and performance audit services to both parliament and the public sector on behalf of the Auditor-General. The *Auditor-General Act 2009* governs the powers and functions of the Auditor-General.

The QAO reports listed below are applicable to the department. For a complete list of all tabled reports by QAO to the Queensland Parliament in the 2018–19 financial year, visit the QAO website at qao.qld.gov.au/reports-resources/parliament.

Report: Follow-up of Managing child safety information (Report 20: 2018–19)

In this follow-up audit, QAO assessed whether the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women has effectively implemented the recommendations we made in *Managing child safety information* (Report 17: 2014–15) to improve information sharing and security. QAO also assessed whether the actions taken have addressed the underlying issues that led to our recommendations in that report.

Report: Education – 2017–18 results of financial audits (Report 19: 2018–19)

Entities within the Queensland public education sector aim to help individuals make positive transitions from early childhood through to all stages of schooling, providing them with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for further education, training or the workforce. However, these entities continue to face challenges, including changes to grant funding, competition for students, and modern learning styles that require flexible learning spaces and technology.

The education sector, for the purposes of this report, includes the Department of Education; Department of Employment, Small Business and Training; the seven public universities; eight grammar schools; and TAFE Queensland.

Report: Follow-up of Maintenance of public schools (Report 16: 2018–19)

The Department of Education is responsible for providing a safe working and learning environment for its staff and students in its schools across Queensland.

The number of students in Queensland state schools has grown by 6.5 per cent since 2014. The department must plan accordingly to build new classrooms and schools, consider when to renew buildings no longer suited to a modern curriculum and maintain existing buildings to an appropriate standard.

In *Maintenance of public schools* (Report 11: 2014–15), QAO found that the department was not maintaining its schools to its own standards and requirements. This was due to historical underfunding of maintenance, which created a backlog of repairs and other corrective maintenance tasks. This then consumed almost all available recurrent funds set aside for maintenance.

[Report: Follow-up of Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools \(Report 15: 2018–19\)](#)

The non-state schooling sector is an important part of Queensland's education sector, representing diverse education philosophies and religious and other organisational affiliations.

The Department of Education, on behalf of the state and Australian governments, provides a recurrent grant of more than \$600 million annually to governing bodies to operate non-state schools. To qualify, these schools must submit to the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, which is a statutory body that reports directly to the Minister for Education.

[Report: Queensland state government: 2017–18 results of financial audits \(Report 14: 2018–19\)](#)

Most public sector entities, including departments, statutory bodies and government-owned corporations and the entities they control, prepare annual financial statements and table these in parliament. Each year the Treasurer also prepares consolidated state government financial statements.

The consolidated state government financial statements separately disclose transactions and balances for the general government sector and the total state sector.

The general government sector is part of the total state sector, which also includes public financial corporations and public non-financial corporations. Public financial corporations are government-controlled entities, which borrow and invest on behalf of the state government and public sector entities. Public non-financial corporations are government-controlled

entities engaged in producing market goods and providing non-financial services including energy generation and distribution, water distribution, and rail and port services.

[Report: Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland \(Report 3: 2018–19\)](#)

Shared service providers typically deliver processes that can be centralised, standardised and automated. They aim to achieve efficiencies by simplifying processes or building expertise that means services can be delivered with less resources than customers could do individually. Some examples of services that are often shared are finance, procurement, human resources and technology processes.

There are at least seven formal shared service providers for corporate services in Queensland today. And there is a growing number of tasks which are being automated, which significantly impacts roles and occupations across government.

[Report: Monitoring and managing ICT projects \(Report 1: 2018–19\)](#)

The Queensland Government plans to spend \$2.6 billion on information and communication technology (ICT) projects over the next four years.

Each department is accountable for making investment decisions, and monitoring and delivering on its investments. Departments provide high-level overviews and status updates of major ICT investments through the ICT dashboard. This dashboard is intended to make information easily accessible, visible, and available for the public to use in a timely manner, and make it easier to identify underperforming projects and focus action on the projects that need it most.

Office of the Information Commissioner

The Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) is Queensland's independent statutory body established under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* to promote access to government-held information, and to protect people's personal information held by the public sector.

Under the Right to Information Act, OIC reports on review outcomes to the Parliamentary Committee for [Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee](#), and under the Information Privacy Act, reports can be sent to the Speaker for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

The following OIC report is applicable to the department. For a complete list of all tabled reports by OIC to the Queensland Parliament in the 2018–19 financial year, visit its website at www.oic.qld.gov.au/about/our-organisation/key-functions/compliance-and-audit-reports.

Report: Information Management – Queensland Government department maturity (Report 2: 2018–19)

Good information management helps Queensland Government departments to deliver better government, improve service delivery to the community, and meet right to information and privacy obligations. Information management gets the right information to the right person, in the right format, at the right time.

OIC surveyed departments to find out how they rate their current information management practices, compared to their targeted information management maturity. Departments consistently ranked their current maturity lower than their desired state.

This audit demonstrates the importance of all elements of information management, including strong leadership and active engagement across departments to deliver on expectations and obligations.

Crime and Corruption Commission

The Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) is a statutory body set up to combat and reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in the public sector in Queensland. Its functions and powers are set out in the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

The CCC investigates both crime and corruption, has oversight of both the police and the public sector, and protects witnesses. It is the only integrity agency in Australia with this range of functions.

The following report is applicable to the department. For a complete list of publications by CCC in the 2018–19 financial year, visit its website at www.ccc.qld.gov.au/research-and-publications.

Report: Responding to corruption related to failure of duty: An audit of the Department of Education and the Queensland Police Service. Summary audit report, June 2019.

This audit assessed how appropriately two departments dealt with allegations of corruption relating to failure of duty (i.e. failures to comply with legal, policy or reporting obligations or failures to execute duties to an appropriate standard).