

## Report of the Auditor-General

TO THE READERS OF AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD AND GROUP'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2004

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Auckland District Health Board (the Health Board) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Gordon Fulton, using the staff and resources of Ernst & Young, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Health Board and group, on his behalf, for the year ended 30 June 2004.

### Unqualified Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of the Health Board and group on pages 17 to 55

- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
- fairly reflect:
  - the Health Board and group's financial position as at 30 June 2004;
  - the results of operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
  - the service performance achievements measured against the performance targets adopted for the year ended on that date.

The audit was completed on 28 October 2004, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of the opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

### Basis of Opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed our audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements did not have material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in the opinion.

Our audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- verifying samples of transactions and account balances;
- performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data;
- reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Board;
- confirming year-end balances;

- determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- determining whether all financial statement disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support the opinion above.

### **Responsibilities of the Board and the Auditor**

The Board is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Those financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the Health Board and group as at 30 June 2004. They must also fairly reflect the results of operations and cash flows and service performance achievements for the year ended on that date. The Board's responsibilities arise from the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000 and the Public Finance Act 1989.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001, section 43(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989 and section 43 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000.

### **Independence**

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

In addition to the audit we have carried out assignments of a consulting and advisory nature, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than the audit and these assignments, we have no relationship with or interests in the Health Board or any of its subsidiaries

Gordon Fulton  
Ernst & Young  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Auckland, New Zealand

#### **IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ON THIS WEB SITE**

Please note that the maintenance and integrity of the financial statements of Auckland District Health Board on this web site is the responsibility of the Board.

I, as Auditor-General, and my appointed auditors, accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred or may occur to financial statements audited by us in regard to the presentation of those financial statements on this web site.

Our audit reports refer only to those financial statements named within a particular audit report. They do not provide an opinion on any other information that may have been hyperlinked to/from those financial statements.

If readers of this web site are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copies of the audited financial statements to confirm the information.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.