

Media Statement

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Auditor-General's Report: Parliamentary Appropriations: Output Measures

A report by **Auditor-General, Des Pearson**, titled *Parliamentary Appropriations: Output Measures*, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament today. Outputs are products and services purchased from Departments by Government, measured in terms of quantity, quality, timeliness and cost, and published in the State budget papers.

This audit examined whether a selection of output performance measures developed by the Department of Human Services, Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development were relevant, appropriate and fairly represented performance in delivering the relevant outputs specified in the 2006-07 *Budget Paper No. 3, Service Delivery*.

Mr Pearson stated that most of the output measures developed by the three Departments were assessed as relevant, appropriate and as fairly representing actual output performance. The output measures:

- were logically related to the needs of the information users and clearly defined what was being measured (relevant)
- gave users sufficient information to assess performance (appropriate)
- were capable of measurement; represented what they purported to indicate; and were accurate and auditable (fairly represented).

However, Mr Pearson also stated that there was scope to improve the relevance, appropriateness and fair presentation of output performance measures through:

- including more detailed explanations in State budget papers of significant variations between actual output performance and targets
- developing measures that capture the full extent of services delivered and better inform the community about the quality and timeliness of service delivery
- improving information systems and the methods used to collect output performance data to ensure the completeness and accuracy of that data
- including information in departmental annual reports that explains the extent to which achievement of the output has contributed to the achievement of departmental objectives and government outcomes.

The report has four recommendations directed at requiring Departments to provide greater assurance over the completeness and accuracy of output performance information and better explanations of actual performance.

Direct link to report: http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/reports_par/agp132cv.html

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