



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Minister for Health and Ageing

Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements

This audit report relates to the financial statements published in both the annual report and on the website of Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the year ended 30 June 2005. The Directors are responsible for the integrity of both the annual report and the web site.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements, schedules and notes named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial statements.

If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's annual report.

Scope

The financial statements and directors' responsibility

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by Directors;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the year ended 30 June 2005.

The Directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and that comply with accounting standards, other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. The Directors are also responsible for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

Audit approach

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

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