

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

The Royal Women's Hospital

To the Members of the Parliament of Victoria and Members of the Board of the Hospital

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report

This auditor's report for the financial year ended 30 June 2007 relates to the financial report of The Royal Women's Hospital included on its web site. The Members of the Board of The Royal Women's Hospital are responsible for the integrity of the web site. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the web site. The auditor's report refers only to the statements named below. An opinion is not provided on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from these statements. If 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 report to confirm the information included in the audited financial report presented on this web site.

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2007 of The Royal Women's Hospital which comprises the operating statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes to and forming part of the financial report, and the accountable officer's, chief finance & accounting officer's and member of responsible body's declaration has been audited. The financial report includes the consolidated financial statements of the economic entity, comprising The Royal Women's Hospital and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year as disclosed in note 1(c) to the financial statements.

The Responsibility of the Members of the Board for the Financial Report

The Members of the Board of The Royal Women's Hospital are responsible for the preparation and the fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*. This responsibility includes:

- establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error
- selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies
- making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to internal control relevant to the Board Members' preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of The Royal Women's Hospital and the consolidated entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

Independent Audit Report (continued)

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. The Auditor-General, his staff and delegates comply with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Royal Women's Hospital and the economic entity as at 30 June 2007 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE
21 September 2007



D.D.R. Pearson
Auditor-General