

MEDIA RELEASE – THURSDAY, 21 November 2024

Auditor-General reports improvements from implementation of recommendations made in past audit reports

Mr Thompson said, ‘we conduct follow-up audits to inform Parliament the extent to which the recommendations from previous audits have been implemented. While I cannot compel State entities to implement recommendations made, it is my expectation that recommendations will be either adopted or at least seriously considered in a timely manner.’

The intent of this follow-up audit was to assess the degree to which State entities have implemented recommendations made in 3 past Auditor-General reports:

1. University of Tasmania’s management of student accommodation, report No 2 of 2019-20
2. Effectiveness of Internal Audit, report No 1 of 2020-21
3. Management of underperformance in the Tasmanian State Service, report No 2 of 2020-21 (Management of underperformance report)

While most of the recommendations from these reports have been implemented, a few are still being progressed or have not been implemented.

Mr Thompson noted that the delay in reviewing and updating Employment Direction 26 *Managing Performance in the State Service* has impacted the full implementation of Recommendation 1 in the Management of underperformance report. The State Service Management Office stated that the delay has in part been the result of the Tasmanian State Service Review and the Commission of Inquiry with recommendations from these reviews resulting in the prioritisation of other Employment Directions.

Positive changes implemented from the 3 reports include:

- improved student engagement by the University of Tasmania on satisfaction with student accommodation
- greater challenge to departmental management with an increase in independent members on most audit committees
- development of internal training programs and resources to improve manager capability when dealing with underperformance.

While all departments understood the skills required of new audit committee members, Mr Thompson stated that ‘performance assessment of audit committees and addressing identified skills gaps were not clearly addressed by some departments.’

[Click on this link to read the Reports.](#)

ENDS

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