

B. Audit scope and methods

Performance engagement

This audit has been performed in accordance with the Auditor-General Auditing Standards, incorporating, where relevant, the standards on assurance engagements issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. This includes the standard on assurance engagements ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements*. This standard establishes mandatory requirements, and provides explanatory guidance for undertaking and reporting on performance engagements.

The conclusions in our report provide reasonable assurance about the audited entities' performance against the identified criteria. Our objectives and criteria are set out below.

The entities we audited

- Department of Health
- Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service
- North West Hospital and Health Service
- Metro North Hospital and Health Service
- Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

Audit methods and approach

Field visits and interviews

We conducted interviews with a diverse range of stakeholders from across the health sector, including regional areas of Queensland. This included but was not limited to:

- the Chief Medical Officer from Queensland Health
- forensic units at Gold Coast University Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Mount Isa Base Hospital, Queensland Children's Hospital, Rockhampton Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Logan Hospital, and Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital
- emergency departments at Gold Coast University Hospital and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital
- paediatricians at Gold Coast University Hospital and Queensland Children's Hospital
- social workers located at Gold Coast University Hospital, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Logan Hospital, and Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital
- Forensic Medicine Queensland, Department of Health
- Forensic Science Queensland, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

Document review

We obtained and reviewed relevant documents from the entities involved in the audit. This included forensic medical examination records (no patient details), policies, procedures, guidelines, strategic plans, handbooks, roster schedules, reviews, frameworks, training material, strategies, and correspondence.

We also considered research from other jurisdictions and academia.

Scope of the audit

This follow-on audit examines whether Queensland Health has effectively planned and progressed implementing recommendations and ministerial directions to improve the delivery of forensic medical examinations to victims.

We addressed this through the following criteria:

Criteria	
1.1	Queensland Health has planned effectively to implement the QAO and Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations, and the health minister's direction.
1.2	Queensland Health has effectively progressed implementing the QAO and Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce recommendations and the health minister's direction.
1.3	Queensland Health has captured the cost of implementing our recommendation and any cost benefits (savings) resulting from implementing the recommendations.

Exclusions from the scope of the audit

We did not assess:

- recommendations 1, 2, 3, and 5 from *Delivering forensic services* (Report 21: 2018–19), some of which were aimed at the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The government announced changes to forensic DNA testing in Queensland as a result of the 2022 Commission of Inquiry. It was therefore not an appropriate time for us to follow up on those recommendations. We may assess progress on these recommendations in the future
- forensic analysis – this audit excludes the scientific analysis of DNA and other human specimens obtained by forensic medical examinations
- coordination of service delivery across the system, including between the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, and Queensland Health.

