

MEDIA INFORMATION SHEET

AUDIT AND EVALUATION FUNCTION

October 2017



Office of the Information Commissioner
Queensland

Initially established under the repealed Freedom of Information Act 1992 (Qld), the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) continues under the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld) (RTI Act) and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld) (IP Act) as Queensland's independent statutory body promoting access to government-held information and protecting people's personal information as held by the public sector.

OIC conducts annual audits, reviews and surveys of Queensland government agencies to measure the extent to which the agencies have implemented right to information and information privacy obligations.

Under the RTI Act, OIC reports on review outcomes to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (LACSC), and under the IP Act, reports are made to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. These reports are subsequently tabled in Parliament on the next sitting day.

The review process

OIC has a five-year review plan, which outlines annual review goals. The procedure for conducting a review broadly involves settling the review process and scope with the agency, conducting the review and reporting on the outcome of the review to Parliament.

Agencies are asked to self-assess against all legislative compliance obligations on a regular basis, and have participated in surveys of attitudes and perceptions.

The monitoring process achieves a depth of review by conducting detailed compliance reviews of individual agencies or of specific high impact issues.

Reports on agency compliance and on specific issues have resulted in benefits, such as putting in place roles, responsibilities, delegations, authority, systems and processes to implement the RTI and IP legislation.

Highlights of 2016–17

- Refreshed our review and audit methodology to further strengthen its alignment with the auditing standards.
- We have begun transitioning from auditing technical compliance to more strategic engagements to improve accountability and enhance government openness.
- Conducted 4 audit activities in 2016–17.

Reports to Parliament

In 2016–17, OIC tabled five reports in Parliament about agencies' compliance with right to information and information privacy obligations.

- Desktop Audits 2014–16 – Website Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy – Local Governments and Hospital Foundations.
- Desktop Audits 2016–17 – Website Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy – Hospital and Health Services
- 2016 Right to Information and Information Privacy Electronic Audit – Queensland public sector agencies' responses and comparative analysis with 2010 and 2013 results.
- Compliance Review – Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service – Review of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).
- Follow-up of Report No. 2 of 2014–15 – Review of universities' implementation of recommendations – Compliance with Right to Information and Information Privacy – Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Queensland and University of Southern Queensland.

Please note: The Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) cannot comment on an external review application being considered by OIC or where the parties to the review may still seek review of the OIC decision. Reasons for external review decisions are published on the OIC website. OIC cannot disclose information relating to a review, including information claimed to be exempt or otherwise able to be withheld from disclosure. Similarly, OIC will not discuss specific privacy complaints with people who are not a party to the complaint. Information about how the RTI Act and the IP Act apply to various types of entities and documents can be found in Information and Resources on this website.

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