



Office of the
**Information
Commissioner**
Western Australia

Annual Report **2025–26**

Part 1

The independent
regulator fostering trust
and accountability in WA
through privacy and freedom
of information.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians throughout Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

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This annual report and previous annual reports are published on the OIC website and are available in other formats on request.



Office of the
**Information
Commissioner**
Western Australia

16 September 2026

SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2026

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006* (WA) I hereby submit the annual report for presentation to Parliament for the period ended 30 June 2026.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* (WA) and the reporting requirements of the *Information Commissioner Act 2024* (WA), *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (WA) and *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA).

Annelies Moens
INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

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The independent regulator fostering trust and accountability in WA through privacy and freedom of information.

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[Annual Reports: Office of the Information Commissioner](#)

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/annual-reports-office-of-the-information-commissioner>



Overview



Information Commissioner executive summary

This is my first annual report since commencing as the inaugural Information Commissioner on 28 July 2025 under the *Information Commissioner Act 2024 (WA) (IC Act)*.

My new office, the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC WA), was established on 1 July 2025 and has an expanded remit. In addition to its responsibilities under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA) (FOI Act)*, it has new responsibilities under the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 (WA) (PRIS Act)*.

I am honoured to be leading the office responsible for oversight of the most advanced privacy legislation in Australia, along with the OIC WA's existing responsibilities under the FOI Act. This is an exciting time to be at the helm of a new independent regulator. The leadership team is focused on building the office's foundations and capability to ensure the OIC WA can fulfil the important responsibilities bestowed upon it. 2025–26 was a year of significant transformation. You will see that theme flow throughout this annual report.

This year, my new office started to shift gears to be able to operate with higher volumes of work across both FOI and our new privacy remit. We commenced a people, process and technology transformation journey. We achieved a lot this year, despite challenging circumstances. We will continue to implement change to meet our current and future demands.

On behalf of my Deputies and staff, I outline the overview of our 2025–26 year including key highlights.

Development and launch of a new identity

My office has the same name as the previous office, abolished effective 1 July 2025, but has a much broader mandate. For this reason, it was important we had a recognisable brand distinguishing my office from the former office and other state FOI and privacy regulators. We are the independent regulator for the privacy provisions of the PRIS Act and have oversight of the FOI Act. We have a broad set of responsibilities and enforcement powers under the PRIS Act. Our new identity communicates who we are, who we serve and what we do. We are the independent regulator fostering trust and accountability in WA through privacy and freedom of information.

New organisational structure and recruitment

We have a new organisational structure to support our dual mandate. My Deputies lead separate privacy and FOI teams and I also have two shared services teams. These four teams report to me as Information Commissioner and include a business services team and a conciliation, legal and enquiries team.

Our shared services teams support our privacy and FOI functions.

We had several recruitment rounds in 2025–26 to bring in new talent to support my office's new regulatory functions. On 27 January 2026 my Privacy Deputy, Nina Skewes, commenced and on 23 February 2026 my Information Access Deputy, Patrick Ky, commenced. The Deputies and I report directly to Parliament. The Acting Director of Business Services, Svetla Alphonso, and the Director of Conciliation Legal and Enquiries, Kristy Fisher, support our roles. Together we are the senior leadership team for the OIC WA.

We have focused on developing a learning culture, where staff are able to share ideas and learn from one another, as well as take advantage of training and conference offerings that were made available to staff throughout the year.

External engagement

External engagement and communication activities are critical activities as we establish the OIC WA as a new regulator. My staff and I briefed agency heads and senior staff on the PRIS Act. We established a Privacy Community of Practice to ensure stakeholders can have a forum in which to share privacy issues, case studies and questions. We also started building out contacts for privacy officers in regulated entities. This work continues to evolve as the PRIS Act's substantive and enforcement provisions operationalised on 1 July 2026. An important part of my office's role is to assist regulated entities to understand their obligations and promote best practice in privacy and FOI.

I spoke at numerous events throughout the year. A list of key external presentations is provided in the External Engagement section of this Annual Report. We reached over 3,800 people through these engagements. We also hosted our first Privacy Awareness Week event in WA on 6 May 2026, which the Hon Dr Tony Buti, Attorney General of Western Australia opened.



Key focus areas this year were four-fold:

- Preparing my office for its new privacy regulatory remit,
- Engaging with our external regulated entity stakeholders to communicate my office's new regulatory functions and powers,
- Building the new structure for the organisation and recruiting Deputies and staff; and
- Assessing ways to improve the management of our backlog of FOI external review matters.

In August 2025, we launched a monthly e-newsletter to keep regulated entities and members of the public informed of our work and guidance as we publish it. Our newsletters and guidance are available on our website.

Privacy guidance

One of my office's privacy functions commencing in 2025–26 was the provision of guidance materials. We published key guidance materials to assist regulated entities and members of the public get ready for the 1 July 2026 commencement date of the PRIS Act's substantive privacy and enforcement provisions. These guidance materials are also available on our website.

Freedom of Information

In 2025–26, my office received 73% more valid external review applications than the prior year. Despite this massively increased workload, my office reduced the median amount of time to resolve valid external

review applications by 24%. One of the key messages we receive from members of the public is it takes too long to resolve external review matters. As such, reducing the amount of time matters sit within my office is a key focus, as well as triaging matters through our new queue management policy launched in January 2026.

Outcome-based management reporting

My office also developed a new outcome-based management framework, including revised KPIs, following the establishment of the OIC WA as a new entity on 1 July 2025. The review of our KPIs and how we align with government goals was also necessary due to my office's expanded remit. These KPIs are in line with the updated outcome-based management guidelines from the Department of Treasury and Finance, released in October 2025.

Other notable transformation activities

We released a new tender for a case management system and electronic document and records management system to meet my office's expanded legislative responsibilities under the PRIS Act and updated cybersecurity requirements.

The new system is expected to also assist us manage our FOI workload more efficiently. Those processes are ongoing into 2026–27.

We also commenced the refit of our physical office space to accommodate our increasing staff numbers.

Acknowledging challenges

My office faces the challenges of many small organisations. This includes key person risks and reduced purchasing power. Nevertheless, as an independent regulator, we need to remain separate from our regulated entities where we can. My office, however, works closely with its accountability agency counterparts in WA, nationally and internationally to leverage collective knowledge and expertise.

As a small independent regulator, which has outsized impact on regulated entities and members of the public, I am deeply grateful to my Deputies and staff who have embraced the change as we work towards meeting the needs of regulated entities and members of the public with our expanded remit.

Annelies Moens

Information Commissioner

“

This year, my new office started to shift gears to be able to operate with higher volumes of work across both FOI and our new privacy remit.

Statistics at a glance

Outcomes

**24%**

reduction in time external review matters spent before our office (median age of matters decreased from 276 days at 1 July 2025 to 209 days at 30 June 2026)

**102**

external reviews finalised

**12**

published external review decisions (90 resolved informally)

**1,149**

FOI enquiries finalised

**218**

privacy enquiries finalised

Inputs and pressures

**73%**

increase in the number of valid external review applications received

**316**

valid external review applications received

**416**

valid external review applications on hand at 30 June 2026

Connecting with our audience

**>3,800**

people reached through our key engagement activities

**126%**

increase in e-newsletter subscriber base with average open rate of 59%

**~58,000**

unique visitors to our website

**23,646**

impressions of our LinkedIn posts



About Us

New identity

In September 2025, the OIC WA onboarded its first communications officer who led our new identity project.

We engaged external designers to work with staff to understand how we want to identify ourselves. Whilst the OIC WA retained the same name as the previous office, it has a vastly expanded remit to encompass functions under the PRIS Act. As such, a new brand was important to communicate our dual remit.



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Our new identity also communicates:

- Our jurisdiction of WA to minimise confusion with our equivalent counterparts in other jurisdictions
- We serve the people of WA
- We represent the intersection of privacy and freedom of information, showcasing the connection between our functions through colour
- The flow of information between people and government through the movement of the gradient
- Technology and progression

Our brand

We're proud to launch a new brand identity for the new Office of the Information Commissioner Western Australia (OIC), established on 1 July 2025 under the Information Commissioner Act 2024 (WA).

The new brand reinforces our role as the independent regulator, fostering trust and accountability in WA through privacy and freedom of information.

The OIC serves the people of Western Australia in carrying out its FOI and privacy regulatory functions.

The shape of the logo embodies Western Australia. The colour palette, inspired by Western Australia's distinctive landscape, reinforces our deep connection to the region. The gradient of orange and blue represents the intersection of privacy and freedom of information, showing the connection between our functions.

The movement of the gradient also reflects the flow of information between people and government agencies. At the heart of the OIC is a people-focused commitment, with citizens represented by the two dots at the centre of our logo.

As we look to the future, the upward trajectory of our logo embodies growth, progress and forward thinking. The design conveys technology and progression with dynamic graphic elements and a modern, clean design.



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Our brand story is on our website.

Our organisation

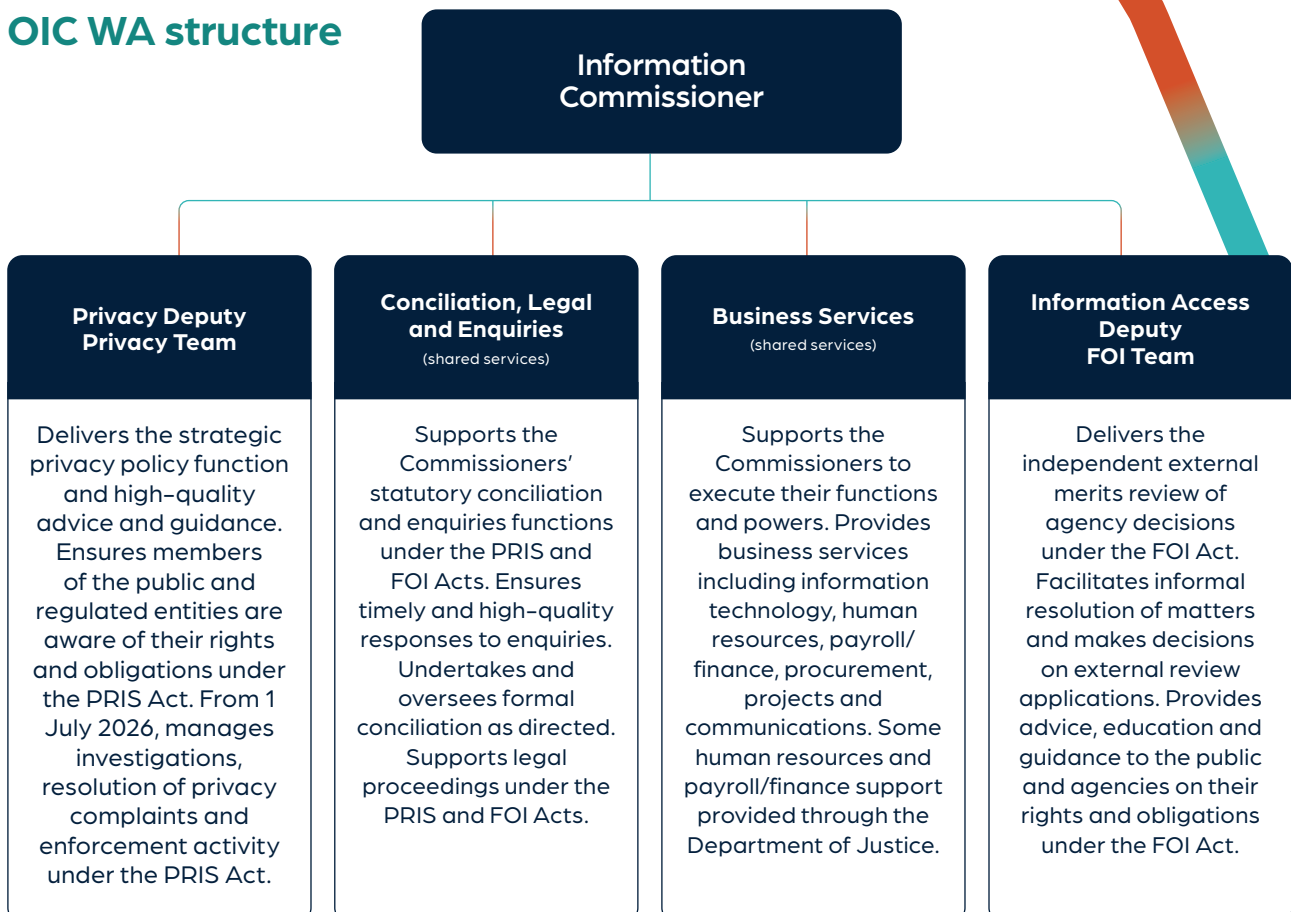
This year the Information Commissioner led an organisational transformation and restructure to meet the needs of the OIC WA's new regulatory remit.

Separate privacy and FOI teams were created, along with two shared services teams. One shared service team structure came across from the previous office with some modifications, and a new shared service team was established. The new shared services team manages enquiries (across both privacy and FOI), formal conciliation functions under the PRIS and FOI Acts and legal services.

Privacy conciliation functions are required to remain separate from decision makers under the PRIS Act.

The FOI team was restructured into two streams, with managers leading legacy and priority caseloads. Both teams report to the Information Access Deputy Commissioner. The privacy team was structured with a policy team and an investigation team. Recruitment for the privacy team in 2025–26 focused on establishing a policy team to develop guidance for regulated entities and members of the public prior to the commencement of the substantive privacy and enforcement provisions in the PRIS Act on 1 July 2026.

OIC WA structure



Leadership



Left to right: Nina Skewes, Privacy Deputy Commissioner; Annelies Moens, Information Commissioner; Patrick Ky, Information Access Deputy Commissioner

Together we are building a learning culture.

We consider training and development critical to a forward-thinking regulator with responsibility for understanding and resolving complex privacy and FOI matters. We are also building responsive teams capable of adapting to changing needs and increased volumes of work. We held an organisation-wide team building day in June 2026 and hosted three interns from the McCusker Centre for Citizenship to work on our staff intranet, records management and policy review.

The senior leadership team comprises the:

- Information Commissioner (independent statutory office holder)
- Privacy Deputy Commissioner (independent statutory office holder)
- Information Access Deputy Commissioner (independent statutory office holder)
- Director Business Services; and
- Director Conciliation, Legal and Enquiries.

Leadership (continued)

Information Commissioner

The Information Commissioner is the chief executive of the OIC WA, a statutory appointee reporting to Parliament. The Information Commissioner is responsible for overseeing both privacy and freedom of information matters across the WA public sector, with functions and powers conferred under the PRIS and FOI Acts. The Information Commissioner directs the Deputies in the performance of their respective functions.

The IC Act establishes a tripartite structure in which the Information Commissioner retains full statutory authority across both privacy and FOI, while the Deputies exercise the same functions within their respective areas of specialisation with some exceptions. This supports more efficient and timely handling of operational matters.

The Information Commissioner is a member of the PRIS Advisory Committee under section 204 of the PRIS Act and a member of the State Records Commission under section 58 of the *State Records Act 2000* (WA).

The Information Commissioner is also responsible for leadership, budget, strategy, reporting and performance of the OIC WA. Further, the Information Commissioner provides sector-wide leadership, external engagement and oversight for agencies as well as building the capability within the OIC WA to navigate its new regulatory remit.

Annelies Moens commenced as the inaugural Information Commissioner on 28 July 2025 for a five-year term. Between 1 July 2025 and 28 July 2025 Rachel Crute was the Acting Information Commissioner.

Prior to commencing her role as Information Commissioner, Annelies was the Managing Director of a profit-for-purpose privacy, AI and cyber risk management company. In that role, she worked with government agencies and private sector organisations in Australia and overseas to uplift data handling practices.

Annelies is the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP) Vanguard Oceania 2023 Award recipient for demonstrating exceptional leadership, expertise and creativity in privacy and data protection. She is also one of Australia's Superstars of STEM, selected in 2021–2022 for her widely recognised privacy expertise.

She co-founded the IAPP in Australia and New Zealand in 2008 and was elected its President in 2011–2012. She led audit and investigation teams at the federal privacy regulator and privacy consulting teams.

Annelies holds an MBA in general international management (distinction) from the Vlerick Business School and first-class Honours Law, Arts (majoring in computer science) and Science degrees from The University of Queensland.

Leadership (continued)

Privacy Deputy Commissioner

The Privacy Deputy Commissioner is a statutory appointee reporting to Parliament. The PRIS Act confers new privacy functions on the Information Commissioner and Privacy Deputy Commissioner, including handling privacy complaints, overseeing the information breach notification scheme, conducting assessments and issuing guidance to regulated entities. The Information Commissioner directs the Privacy Deputy Commissioner in the performance of their functions.

The Privacy Deputy Commissioner also performs the privacy functions under the PRIS Act in their own right, although approval of the Information Commissioner is required in circumstances outlined in section 142(3) of the PRIS Act when the Privacy Deputy Commissioner undertakes those activities.

Nina Skewes commenced as the inaugural Privacy Deputy Commissioner on 27 January 2026 for a five-year term.

Prior to commencing her role as Privacy Deputy Commissioner, Nina was the Chief Privacy Officer (Asia Pacific) for a professional services company. She has also held senior regulatory, legal and privacy roles in Australia. Prior to her recent private sector experience, she worked at the federal privacy regulator in the privacy practice and technology branch. She has also worked as an economist with the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Nina holds a Master of Innovation Law with Excellence from the University of New South Wales and Bachelor of Law and Economics (first-class Honours) from the University of Western Australia.



Left to right: Nina Skewes, Privacy Deputy Commissioner; Annelies Moens, Information Commissioner; Patrick Ky, Information Access Deputy Commissioner

Leadership (continued)

Information Access Deputy Commissioner

The Information Access Deputy Commissioner is a statutory appointee reporting to Parliament. The commencement of the PRIS Act and IC Act does not change the Information Commissioner's existing freedom of information functions, which include conducting external reviews. The Information Commissioner directs the Information Access Deputy Commissioner in the performance of their functions.

The Information Access Deputy Commissioner also performs the freedom of information functions under the FOI Act in their own right, including making decisions as part of the external review process.

Patrick Ky commenced as the Information Access Deputy Commissioner on 23 February 2026 for a five-year term. Between 28 July 2025 and 24 December 2025 Rachel Crute was the Acting Information Access Deputy Commissioner.

Prior to commencing his role as Information Access Deputy Commissioner, Patrick was a senior government solicitor in Western Australia. Previously, he was a manager of integrity reform in Victorian government. He has also worked in private law firms in Australia and overseas.

Patrick holds a Master of Philosophy in Law and Bachelor of Civil Laws from Oxford University. He also holds a first-class Honours Law degree and Bachelor of Science from Monash University.

Business Services Director

The Director of Business Services leads a shared services team responsible for office support services including information technology, human resources, payroll/finance, procurement, projects and communications. The Business Services Director supports the Information Commissioner in driving organisational and technology transformation, budget, reporting, communications and performance activities.

Svetla Alphonso commenced as Acting Business Services Director from 20 October 2025 onwards. Alison McCubbin held the role from 1 July 2025 to 19 October 2025 prior to taking long service leave.

Conciliation, Legal and Enquiries Director

The Director of Conciliation, Legal and Enquiries leads a new shared services team responsible for responding to enquiries from members of the public and regulated entities, leading formal conciliation activities and providing legal services across both privacy and FOI where required. Kristy Fisher commenced this role on 8 June 2026.

What we do

We serve the people of Western Australia through our functions under the PRIS and FOI Acts.

What is FOI?

Freedom of information is a legally enforceable right to access documents WA government agencies hold, which includes Ministers and public bodies or offices.

The objects of the FOI Act are to enable the public to participate more effectively in governing the State and make the persons and bodies responsible for State and local government more accountable to the public.

The FOI Act achieves these objects through a right of access to government held documents and requires government agencies to provide information about the types of documents they hold to members of the public. The FOI Act also provides a right to amend personal information contained in documents to ensure personal information is accurate, complete, up-to-date and not misleading.

The right of access to government held documents under the FOI Act is subject to some exemptions. It is the role of the OIC WA to determine whether access should be provided in circumstances where an applicant who requested documents from a government agency is either denied access to all or some of the requested documents and an application for external review is lodged with the OIC WA.

With the new PRIS Act, from 1 July 2026 members of the public wishing to access their own personal information from a government agency continue to do so under the FOI Act, unless a contracted service provider is the holder of the information, in which case the access provisions in the PRIS Act apply.

The Freedom of Information Regulations 1993 (WA) (FOI Regulations) support the FOI Act.

What we do (continued)

What is FOI? (continued)

Changes to the FOI Act and Regulations

The OIC WA was consulted on regulations to support the PRIS and FOI Acts. The OIC WA advocated for a number of changes to assist in making FOI processes more efficient. The *Freedom of Information Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026 (WA)*, which came into effect on 1 July 2026, amended the FOI Regulations. The amendment allows the OIC WA to send parties notices required by the FOI Act electronically, rather than requiring them to be sent by post. This will allow the OIC WA to improve and streamline its administrative processes.

Additionally, on 1 July 2026 amendments to the FOI Act in light of the PRIS Act came into effect. Significantly, the definition of personal information in the FOI Act was amended to align with the broad definition of personal information in the PRIS Act. Additionally, to make it easier to access or amend personal information, new sections were added to the FOI and PRIS Acts to ensure there is no wrong door. This means it doesn't matter whether an individual applies under the PRIS or FOI Act; the access or amendment application will be dealt with under the appropriate Act. Similarly, a new section was inserted in the FOI Act which allows the Information Commissioner to treat an application for external review as a privacy complaint under the PRIS Act where appropriate.

Recommended legislative changes

The OIC WA has not focused on reviewing the FOI Act in 2025–26. However, one issue we have considered is the requirement to collect an 'address in Australia' from individuals seeking to make a privacy complaint under section 82 of the PRIS Act or to apply for external review under section 66 the FOI Act. This requirement is unnecessary for the administration of the OIC WA's functions because most individuals who communicate with our office do so via phone and email. The same issue arises for individuals seeking to access or amend documents held by an agency, or to apply for internal review of an access decision, under sections 12, 40 and 46 of the FOI Act.

Despite being unnecessary, the OIC WA is legislatively compelled to collect this information, rather than leave it optional. In contrast, this requirement no longer exists in equivalent laws at the federal level and in other large Australian state jurisdictions. The OIC WA recommends legislative amendment to remove the requirement for an "address in Australia" from both the PRIS and FOI Acts. This would reduce the number of invalid applications, minimise the collection of unnecessary personal information, and assist in achieving the objects of the PRIS and FOI Acts.



Information Access Deputy Commissioner presenting at RIMPA Global Perth Roadshow, June 2026

What we do (continued)

What is privacy?

Privacy is regulated under the PRIS Act through principles governing regulated entities' handling of personal information (and in some contexts, de-identified information). These principles are called the [Information Privacy Principles](#) (IPPs). The IPPs are high level, technology neutral principles covering the full life cycle of information management, including collection, use, disclosure, quality, security, transparency, access, correction, anonymity to disposal. There are also specific principles regulating unique identifiers, automated decision-making and de-identified information.

Entities regulated under the PRIS Act are called IPP entities: they include Western Australian Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, government departments, local and regional government, statutory authorities, public universities, government trading enterprises, judicial bodies, the Western Australia Police Force, bodies or office holders established for a public purpose under a written law or by the Governor or a Minister and some contracted service providers to public entities.

The objects of the PRIS Act are multi-faceted and include to:

- promote responsible and transparent practices in the handling of personal information,
- balance the public interests in privacy of personal information with the free flow of information,
- provide a mechanism for individuals to complain about alleged interferences with their privacy,
- promote responsible information security practices; and
- promote responsible handling of information held by public entities as a public resource that supports government policy, programs and services.

Information Commissioner delivering opening remarks at Minter Ellison - Women in government, September 2025



What we do (continued)

What is privacy? (continued)

From 1 July 2025, the OIC WA's privacy functions and powers under the PRIS Act include to promote the objects of the Act, promote compliance with the IPPs and to ensure members of the public are aware of their privacy rights. The OIC WA developed and published information and guidance materials and engaged with stakeholders to carry out these functions.

From 1 July 2026, the OIC WA's privacy functions and powers also include dealing with and investigating privacy complaints, monitoring, assessing, undertaking reviews, preparing reports and making recommendations.

To support the exercise of these functions and ensure the objects of the PRIS Act are upheld, the OIC WA has a range of enforcement powers effective 1 July 2026. These powers include making determinations and orders in relation to privacy complaints, including the payment of compensation to complainants of up to \$75,000. These powers will also include the power to issue compliance notices to IPP entities for serious, flagrant or repeated interferences with privacy, with a fine of up to \$60,000 for a failure to comply with a compliance notice.

The OIC WA will also have powers to direct an IPP entity to undertake a privacy impact assessment, approve or amend a privacy code of practice and deal with public interest determination applications. On 1 January 2027, the OIC WA's notifiable information breach functions will commence.

New PRIS Regulations

The following PRIS regulations came into effect on 1 July 2026:

- *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (Privacy) Amendment Regulations 2026 (WA)* (the Amendment Privacy Regulations)
- *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (General) Regulations 2026 (WA)* (the PRIS General Regulations)
- *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulations 2026 (WA)*

The Amendment Privacy Regulations include a provision which allows the OIC WA to electronically send and receive documents required under the PRIS Act. This will ensure the OIC WA can implement streamlined administrative processes for managing privacy complaints.

The PRIS General Regulations prescribe certain matters for the purposes of the PRIS Act, including in relation to:

- Community policing functions,
- Specified bodies or offices part of, or separate to, public entities,
- The principal officer for specified public entities; and
- Certain transitional provisions for the FOI Act.

Strategic goals

2025–2026



Foster trust and accountability by promoting an effective information access and privacy culture across Western Australian government agencies and other regulated entities

- Provide clear, accurate, relevant and timely advice to agency staff to enhance their understanding of their responsibilities under the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* and *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- Ensure our resources, tools and services support information access and privacy competency within agencies and other regulated entities
- Identify and recommend changes to administrative practice to facilitate improved information access and privacy practices across Western Australia
- Explore opportunities for collaboration to champion privacy and open government



Provide a fair, independent and timely external review service

- Provide an efficient and effective early resolution process
- Provide a fair, timely and effective formal external review process
- Provide clear decisions, with reasons, to best inform the public and government agencies



Enhance public awareness and understanding of privacy and freedom of information in Western Australia

- Ensure we provide the community with accessible, inclusive and user-friendly information
- Increase community awareness of privacy and freedom of information rights
- Promote community understanding about the role of the Information Commissioner



Foster a supportive and collaborative workplace to advance staff capabilities and encourage innovation and creativity

- Ensure our organisational structure promotes open lines of communication
- Value and acknowledge achievements
- Enhance working arrangements and professional development
- Cultivate a positive organisational culture that supports wellbeing



Invest in sound information systems to support our operational needs

- Use technology to improve efficiency and accessibility to our services
- Procure a case management system to manage increased volumes of work across privacy and freedom of information
- Transition to an electronic records management system to better manage our record-keeping obligations
- Refine, review and improve our knowledge management system



External Engagement

Key engagements

External engagement has been one of the key focus areas for the OIC WA in 2025–26. In the first month of the new Information Commissioner commencing, she wrote to heads of agencies to advise of the new office and its new remit under the PRIS Act. The Information Commissioner invited and met with Director Generals and other agency heads to brief them on the new office and its remit. Further, the OIC WA presented to more than 3,800 people in 2025–26 over several key engagement activities.

The OIC WA also hosted our first Privacy Awareness Week event on 6 May, opened by the Hon Dr Tony Buti, Attorney General of Western Australia, followed by a [keynote](#) from the Information Commissioner. The theme for Privacy Awareness Week was “Smart tech, smarter choices – Protecting yourself in the age of AI”. The day progressed with a panel discussion with the Deputy Commissioners on the objectives of the PRIS Act, the launch of the privacy community of practice and a privacy 101 train-the-trainer session. The Information Commissioner also held an invitation only agency leader roundtable discussion on privacy risk management – shifting from reactive compliance to proactive risk management.

The following table includes a list of key external engagements held throughout 2025–26.



Attorney General and Information Commissioner at OIC WA hosted Privacy Awareness Week Event, May 2026



Information Commissioner hosted roundtable for agency leaders at OIC WA Privacy Awareness Week Event, May 2026

Key engagements (continued)

Table 1: Key external engagements in 2025–26

No.	Date	Delivered by	Event and Topic	Number of Attendees
1	30/07/2025	Staff member	FOI coordinators training	19
2	31/07/2025	Staff member	RIMPA Roadshows Series – The functions of the new WA Information Commissioner	111
3	27/08/2025	Staff member	FOI decision writing workshop	17
4	9/09/2025	Information Commissioner	Minter Ellison – Women in government – Opening remarks	54
5	24/09/2025	Staff member	FOI coordinators training	16
6	24/09/2025	Acting Information Access Deputy Commissioner	UWA Lecture – The integrity arm of Government: contributing to transparency and accountability of Government in Western Australia	152
7	16/10/2025	Information Commissioner	IAPP KnowledgeNet – Opening remarks	29
8	24/11/2025	Information Commissioner	CEO Forum – Privacy update	45
9	27/11/2025	Information Commissioner	AISA's Western Australian Cyber Security Conference – Insights from the new Information Commissioner	400
10	1/12/2025	Information Commissioner	A&O Shearman – Roundtable with the NSW and QLD Privacy Commissioners	25
11	3/12/2025	Information Commissioner	IAPP ANZ Summit 2025 – Panel discussion with State Information and Privacy Commissioners	450
12	10/02/2026	Information Commissioner	Department of the Premier and Cabinet Business and Technology Advisory Council – Privacy update	37



Privacy Deputy Commissioner participating in panel discussion at Black Swan Summit, March 2026

Key engagements (continued)

Table 1: Key external engagements in 2025–26 (continued)

No.	Date	Delivered by	Event and Topic	Number of Attendees
13	17/02/2026	Information Commissioner	Local Government Alliance Meeting – Insights from the new Information Commissioner	162
14	18/02/2026	Information Commissioner	Women Unlimited Leadership Summit – Defining success on your own terms	170
15	10/03/2026	Information Commissioner	Clayton Utz Roundtable – Preparing for WA's PRIS Laws	18
16	17/03/2026	Privacy Deputy Commissioner	Public Sector Commission HR Partnership Group – PRIS – Implications for agency HR	47
17	25/03/2026	Privacy Deputy Commissioner	Black Swan Summit 2026 – Panel discussion – Regulation as enabling infrastructure – Trust, interoperability & investment ready markets	300
18	27/03/2026	Information Commissioner	Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Cabinet Liaison Officers Network – Insights from the new Information Commissioner	268
19	23/04/2026	Information Commissioner	Australian Institute of Administrative Law – Insights from the new Information Commissioner	21
20	6/05/2026	Information Commissioner, Deputies & staff	OIC WA hosted Privacy Awareness Week Event	130
21	7/05/2026	Information Commissioner	OVIC – Privacy Awareness Week – Panel discussion with VIC, NSW and QLD Commissioners – Protecting your privacy in the age of AI	400
22	7/05/2026	Privacy Deputy Commissioner	IAPP KnowledgeNet – Managing ADM complaints and building privacy-aware processes	20
23	13/05/2026	Information Commissioner	WA In-House Counsel Day – Opening plenary – Navigating privacy and data governance	192
24	13/05/2026	Privacy Deputy Commissioner	Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety – PRIS Act senior managers information session	320
25	29/05/2026	Information Commissioner	Department of the Premier and Cabinet – Responsible Information Sharing Community of Practice – Panel discussion Balancing risk: Using and protecting data for community benefit	232
26	3/06/2026	Information Commissioner	RecordPoint & State Records Office – Getting ready for the PRIS Act	75
27	10/06/2026	Staff member	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation – FOI training	6
28	25/06/2026	Information Access Deputy Commissioner	RIMPA Global Perth Roadshow – FOI is not the problem: What it reveals about records management health	102
TOTAL				3,818

Communications

To support the OIC WA's focus on external engagement, the OIC WA invested time and resources in communications.

From August 2025, we launched a monthly e-newsletter, which is the OIC WA's key communications channel for updates. All editions of the monthly e-newsletter are available on the OIC WA's [website](#). Subscribers grew 126% (from 387 in July 2025 to 876 in June 2026). The average open rate through the year was 59%.

The following table outlines our most popular pages.



We also had ~58,000 unique users visit our website, 115,853 page views and 1,740 file downloads in 2025–26.

Table 2: Top webpages visited from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Page	Page views	URL
Office of the Information Commissioner Homepage	38,851	Office of the Information Commissioner
Privacy in Western Australia	6,349	Privacy in Western Australia
Privacy Legislation in Western Australia	5,677	Privacy Legislation in Western Australia
PRIS Frequently Asked Questions	3,946	PRIS Frequently Asked Questions: Office of the Information Commissioner
For the public: Office of the Information Commissioner	2,962	For the public: Office of the Information Commissioner
Freedom of Information: Office of the Information Commissioner	2,718	Freedom of Information: Office of the Information Commissioner
FOI Exemptions: Office of the Information Commissioner	2,649	FOI Exemptions: Office of the Information Commissioner

The OIC WA also started to build its social media presence on LinkedIn, with 23,646 impressions of our posts through the year. We posted 25 posts in 2025–26 on topics including:

- Recruitment and new appointments
- Results from the cross-jurisdictional information access study
- International Access to Information Day
- Speaking engagements
- Release of new resources, publications and guidance materials
- New brand identity
- Privacy Awareness Week

PRIS guidance, consultations and enquiries

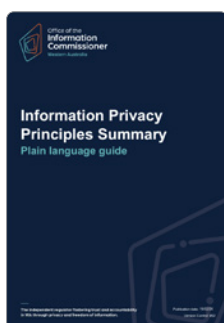
Privacy guidance

The PRIS Act confers a number of privacy functions on the Information Commissioner and Privacy Deputy Commissioner, including promoting an understanding of the IPPs. While most of the substantive privacy and enforcement provisions contained in the PRIS Act commenced on 1 July 2026, these educative functions commenced earlier, on 1 July 2025.

Accordingly, the OIC WA's 2025–26 strategic goals included increasing community awareness of privacy rights and promoting community understanding of the role of the Information Commissioner. One example of how the OIC WA delivered against these goals was through the development and publication of privacy guidance for both regulated entities and members of the public.

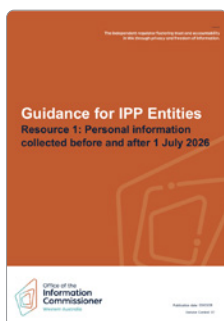
During 2025–26, the OIC WA adopted a staged and stakeholder informed approach to developing privacy guidance, recognising different resources would be needed as preparation for the commencement of the substantive provisions progressed. Guidance was developed alongside and informed by the OIC WA's external engagement and communication activities, ensuring resources addressed the questions and practical issues most relevant to stakeholders.

For members of the public, guidance focused on increasing awareness and understanding of privacy rights under the PRIS Act, including when those rights apply and how they may be exercised. The nature and frequency of privacy enquiries the OIC WA received in 2025–26 informed the development of the guidance.



IPP summary

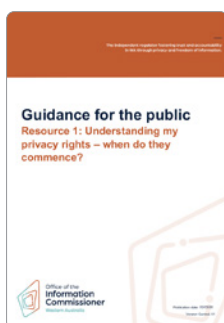
As the IPPs are central to the operation of the PRIS Act, the OIC WA's first substantive guidance publication was an [IPP summary](#). This plain language resource introduces these principles in an accessible format suitable for members of the public and provides a foundation for understanding WA's privacy framework.



Transitional guidance for regulated entities

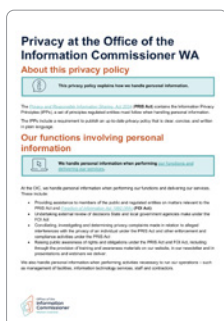
As commencement of the substantive privacy and enforcement provisions approached, one of the most significant areas of stakeholder interest was how the new requirements would apply to personal information already held by IPP entities before 1 July 2026. To address this, the OIC WA published guidance for IPP entities titled '[Personal information collected before and after 1 July 2026](#)', which outlines how each IPP applies to personal information collected before and after commencement.

PRIS guidance, consultations and enquiries (continued)



Transitional guidance for members of the public

Complementary guidance for members of the public '[Understanding my privacy rights – when do they commence?](#)' explained when individuals could exercise their rights under the PRIS Act and how the law applies to events which took place before 1 July 2026.



Privacy policy

Whilst the OIC WA is not required to comply with the PRIS Act, we developed a [privacy policy](#) outlining how we handle personal information. It serves as a useful example for IPP entities to understand what a good practice privacy policy looks like. IPP entities, however, must develop their own privacy policies which reflect their operations.

PRIS guidance, consultations and enquiries (continued)



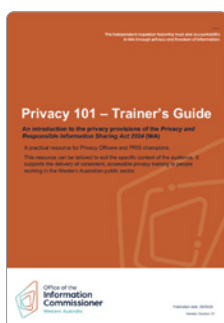
What are my privacy rights?

Privacy Awareness Week provided a further opportunity to expand public awareness of the PRIS Act. The OIC WA released a brochure titled '[What are my privacy rights?](#)', available on the OIC WA website. A printed/printable version is available for IPP entities who would like to distribute the brochure in hard-copy format.



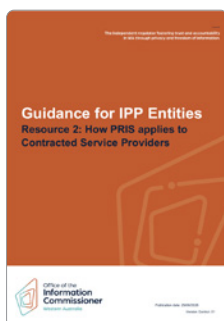
Transparency and accountability in ADM

To complement the Privacy Awareness Week theme of "Smart Tech, Smarter Choices – Protecting Yourself in the Age of AI", the OIC WA released a one-page resource called '[Privacy and accountability in automated decision-making](#)'. This resource marks the first in what will become a body of work on IPP 10: Automated decision-making. This is an area of increasing importance as the use of artificial intelligence and automated technologies continues to expand.



Privacy 101 training

Following its introduction at our Privacy Awareness Week event, the OIC WA released [Privacy 101](#), a practical training package for IPP entities consisting of customisable presentation slides and a trainer's guide. Designed for privacy officers and staff responsible for delivering privacy training in their workplaces, these resources support consistent, practical and accessible privacy education for people working with or across the WA public sector who handle personal information.



Contracted service provider guidance

To complement the Department of Treasury and Finance's release of the PRIS contract clauses, the OIC WA published guidance explaining '[How PRIS applies to contracted service providers](#)'. Contracted service provider obligations were a source of uncertainty for regulated entities, generating significant interest. The guidance explains which entity is accountable in an outsourcing arrangement where a party mishandles personal information. It also sets out key considerations both outsourcing agencies and contracted services providers should be aware of to effectively manage supply chain privacy risks.

PRIS guidance, consultations and enquiries (continued)



Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

The OIC WA also focused on ensuring its guidance remains dynamic and responsive. Alongside more comprehensive guidance, shorter resources are published to address emerging issues and common questions. In 2025–26, these included a regular “privacy tip of the month” in the OIC WA newsletter and an expanding collection of FAQs on the OIC WA’s website, which are reviewed and updated in response to stakeholder enquiries.

These resources represent the beginning of an ongoing program of guidance that will continue to evolve as privacy in practice matures. The OIC WA will continue to develop practical, accessible and responsive guidance informed by stakeholder engagement, enquiries and emerging privacy issues.



Privacy complaint form

On 30 June 2026, the OIC WA released its [privacy complaint form](#) to assist members of the public lodge privacy complaints. The form guides members of the public to provide the relevant information to help ensure a timely outcome for the complaint handling process. The OIC WA expects members of the public to raise any privacy concerns in the first instance with regulated entities.



PRIS guidance, consultations and enquiries (continued)

Consultations

The OIC WA also contributed to national discussion on automated decision-making and responded to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's [Consultation on Guidance for Transparency in Automated Decision Making](#). The [OIC WA's submission](#) highlights the similarities between the forthcoming ADM transparency obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) and the requirements of IPP 10 in the PRIS Act, helping to inform the OIC WA's own approach to future guidance in this area. IPP 10 is the first law in Australia to regulate the handling of personal information in the context of ADM and requires regulated entities to ensure risks of harm, bias and discrimination are minimised and the requirements of the PRIS Act are complied with.

The OIC WA also consulted with other agencies during the period, including the following:

- State Records Office regarding their website content
- Ombudsman in relation to correspondence with prisoners
- Department of Treasury and Finance regarding contracted service providers
- Public Sector Skills Academy regarding FOI and privacy training materials

Responding to privacy enquiries

The Information Commissioner and Privacy Deputy Commissioner also have the function of responding to enquiries from regulated entities, members of the public, media and other stakeholders. Together, enquiries, external engagement and communication activities support the consistent interpretation and practical application of the privacy provisions. They also provide valuable insight into the guidance needs of stakeholders. Engagement informs the priority areas for future guidance and the content of published resources.

This year, the OIC WA finalised 218 written, phone and in-person enquiries for PRIS guidance, and misdirected requests. Enquiries were split almost evenly between members of the public and regulated entities. The number of privacy enquiries received per month increased steadily over 2025–26, with over 50 enquiries received in the month of June 2026.

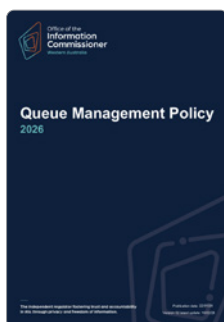
Approximately half of the enquiries the OIC WA received were from members of the public, with most people asking for information about how to make a complaint or seeking to make a complaint. Enquiries from regulated entities covered a broad range of topics, including collection notices, use/disclosure, scope of the PRIS Act and privacy impact assessments. We aim to finalise responses to enquiries within 10 days.

FOI guidance and enquiries



Accessing documents for proceedings in a court or tribunal

The OIC WA created [guidance](#) this year for members of the community to explain how FOI processes interact with other processes through which documents can also be obtained, such as via court and tribunal processes.



Queue management policy

The OIC WA's [Queue Management Policy](#), launched in January 2026, provides a framework to help manage the volume of matters, increase timeliness of outcomes for more applicants and agencies, and reduce the backlog of external review matters.



FOI external review application form

On 30 June 2026, the OIC WA released its [FOI external review application form](#) to assist members of the public lodge FOI external review applications. The form guides members of the public to provide the relevant information to help ensure a timely outcome for the external review process.

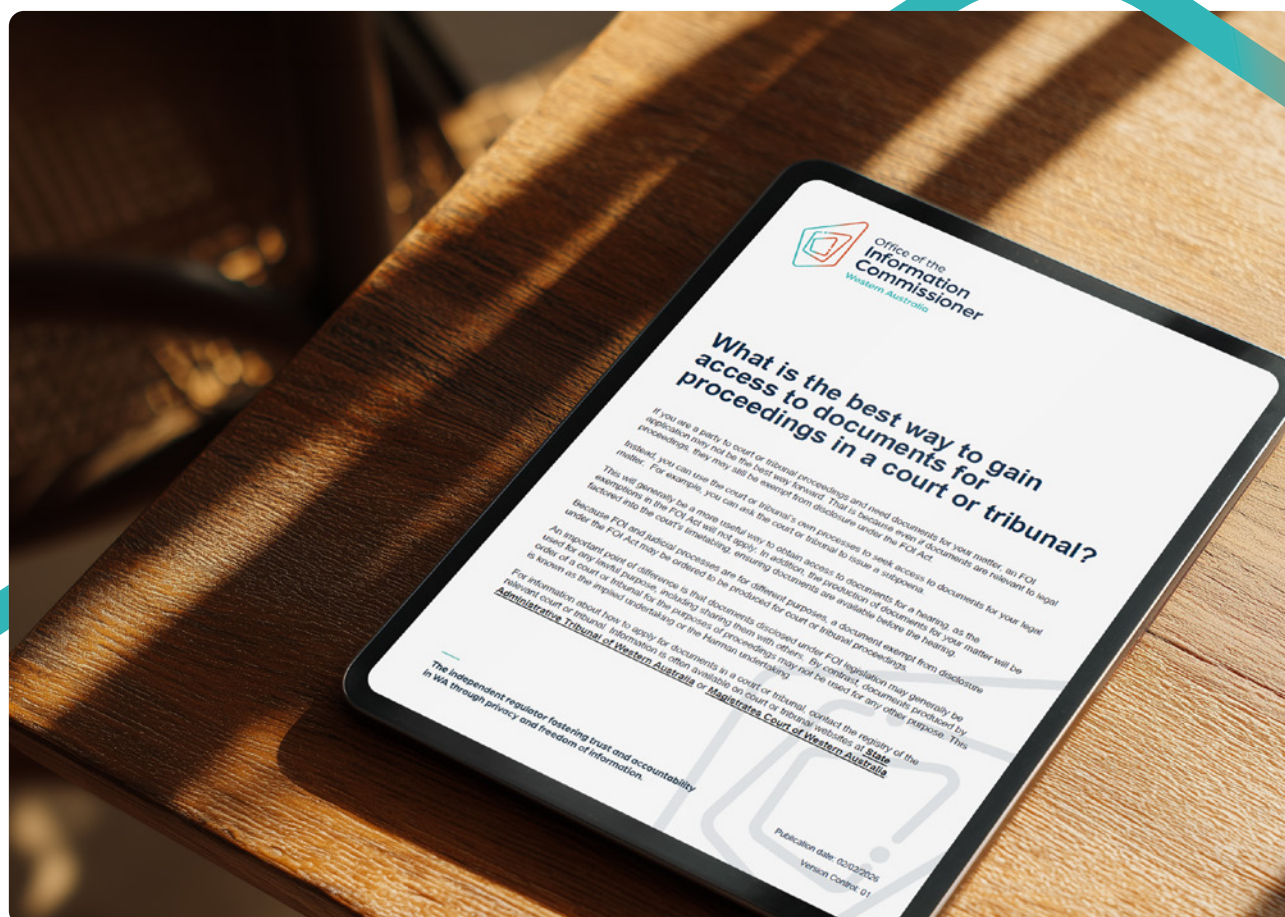
FOI guidance and enquiries (continued)

Responding to FOI enquiries

The Information Commissioner and Information Access Deputy Commissioner also have the function of responding to enquiries from regulated entities, members of the public, media and other stakeholders about freedom of information. The information provided is intended to ensure members of the public are aware of their rights to access documents under the FOI Act and of the options available to seek access to documents outside formal FOI processes where appropriate. Likewise, regulated entities are assisted in understanding their obligations under the FOI Act.

Members of the public sometimes misdirect their requests for documents agencies hold to the OIC WA. For example, each year the OIC WA receives a number of access applications for medical records. Members of the public who misdirect their request are advised that under the FOI Act access applications need to be made directly to the agency holding the documents.

This year, the OIC WA handled 1,149 written, phone and in-person requests for FOI guidance and misdirected requests. This is a 16% increase from the previous reporting period in 2024–25. We aim to finalise responses to enquiries within 10 days.



Advisory committees, public inquiries and key forums

Public Inquiries

The Standing Committee on Public Administration invited the OIC WA to its consultation with statutory office holders [inquiry](#) on 4 March 2026. It provided the OIC WA with an opportunity to inform members of the significant amount of work and transformation occurring at the OIC WA. The last time the former OIC WA was invited before the Committee was on 8 August 2022.

Advisory Committees

The Information Commissioner is an ex-officio member of the PRIS Advisory Committee under section 204 of the PRIS Act. In that role, the Information Commissioner advises the Chief Data Officer in relation to the performance of their functions. The Chief Data Officer has oversight of the responsible information sharing provisions in Part 3 of the PRIS Act. The first meeting of the Committee was held in 2025–26 and its terms of reference were established.

The Information Commissioner is also an ex-officio member of the State Records Commission under section 58(b) of the *State Records Act 2000* (WA). The Committee met three times in 2025–26. The Information Commissioner brings insight into how privacy principles such as collection, data minimisation, retention, data quality and data security impact important record keeping obligations, particularly in relation to personal information.



Inaugural meeting of the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing (PRIS) Advisory Committee, 11 June 2026
Members left to right: Ming Ding, Peter Worthington-Eyre, Ashley Councillor, Annelies Moens, Natalia Kacperek (not pictured: Rebecca Glauert)

Advisory committees, public inquiries and key forums (continued)

Key Forums – Australian and international regulator networks

Keeping abreast of developments in FOI and privacy in Australia and overseas is critical to ensuring the OIC WA can become a high-performance regulator, adapt to increasing volume and complexity of workloads and develop its new privacy jurisdiction. These forums enable sharing of regulatory developments and good practice.

The OIC WA participated in the following privacy and information access networks in 2025–26.

- **Association of Information Access Commissioners (AIAC)**, which is comprised of those in information Commissioner roles across all state and territory jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand. This forum enables the
- **Asia Pacific Privacy Authorities (APPA)**, which is comprised of those in privacy and data protection Commissioner roles across Asia Pacific. This provides an opportunity to exchange ideas about privacy regulation and new technologies within the region.
- **Global Privacy Assembly (GPA)**, which is comprised of those in privacy and data protection Commissioner roles globally. The GPA provides international leadership in privacy and data protection by connecting the efforts of regulators globally.

Key memberships and forums

As part of staff professional development and building our capability and capacity, the OIC WA is involved with a number of membership organisations. These include the:

- The International Association of Privacy Professionals
- Australian Institute of Administrative Law
- Institute of Public Administration Australia
- Council of Australian Tribunals

The Information Commissioner also participated in the WA Public Sector CEO Forum and the Accountability Agencies Collaborative Forum in 2025–26.



Information Commissioners and Information Access Deputy Commissioners at NSW Government House with hosts, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of New South Wales and Mr Dennis Wilson, April 2026



Performance

FOI external review statistics

Overview

The 2025–26 financial year has been busy and challenging for the OIC WA's external review functions, with significant growth in demand for external review services.

The OIC WA received 316 valid external review applications during 2025–26, an increase of 73% compared with 2024–25. We also recorded an increase in invalid applications. The huge growth demonstrates demand for and engagement with the OIC WA's external review functions.

A key focus of the OIC WA in 2025–26 was assessing ways to improve the management of our backlog of FOI external review matters, in particular timeliness. This was being done in the context of an influx of new external review applications.

The OIC WA finalised 102 external review matters during the year. This figure was lower than 2024–25. However, the OIC WA achieved a 24% reduction in the median age of external review matters before this office. This reflects our focus on resolving older and more complex matters while also identifying opportunities to achieve earlier resolution of suitable new matters through a balanced case management approach.

During 2025–26, the OIC WA commenced a program of improvements to increase external review capacity, strengthen case management, enhance systems and processes, and identify opportunities to resolve matters more efficiently. This work will continue throughout 2026–27 as we continue to focus on improving timeliness while maintaining the quality and independence of our external review decisions.

Matters received and closed

The OIC WA received 450 external review applications this year, compared with 230 in the previous year. This increase was driven largely by a significant rise in valid applications for external review, with 316 received during the year.

At the end of the financial year, the OIC WA had 416 valid external review applications on hand. The growth in outstanding matters is largely attributable to the significant increase in external review applications received during the year.

The increase in outstanding matters reflects the complexity of external review applications and changing patterns in the way applicants engage with the external review process and the OIC WA as discussed in the following sections. We closed 102 external review matters in 2025–26. A number of other matters were closed on the grounds of invalid external review application (41 matters) or no internal review decision (40 matters).

A breakdown of applications the OIC WA received across all agencies is included in part 2 of this report.

Table 3: Applications finalised

	2025–2026
External review applications – valid	102
External review applications – informal / invalid	41
Section 66(6) applications – no internal review	40
Section 66(4) applications – out of time	16
Section 13(5) applications – extension of time	2
Section 13(7) applications – extension of time	2
Section 13(4) applications – reduction of time	1
Total	204

FOI external review statistics (continued)

Table 4: Applications received

2025–2026

External review applications – valid	316
Section 66(6) applications – no internal review	58
External review applications – informal / invalid	54
Section 66(4) applications – out of time	16
Section 13(4) applications – reduction of time	2
Section 13(5) applications – extension of time	2
Section 13(7) applications – extension of time	2
Total	450

External review outcomes

External reviews under the FOI Act can be finalised in several ways:

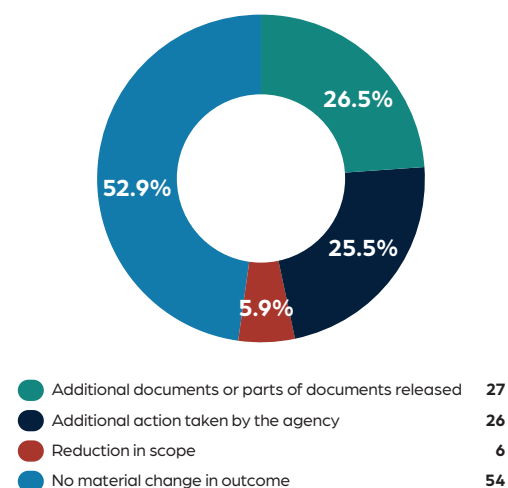
- **Binding decision:** The Information Commissioner confirms, varies or sets aside an agency's decision, and, where appropriate, makes a substituted decision.
- **Outside jurisdiction:** The Information Commissioner stops dealing with a matter because it is outside the Commissioner's power to deal with.
- **Frivolous, vexatious, misconceived or lacking in substance:** The Information Commissioner stops dealing with a matter on these grounds.
- **Informal resolution:** The review is finalised where there are no remaining issues in dispute requiring the Information Commissioner's determination.
- **Additional agency action:** The agency took further action during the external review resulting in additional information being provided to the applicant
- **Reduced scope:** A party reduced the scope of the external review
- **No material change in outcome:** Agency decision justified on same or alternative grounds

A matter may result in more than one benefit being recorded.

The four legislative outcomes do not necessarily describe the full extent of the benefits achieved for the applicant or the broader community during the external review process. To better reflect these benefits, the OIC WA records additional outcomes achieved during each external review. These are:

- **Additional access:** The applicant was given access to additional documents or parts of documents

Figure 1: Outcome benefits for external reviews



Timeliness of external review

The OIC WA has a significant backlog of external review matters carried over from the former OIC WA and received a 73% increase in the number of new valid external review applications during 2025–26. Despite these challenges, the OIC WA made solid progress in reducing the age of the external review caseload.

During the year, the median age of matters on hand decreased from 276 days to 209 days (down 24%), while the average age decreased

from 388 days to 321 days (down 17%). These reductions reflect the OIC WA's focus on progressing older matters and identifying new matters that can be resolved efficiently.

The below tables show the OIC WA is progressing to deal with the older and more complex matters, with more than 50% of matters finalised in 2025–26 being older than 12 months. The second table also shows almost half of all matters before the OIC WA at 30 June 2026 are less than 6 months old.

Figure 2: Reduction in median age and average age of external review matters

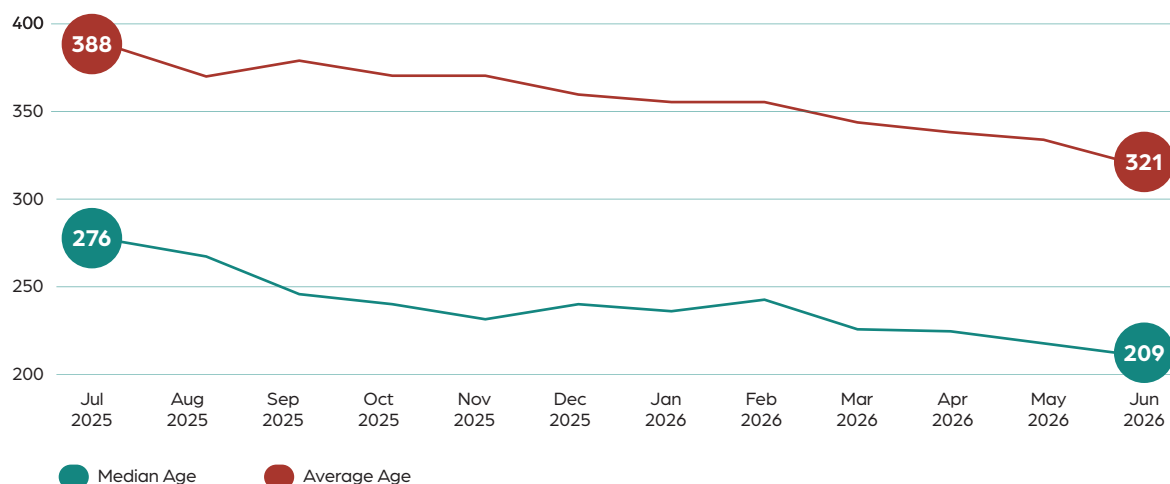


Table 5: Percentage of external reviews finalised by age

	Less than 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Greater than 12 months
2020–21	35.6%	38.3%	26.1%
2021–22	48.0%	33.8%	18.2%
2022–23	36.7%	26.6%	36.7%
2023–24	34.3%	20.9%	44.8%
2024–25	38.8%	19.4%	41.8%
2025–26	27.5%	21.6%	51.0%

Table 6: Percentage of external review matters open at 30 June 2026 by age

	Less than 6 months	Between 6 and 12 months	Greater than 12 months
2020–21	64.0%	23.0%	13.0%
2021–22	54.1%	28.1%	17.8%
2022–23	40.9%	25.0%	34.1%
2023–24	31.2%	29.0%	39.8%
2024–25	35.3%	25.3%	39.4%
2025–26	45.2%	23.3%	31.5%

Understanding this year's results

The OIC WA's performance data indicates increasing community engagement with access rights under the FOI Act. This is reflected in the growing number of applications to the OIC WA and changing patterns in the way applicants engage with the external review process.

The increased demand for external review is a positive indicator of rights awareness and use of the FOI Act. At the same time, the OIC WA observed increasing complexity across the external review caseload. More matters required extensive engagement with applicants and agencies, and consideration of large volumes of material.

The following sections outline some of the trends contributing to the changing nature of the OIC WA's external review workload during 2025–26.

Increase in applications from individuals

Of the 316 valid external review applications made to the Information Commissioner, 276 were from individual members of the public. This represents a more than 75% increase in individuals using review rights under the FOI Act compared to 2024–25.

Applications from other groups, including members of Parliament, the media and prisoners remained relatively stable.

Figure 3: Breakdown of valid external review applications made to the Commissioner

	Individual Citizen	276
	Company	16
	Media	6
	Government Agency	5
	NFP Group	5
	Member of Parliament	4
	Prisoner	4
Total		316

Understanding this year's results (continued)

Increase in multiple applications from the same applicant

During the year, the OIC WA observed an increase in the number of applicants with multiple external review applications before the Information Commissioner at the same time.

- **28 individuals** lodged 2 applications for external review each
- **10 individuals** lodged 3
- **2 individuals** lodged 4
- **3 individuals** lodged 5
- **2 individuals** lodged 6
- **1 individual** lodged 12
- **1 individual** lodged 17

This trend likely reflects a range of factors. In some cases, delays arising from the existing review backlog meant new applications were lodged before older matters had been finalised. In other cases, complainants were involved in matters spanning multiple agencies and sought access to documents held by each agency, resulting in several related applications.

The OIC WA also received a small number of applications from complainants who lodged multiple external review applications over a relatively short period.

Increase in applications before completion of internal review

The OIC WA observed an increase in applications made under section 66(6) of the FOI Act compared with the prior year (from 16 in 2024–25 to 58 in 2025–26). These applications allow a person to seek the Information Commissioner's agreement to progress an external review where an internal review has not been completed or has not been sought.

The increase was accompanied by an increase in external reviews about agency deemed decisions. A deemed decision occurs where an agency has not made an access or internal review decision within the timeframe required under the FOI Act. More than one fifth of external reviews in the reporting period related to deemed agency decisions, significantly up from the previous reporting period which had 24 out of 182 valid external review matters compared to 66 out of 316 this year.

These trends may reflect changing patterns in the use of FOI and increasing demand across the public sector. Agencies, like the OIC WA, are managing a more complex and resource-intensive workload, including increasing volumes of applications, matters involving large amounts of material, and requests requiring detailed consideration. The OIC WA will continue to work with agencies and applicants to support the timely and effective operation of the FOI process. For example, we launched a new [FOI external review application form](#) on 30 June 2026 to guide applicants on crafting succinct applications.

Understanding this year's results (continued)

Increasing use of AI tools

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools is an emerging feature across many administrative and dispute resolution processes. AI tools can support members of the public to participate in FOI processes by helping individuals understand their rights, prepare applications and improve accessibility of the external review process.

The OIC WA observed AI-assisted material in some external review applications and correspondence during the year. While these tools can support access to rights under the FOI Act, they also present new considerations for managing external reviews. As with all applications and correspondence provided to the OIC WA, material needs to be accurate, relevant and focused on the issues requiring determination. In some cases, AI-assisted correspondence has been lengthy or has required further engagement to clarify facts, identify the issues in dispute, or determine the outcome the applicant seeks.

More broadly, the OIC WA has observed an increase in the volume and complexity of correspondence associated with some external review matters. The OIC WA has also observed instances where applications and submissions have included references to legislation, cases or previous Information Commissioner decisions that could not be verified or were not applicable to the matter. Addressing these issues can require additional engagement and extend the time required to progress reviews.

The OIC WA will continue to monitor how these tools influence engagement with FOI and consider their implications for the external review process. Our FOI external review complaint form requires applicants to turn their mind to AI use and its implications.

Our response

In its first year of operation, the new OIC WA has introduced a range of initiatives to strengthen delivery of its external review function. These initiatives are designed to improve the timeliness of reviews, reduce the backlog of matters and make better use of available resources, while maintaining the fairness, independence and quality of the external review process. The OIC WA will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these changes and make further refinements where necessary as the new arrangements are embedded.

The key initiatives introduced during the reporting period include:

- **Queue Management Policy:** introduced in January 2026, the Queue Management Policy aims to better manage the volume of applications, improve timeliness for more applicants and agencies, and reduce the backlog. The policy is publicly available on the OIC WA's [website](#).
- **Restructured the external review team** into two dedicated streams, each led by its own manager: One team focuses on priority matters in line with the Queue Management Policy, while the other is dedicated to progressing older, legacy matters.
- **Broader organisational restructure:** as part of a wider organisational restructure, the OIC WA has established a shared services team responsible for formal conciliation conferences, appeals and enquiries.

In addition to the major initiatives, the OIC WA has implemented a range of operational improvements. These include:

- **Significantly reducing the use of postal correspondence** by moving to electronic communications wherever possible, this included advocating amendment to FOI regulations to enable the change

Understanding this year's results (continued)

Our response (continued)

- Improving communications with agencies by requesting relevant information and documents at the commencement of an external review to support earlier resolution where possible
- Improving correspondence with applicants and agencies to use clearer, plain English language
- Developing new guidance for members of the public about accessing documents through FOI processes and court or tribunal processes
- Engaging a staff member from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner to share experience and good practice from the federal jurisdiction
- Strengthening engagement with agencies through meetings with agency leaders, discussions with FOI practitioners, and practical guidance in OIC WA's monthly e-newsletter
- Commencing a comprehensive review of the external review process to identify bottlenecks and opportunities for improvement
- Expanding staff learning and development opportunities, including regular internal knowledge-sharing sessions
- Introducing an [FOI external review application form](#) to help applicants provide the information the OIC WA needs to process an external review efficiently and reduce the need to seek further information – this was launched on 30 June 2026 in conjunction with the [new privacy complaint form](#).

Responding to the growing demand for independent review will remain a key priority in 2026–27. The OIC WA will focus on increasing the number of valid external reviews finalised, reducing waiting times for applicants, improving communication throughout the external review process, and embedding the operational improvements introduced during 2025–26 with a focus on continuous improvement.

Information Commissioner decisions

Where applications for external review cannot be informally resolved between the parties, the Information Commissioner or Information Access Deputy Commissioner may finalise an external review by making a binding final decision. During the reporting period,

12 applications for external review were finalised in this way. The decisions are published on the OIC WA's [website](#). The published decisions are listed below along with summaries of notable decisions.

Table 7: Published decisions in 2025–26

Decision	Date
<i>Re A and WA Country Health Service – Central Office</i> [2025] WAICmr 9	29 August 2025
<i>Re Harrison and City of Joondalup</i> [2025] WAICmr 10	31 October 2025
<i>Re E and Department of Justice</i> [2026] WAICmr 1	6 March 2026
<i>Re Fatin and Department of Fire and Emergency Services</i> [2026] WAICmr 2	30 April 2026
<i>Re Aldridge and Department of Fire and Emergency Services</i> [2026] WAICmr 3	30 April 2026
<i>Re Kabay and City of Armadale</i> [2026] WAICmr 4	30 April 2026
<i>Re K and East Metropolitan Health Service</i> [2026] WAICmr 5	4 May 2026
<i>Re T and City of South Perth</i> [2026] WAICmr 6	14 May 2026
<i>Re McKenzie and Public Transport Authority and Anor</i> [2026] WAICmr 7	29 May 2026
<i>Re Hart and Public Transport Authority</i> [2026] WAICmr 8	4 June 2026
<i>Re H and Department of Communities</i> [2026] WAICmr 9	8 June 2026
<i>Re M and Legal Practice Board</i> [2026] WAICmr 10	23 June 2026



The Information Commissioner (centre) with her new Deputy Commissioners at their swearing in at Government House on 23 January 2026

Information Commissioner decisions (continued)

Notable decisions

The following decision reinforces that an FOI application may not be the best way forward for a party to court or tribunal proceedings to access documents for their matter. See published [guidance](#) on this issue.

[Re 'E' and Department of Justice \[2026\] WAICmr 1](#)

The complainant sought access under the FOI Act to emails or complaints made by third parties containing their personal information. The agency failed to make decisions within the statutory timeframes, resulting in deemed refusals. The matter proceeded to external review where the former Information Commissioner required the agency to complete the decision-making process and provide the complainant with its decision on access to the requested documents.

The Information Commissioner found the documents were exempt in full under clause 3(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act because disclosure would reveal the personal information of third parties. Of note is the Information

Commissioner's consideration of clause 3(6) in this matter. Under clause 3(6), a matter is not exempt under clause 3(1) if its disclosure would, on balance, be in the public interest.

The complainant had submitted they required the requested documents for a tribunal proceeding to which they were a party to demonstrate the opposing party was in contempt of the tribunal. The complainant submitted it is in the public interest for the requested documents to be disclosed to them to allow the fair and just determination of their tribunal matter and to maintain confidence in the administration of justice.

The Information Commissioner concluded the submission was misconceived. She considered the public interest in courts and tribunals having access to the material required to fairly and justly determine matters is met by the powers and procedures available to courts and tribunals. For example, they can issue subpoenas to require the production of documents or the attendance of witnesses. Accordingly, the limitation in clause 3(6) did not apply and the documents were fully exempt under clause 3(1).



His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of WA swears in Annelies Moens, the Information Commissioner at Government House, 22 July 2025

Information Commissioner decisions (continued)

Notable decisions (continued)

The following decision reinforces that claims of commercial sensitivity must be supported by probative material and that information recording the performance of government contracts will not ordinarily be exempt merely because it relates to a contractor's business.

[*Re Kabay and City of Armadale \[2026\]*](#)
[WAICmr 4](#)

The Information Access Deputy Commissioner considered whether parts of a report a contractor prepared for the agency, documenting treatment works undertaken as part of a dieback management program, were exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act. The agency had argued, among other things, that information about treatment quantities, chemical volumes and related operational data were exempt

under clause 4(3) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act because disclosure, when combined with publicly available information (contract award price, industry standards and techniques etc), would enable competitors to reverse engineer the contractor's pricing and methods.

The Information Access Deputy Commissioner rejected that argument. He found the report merely set out what work was performed under the contract rather than proprietary methodologies, intellectual property or commercially valuable information. Any suggestion that competitors could infer pricing or gain a commercial advantage was speculative because the report did not disclose other important information such as labour costs, overheads, profit margins or other key pricing variables.

The following decision highlights the need to carefully balance the protection of genuine commercial interests arising from major government contracts with the public interest in transparency and accountability in government procurement, the expenditure of public funds, and the management of significant public projects.

[*Re McKenzie and Public Transport Authority and Alstom Australia \[2026\]*](#)
[WAICmr 7](#)

This decision concerned an application for access to monthly performance reports relating to the agency's contract with a contractor for the METRONET C-Series railcars. The agency relied on several

exemptions in Schedule 1 to the FOI Act to refuse access.

The principal discussion concerned clause 4(3) and the public interest in disclosure of certain business-related information. The Information Access Deputy Commissioner found the public interest in favour of disclosing the information outweighed those against disclosure given the significance of the project in most cases. However, in relation to payment administration details, the Information Access Deputy Commissioner considered disclosure created a fraud risk while adding little to public understanding of government decision-making. Accordingly, that information was exempt from disclosure.

Appeals to the Supreme Court

An appeal to the Supreme Court can be made on a question of law arising from the Information Commissioner's or Information Access Deputy Commissioner's decision on external review.

An appeal on a question of law is not a further review of the merits of the decision. There is no appeal to the Supreme Court for decisions on deferring of access, imposing of charges, or requiring the payment of a deposit. The OIC WA is not usually an active participant in appeals.

The Supreme Court handed down decisions in two matters during the reporting period.

- [Deturt v Information Commissioner \[2025\] WASC 452](#): This was an appeal against a decision of the former Information Commissioner to decline to exercise her discretion to refer questions of law to the Supreme Court for determination. The Court found the former Information Commissioner was within her jurisdiction

conferred by section 78 of the FOI Act and the appeal was dismissed with costs.

- [Local Government Elected Members Association \(WA\) Inc v Western Australian Local Government Association \[2026\] WASC 102](#): This matter was an appeal against a decision of the former Information Commissioner that the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is not an agency for the purposes of the FOI Act. The Court found WALGA is an agency for the purposes of the FOI Act and allowed the appeal.

In another matter in 2025–26, a complainant filed an appeal during the reporting period against a decision of the former Information Commissioner to stop dealing with their matter on the basis it is lacking in substance, pursuant to section 67(1)(b) of the FOI Act. The Supreme Court is yet to determine this matter.

National metrics and information access study

The [National Dashboard of Utilisation of Information Access Rights](#) compares statistics on the use of information access rights across Australian jurisdictions.

The metrics for each jurisdiction reflect current available data that is reasonably comparable across jurisdictions, although they are not all directly comparable to the statistics published about agency applications in the OIC WA annual report. The metrics for WA are compiled from agency statistical data provided to this office each year.

In October 2025, the fourth cross-jurisdictional survey of community attitudes on access to government information was [released](#). The OIC WA participated with the Information Commissioners from states and territories across Australia to support the conduct of the survey.



KPIs, finance and disclosures

Financial performance summary

Financial targets and actuals

Table 8: Financial targets and actuals

	2025-26 Target (a) (\$000)	2025-26 Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Total cost of services	7,321	5,209	(2,112)
Net cost of services	7,321	5,200	(2,121)
Total equity	2,381	3,295	914
Agreed salary expense level	4,424	3,037	(1,387)

(a) As specified in the 2025-26 Budget Statements and Resource Agreement.

See the Financial Statements section for the full audited financial reports, including targets, actuals and explanation notes on variances.

Working cash targets and actuals

Table 9: Working cash targets and actuals

	2025-26 Agreed limit (b) (\$000)	2025-26 Target / Actual (\$000)	Variation (\$000)
Agreed working cash limit (at Budget)	334	334	–
Agreed working cash limit (at Actual)	324	2,562	2,238

(b) As specified in the 2025-26 Resource Agreement. 'At actual' agreed limit is as modified by the Treasurer in June 2026.

The actual agreed working cash limit at the close of the financial year is \$2.562 million. This consists of the cash held at bank at 30 June 2026 (\$3.741 million) less carried over Digital Capability Funds of \$1.179 million reserved for the CMS/EDRMS replacement project.

The underspend in 2025-26 primarily relates to employee benefits as recruitment processes continue to be progressed to fill positions in the new OIC WA structure. These assets will be used in 2026-27 and onwards as workforce, procurement and implementation activities progress. This includes delivering organisational priorities and transformation initiatives, including the CMS/EDRMS replacement project.



Office of the
**Information
Commissioner**
Western Australia

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

I hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner and fairly represent the performance of the Office of the Information Commissioner for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annelies Moens".

Annelies Moens
INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

8 September 2026

Address: Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington St, Perth WA 6000, Australia • **Website:** www.oic.wa.gov.au
Telephone: +61 8 6551 7888 • **Freecall (WA country):** 1800 621 244 • **Email:** info@oic.wa.gov.au

The independent regulator fostering trust and accountability in WA through privacy and freedom of information.



Key performance indicators

The Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC WA) is a public sector entity established to support the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner is an independent statutory officer who reports directly to the WA Parliament.

The OIC WA provides independent oversight of information access and privacy practices across the public sector, fostering trust and accountability across regulated entities which contributes to WA Government priorities.

Key Performance Indicators

Desired Outcome

Access to documents and observance of processes in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*.

Service

1. Resolution of Freedom of Information External Reviews and Advice Enquiries

Key Effectiveness Indicator:

Parties satisfied with freedom of information external review processes

Key Effectiveness Indicator:

Parties satisfied with freedom of information advisory services

Key Efficiency Indicator:

Average cost of freedom of information external reviews and advisory services

Desired Outcome

Ensure privacy compliance and enforce privacy obligations across regulated entities in accordance with the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024*.

Service

2. Resolution of Privacy Complaints and Advice Enquiries

Key Effectiveness Indicator:

Parties satisfied with privacy complaint processes

Key Effectiveness Indicator:

Parties satisfied with privacy advisory services

Key Efficiency Indicator:

Average cost of privacy complaints and advisory services

The OIC WA was established as a new reporting entity on 1 July 2025 following the abolition of the former OIC. The new OIC WA developed an outcome-based management framework, including revised key performance indicators (KPIs), to reflect our expanded functions under the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* (PRIS Act), in addition to our existing responsibilities under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (FOI Act). The Under Treasurer approved these new KPIs in March 2026 and they will be reported from this year onwards. Consequently, the audited KPIs will differ from the estimates reported in the 2025–26 Budget Papers and no comparative data is presented.

The 2025–26 Budget Targets or Estimated Actuals reported in the 2026–27 Budget Papers are used to provide the baseline for this year's reporting and performance comparisons.

Key performance indicators (continued)

Effectiveness Indicators

Service: Resolution of Freedom of Information External Reviews and Advice Enquiries.

Key Effectiveness Indicators	Budget Target 2025–26	Actual 2025–26
Parties satisfied with freedom of information external review processes	85%	73%
Parties satisfied with freedom of information advisory services	N/A ⁽¹⁾	

(1) On 25 March 2026, the Treasurer approved an exemption from reporting this indicator for 2025–26 and 2026–27, until the new case management system is implemented.

Parties satisfied with freedom of information external review processes indicator shows the level of satisfaction with the external review process. A Post Review Questionnaire survey is sent to the parties of finalised external reviews to seek their views on whether there was an independent, objective and fair process, with an emphasis on user-friendly processes which met their needs.

A survey was sent to 220 parties who participated in an external review following finalisation of the review process. 67 participants returned a completed survey. 40 responses were received from agencies and 27 were received from complainants. The total response rate from all participants was 30%. The outcome of answers to question 2 above is used to calculate this indicator. The answers to questions 1, 3 and 4 are also used by the OIC WA, but for internal management purposes. Information in response to all four questions is considered when reviewing external review procedures. Of the 67 respondents, 73% answered 'Yes' to question 2 and confirmed they were satisfied with the way the OIC WA conducted the external review.

The 2025–26 Budget Target of 85% was not achieved. The satisfaction target of 85% is set at a comparatively high level when benchmarked against interstate counterparts. The 2025–26 result provides a baseline against which future improvements will be measured under the new outcome-based management framework.

Four key questions are asked:

1. Were you satisfied with the outcome of the external review?
2. Regardless of the outcome, were you satisfied with the manner in which the external review was conducted by the OIC WA?
3. Do you consider that you were kept adequately informed regarding the progress of the external review?
4. Was the officer assigned to the external review professional in his or her dealings with you?

Key performance indicators (continued)

Effectiveness Indicators (continued)

Service: Resolution of Privacy Complaints and Advice Enquiries.

Key Effectiveness Indicators	Budget Target 2025–26	Actual 2025–26
Parties satisfied with privacy complaint processes		N/A ⁽¹⁾
Parties satisfied with privacy advisory services		N/A ⁽²⁾

- (1) Investigation into privacy complaints under the PRIS Act commences from 1 July 2026. **Parties satisfied with privacy complaint processes** indicator data will be measured from 1 July 2026 onwards and data included in next year's Annual Report.
- (2) On 25 March 2026, the Treasurer approved an exemption from reporting this indicator for 2025–26 and 2026–27, until the new case management system is implemented.

Efficiency Indicators

Service: Resolution of Freedom of Information External Reviews and Advice Enquiries

This service provides an independent review of decisions made under the FOI Act and an objective advice and information service to members of the public and agencies to assist in the proper lodgement and processing of applications under the FOI Act.

Key Efficiency Indicator	Budget Target ⁽¹⁾ 2025–26	Actual 2025–26
Average cost of freedom of information external reviews and advisory services	\$1,370	\$915

- (1) The 2025–26 Estimated Actual reported in the 2026–27 Budget Papers is used to provide the baseline for this year's reporting and performance comparisons for this key efficiency indicator.

The average cost measure is calculated by dividing the total cost of delivering freedom of information external reviews and advisory services by the weighted number of matters finalised during the reporting period, reflecting the varying complexity and effort required across external reviews and enquiries.

The following factors contributed to the actual average cost being lower than the budget target for 2025–26:

1. More external review matters were finalised than estimated (97 estimated / 102 actual).
2. More enquiries were finalised than estimated (949 estimated / 1,149 actual).
3. The actual total cost of services is \$1.9m less than estimated.

Key performance indicators (continued)

Efficiency Indicators (continued)

Service: Resolution of Privacy Complaints and Advice Enquiries

This service provides an independent complaint resolution process and advice and information to members of the public and regulated entities in relation to any matter relevant to the privacy provisions of the PRIS Act.

Key Efficiency Indicator	Budget Target ⁽¹⁾	Actual
	2025–26	2025–26
Average cost of privacy complaints and advisory services	\$13,656	\$8,364

(1) The 2025–26 Estimated Actual reported in the 2026–27 Budget Papers is used to provide the baseline for this year's reporting and performance comparisons for this key efficiency indicator.

The average cost measure is calculated using only privacy advisory services finalised during the reporting period, as the OIC WA's privacy complaint investigation function under the PRIS Act commences on 1 July 2026. The higher unit cost relative to the freedom of information external review service reflects the phased commencement of the PRIS Act, together with the OIC WA's ongoing investment in establishing our privacy function, including workforce recruitment, capability development and operational readiness.

The following factors contributed to the actual average cost being lower than the budget target for 2025–26:

1. More privacy enquiries were finalised than estimated (181 estimated / 218 actual).
2. The actual total cost of services is \$1.9m less than estimated.

OFFICIAL

Office of the Information Commissioner

Disclosures and legal compliance

Certification of financial statements

For the financial year ended 30 June 2026

The accompanying financial statements of the Office of the Information Commissioner have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at 30 June 2026.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included within the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Rodolfo Montilva
Chief Finance Officer
08 September 2026



Annelies Moens (Sep 8, 2026 12:15:54 GMT+8)

Annelies Moens
Accountable Authority
08 September 2026



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Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

2026

Office of the Information Commissioner

To the Parliament of Western Australia

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Office of the Information Commissioner (Commissioner) which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- notes comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In my opinion, the financial statements are:

- based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the operating results and cash flows of the Commissioner for the year ended 30 June 2026 and the financial position as at the end of that period
- in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

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

Responsibilities of the Information Commissioner for the financial statements

The Information Commissioner is responsible for:

- keeping proper accounts
- preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (applicable to Tier 2 Entities), the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions
- such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Page 1 of 6

7th Floor Albert Facey House 469 Wellington Street Perth MAIL TO: Perth BC PO Box 8489 Perth WA 6849 TEL: 08 6557 7500

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In preparing the financial statements, the Information Commissioner is responsible for:

- assessing the Commissioner's ability to continue as a going concern
- disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Western Australian Government has made policy or funding decisions affecting the continued existence of the Commissioner.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements. The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website. This description forms part of my auditor's report and can be found at https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf.

Report on the audit of controls

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the design and implementation of controls exercised by the Commissioner. The controls exercised by the Commissioner are those policies and procedures established to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with the State's financial reporting framework (the overall control objectives).

In my opinion, in all material respects, the controls exercised by the Commissioner are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the controls within the system were suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives identified as at 30 June 2026, and the controls were implemented as designed as at 30 June 2026.

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The Information Commissioner's responsibilities

The Information Commissioner is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining controls to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006*, the Treasurer's Instructions and other relevant written law.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the suitability of the design of the controls to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of the controls as designed. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements *ASAE 3150 Assurance Engagements on Controls* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform my procedures to obtain reasonable assurance about whether, in all material respects, the controls are suitably designed to achieve the overall control objectives and were implemented as designed.

An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the suitability of the controls design to achieve the overall control objectives and the implementation of those controls. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including an assessment of the risks that controls are not suitably designed or implemented as designed. My procedures included testing the implementation of those controls that I consider necessary to achieve the overall control objectives.

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

Limitations of controls

Because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure, it is possible that, even if the controls are suitably designed and implemented as designed, once in operation, the overall control objectives may not be achieved so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected. Any projection of the outcome of the evaluation of the suitability of the design of controls to future periods is subject to the risk that the controls may become unsuitable because of changes in conditions.

Report on the audit of the key performance indicators

Opinion

I have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the key performance indicators of the Commissioner for the year ended 30 June 2026 reported in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions (legislative requirements). The key performance indicators are the Under Treasurer-approved key effectiveness indicators and key efficiency indicators that provide performance information about achieving outcomes and delivering services.

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In my opinion, in all material respects, the key performance indicators report of the Commissioner for the year ended 30 June 2026 is in accordance with the legislative requirements, and the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Matter of Significance

The Office received an approval from the Treasurer, in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability, Requirement 5.3(i) Key Performance Indicators, that it is not required to report the following key performance indicators for the 2025-26 financial year:

- Parties satisfied with freedom of information advisory services;
- Parties satisfied with privacy complaint processes; and
- Parties satisfied with privacy advisory services.

The approval was given until a new Case Management System is implemented. Consequently, these key effectiveness indicators have not been reported and no key performance indicators were reported for *Outcome – Ensure privacy compliance and enforce privacy obligations across regulated entities in accordance with the Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* for the year ended 30 June 2026. I am required by section 24 (1) of the *Auditor General Act 2006* to report on matters of such significance. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The Information Commissioner's responsibilities for the key performance indicators

The Information Commissioner is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such internal controls as the Information Commissioner determines necessary to enable the preparation of key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the key performance indicators, the Information Commissioner is responsible for identifying key performance indicators that are relevant and appropriate, having regard to their purpose in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 3 Financial Sustainability – Requirement 5 Key Performance Indicators.

Auditor General's responsibilities

As required by the *Auditor General Act 2006*, my responsibility as an assurance practitioner is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators. The objectives of my engagement are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the key performance indicators are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commissioner's performance and whether the key performance indicators are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. I conducted my engagement in accordance with Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. That standard requires that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements.

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An assurance engagement involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the key performance indicators. It also involves evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators against the criteria and guidance in Treasurer's Instruction 3 - Requirement 5 for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and the efficiency of service delivery. The procedures selected depend on my judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments, I obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the engagement in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

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

My independence and quality management relating to the report on financial statements, controls and key performance indicators

I have complied with the independence requirements of the *Auditor General Act 2006* and the relevant ethical requirements relating to assurance engagements. In accordance with ASQM 1 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Reports and Other Financial Information, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, the Office of the Auditor General maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Other information

The Information Commissioner is responsible for the other information. The other information is the information in the entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but not the financial statements, key performance indicators and my auditor's report.

My opinions on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators do not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and key performance indicators or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive it, I will read it and if I conclude that there is a material misstatement in this information, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request them to correct the misstated information. If the misstated information is not corrected, I may need to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report.

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Matters relating to the electronic publication of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Commissioner for the year ended 30 June 2026 included in the annual report on the Commissioner's website. The Commissioner's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commissioner's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commissioner's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the annual report. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to contact the Commissioner to confirm the information contained in the website version.



Mikey Fiorucci
A/Senior Director Financial Audit
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
9 September 2026

Financial statements

Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$
COST OF SERVICES		
Expenses		
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)	3,526,419
Supplies and services	2.2	1,089,741
Depreciation expenses	4.1,4.2	11,448
Finance costs		1,178
Accommodation expenses	2.2	288,735
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		5,228
Other expenses	2.2	286,745
Total cost of services		5,209,494
Income		
Commonwealth contributions	3.2	1,426
Other income		8,501
Total income		9,927
Net cost of services		5,199,567
Income from State Government		
Service appropriation	3.1	6,460,000
Resources received	3.1	498,594
Other revenue from State Government	3.1	169,702
Total income from State Government		7,128,296
Surplus for the period		1,928,729
Total comprehensive income for the period		1,928,729

The Statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements (continued)

Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	3,741,109
Receivables	5.1	158,763
Other current assets	5.3	20,609
Total Current Assets		3,920,481
Non-Current Assets		
Receivables	5.1	137,285
Amounts receivable for services	5.2	70,000
Plant and equipment	4.1	103,737
Right-of-use assets	4.2	31,651
Total Non-Current Assets		342,673
Total Assets		4,263,154
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	5.4	256,118
Lease liabilities	6.2	7,425
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	535,856
Total Current Liabilities		799,399
Non-Current Liabilities		
Lease liabilities	6.2	24,411
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)	143,916
Total Non-Current Liabilities		168,327
Total Liabilities		967,726
Net Assets		3,295,428
Equity		
Contributed equity		1,366,699
Accumulated surplus		1,928,729
Total Equity		3,295,428

The Statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements (continued)

Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	Contributed equity \$	Accumulated surplus \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2025		-	-	-
Surplus for the period		-	1,928,729	1,928,729
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	1,928,729	1,928,729
<i>Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:</i>				
Capital Appropriation		100,000	-	100,000
Transfer of net assets from the former Office of the Information Commissioner	9	1,266,699	-	1,266,699
Total		1,366,699	-	1,366,699
Balance at 30 June 2026		1,366,699	1,928,729	3,295,428

The Statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements (continued)

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$
Cash flows from the State Government		
Service appropriation	3.1	6,460,000
Treasurer's advance		1,000,000
Capital appropriation		100,000
Transfer of cash from the former Office of the Information Commissioner	9	1,936,860
Funds from other public sector entities	3.1	169,702
Net cash provided by the State Government		9,666,562
<i>Utilised as follows:</i>		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Payments		
Employee benefits		(3,617,669)
Supplies and services		(517,928)
Finance costs		(1,178)
Accommodation		(288,735)
GST payments on purchases		(109,473)
Other payments		(286,745)
Receipts		
Commonwealth contributions		1,426
GST receipts on sales		96,540
Other receipts		312
Net cash used in operating activities		(4,723,450)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments		
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(105,442)
Net cash used in investing activities	4.1	(105,442)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payments		
Repayment of the Treasurer's advance		(1,000,000)
Principal element of lease payments		(14,786)
Payment to accrued salaries account		(81,775)
Net cash used in financing activities		(1,096,561)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		3,741,109
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	6.1	3,741,109

The Statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

1. Basis of preparation

The Office of the Information Commissioner (**OIC**) is a government not-for-profit entity controlled by the State of Western Australia, which is the ultimate parent.

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities has been included in the '**Overview**' which does not form part of these financial statements.

The Office of the Information Commissioner was established as a new reporting entity on 1 July 2025 following the abolition of the former Office of the Information Commissioner. The former OIC prepared a final set of financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the accountable authority of the OIC on 08 September 2026.

Statement of compliance

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Conceptual Framework and other authoritative pronouncements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) as modified by Treasurer's instructions. Some of these pronouncements are modified to vary their application and disclosure.

The *Financial Management Act 2006* and Treasurer's instructions, which are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements for agencies, take precedence over AASB pronouncements. Where an AASB pronouncement is modified and has had a significant financial effect on the reported results, details of the modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars applying the accrual basis of accounting and using the historical cost convention. Certain balances will apply a different measurement basis (such as the fair value basis). Where this is the case the different measurement basis is disclosed in the associated note. All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting for Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except that the:

- (a) amount of GST incurred by the OIC as a purchaser that is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is recognised as part of an asset's cost of acquisition or as part of an item of expense; and
- (b) receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

Cashflows are included in the Statement of cash flows on a gross basis. However, the GST components of cashflows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cashflows.

Contributed equity

Interpretation 1038 *Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities* requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, as designated as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 8 – Requirement 8.1(i) and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

Comparative information

As the OIC is a newly established reporting entity, there are no comparative amounts for the preceding reporting period. Comparative information has therefore not been presented in these financial statements.

Judgements and estimates

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements and estimates made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements and/or estimates are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

2. Use of our funding

Expenses incurred in the delivery of services

This section provides additional information about how the OIC's funding is applied and the accounting policies that are relevant for an understanding of the items recognised in the financial statements. The primary expenses incurred by the OIC in achieving its objectives and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Employee benefits expenses	2.1(a)
Employee related provisions	2.1(b)
Other expenditure	2.2

2.1(a) Employee benefits expenses

	2026 \$
Employee benefits	3,144,662
Superannuation – defined contribution plans	381,757
Total employee benefits expenses	3,526,419

Employee benefits include wages, salaries and social contributions, accrued and paid leave entitlements and paid sick leave, and non-monetary benefits recognised under accounting standards other than AASB 16 (such as medical care, housing, cars and free or subsidised goods or services) for employees.

Superannuation is the amount recognised in profit or loss of the Statement of comprehensive income comprising employer contributions paid to the Gold State Super (concurrent contributions), West State Super, GESB Super or other superannuation funds.

2.1(b) Employee related provisions

	2026 \$
Current	
Employee benefits provisions	
Annual leave	285,990
Long service leave	242,816
	528,806
Other provisions	
Employment on-costs	7,050
Total current employee related provisions	535,856
Non-current	
Employee benefits provisions	
Long service leave	139,605
Other provisions	
Employment on-costs	4,311
Total non-current employee related provisions	143,916
Total employee related provisions	679,772

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long services leave for services rendered up to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

Annual leave liabilities are classified as current as there is no right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

The provision for annual leave is calculated at the present value of expected payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date.

Long service leave liabilities are unconditional long service leave provisions and are classified as current liabilities as the OIC does not have the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the OIC has the right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

The provision for long service leave is calculated at present value as the OIC does not expect to wholly settle the amounts within 12 months. The present value is measured taking into account the present value of expected future payments to be made in relation to services provided by employees up to the reporting date. These payments are estimated using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement and discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, to the estimated future cash outflows.

Employment on-costs involve settlements of annual and long service leave liabilities giving rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance premiums, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenditure note 2.2 (apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost))' and are not included as part of the OIC's 'employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

	2026 \$
Employment on-costs provision	
Transfer from the former OIC ^(a)	2,962
Additional provisions recognised	8,399
Carrying amount at end of period	11,361

^(a) On 1 July 2025, employment on-cost provision balances previously attributed to the former OIC were transferred to the newly established OIC.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty – long service leave

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Several estimates and assumptions are used in calculating the OIC's long service leave provision. These include:

- *expected future salary rates;*
- *discount rates;*
- *employee retention rates; and*
- *expected future payments.*

Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision. Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of long service leave liabilities is recognised as employee benefits expense.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

2.2 Other expenditure

	2026 \$
Supplies and services	
Resources Received Free of Charge	498,594
Consultants and contractors	406,096
Consumables	124,931
Licence, fee and registration	47,722
Other supplies and services	12,398
Total supplies and services expenses	1,089,741
Accommodation expenses	
Buildings Rentals Operating Lease Expense	280,857
Rental Car Bays	7,878
Total accommodation expenses	288,735
Other expenses	
Staff relocation expenses	169,823
Insurance	30,575
Travel	19,438
Staff training	15,495
Repairs and hire costs	14,785
Other	36,629
Total other expenses	286,745
Total other expenditure	1,665,221

Supplies and services expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any materials held for distribution are expensed when the materials are distributed.

Office rental is expensed as incurred as Memorandum of Understanding Agreements between the OIC and the Department of Housing and Works for the leasing of office accommodation contain significant substitution rights.

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

3. Our funding sources

How we obtain our funding

This section provides additional information about how the OIC obtains its funding and the relevant accounting policy notes that govern the recognition and measurement of this funding. The primary income received by the OIC and the relevant notes are:

	Notes
Income from State Government	3.1
Commonwealth contributions	3.2

3.1 Income from State Government

	2026 \$
Appropriation received during the period:	
- Service appropriation	6,460,000
- Funds from other public entities	169,702
Total service appropriation	6,629,702
Resources received from other public sector entities during the period:	
- Services received free of charge	
Department of Justice – Corporate Services	468,390
Department of Housing and Works – Building and Management Works	13,784
State Solicitor's Office	16,420
Total resources received	498,594
Total income from State Government	7,128,296

Service appropriations are recognised as income at fair value of consideration received in the period in which the OIC gains control of the appropriated funds. The OIC gains control of the appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited in the bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Resources received from other public sector entities is recognised as income equivalent to the fair value of assets received, or the fair value of services received that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated.

Income from other public sector entities is recognised as income when the OIC has satisfied its performance obligations under the funding agreement. If there is no performance obligation, income will be recognised when the OIC receives the funds.

Summary of consolidated account appropriations

For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 Budget \$	2026 Actual \$	2026 Variance \$
Delivery of Services			
Item 12 Net amount appropriated to deliver services	5,321,000	5,321,000	-
Amount authorised by other statutes:			
- <i>Salaries and allowances Act 1975</i>	1,139,000	1,139,000	-
Total appropriations provided to deliver services	6,460,000	6,460,000	-

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

3.2 Commonwealth contributions

	2026 \$
Transfers from the former OIC ^(a)	24,978
Receipt from the Commonwealth	1,426
Expenditure	-
Balance at end of the period	26,404

^(a) On 1 July 2025, unspent funding received as part of the service delivery agreement with the Commonwealth for delivery of OIC services to the Indian Ocean Territories, were transferred from the former OIC.

The Indian Ocean Territories funding is paid as part of the service delivery agreement with the Commonwealth for delivery of OIC services to the Indian Ocean Territories.

Grants and contributions are recognised at fair value when the OIC obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when the cash is received.

4. Key assets

This section includes information regarding the key assets the OIC utilises to gain economic benefits or provide service potential. The section sets out both the key accounting policies and financial information about these assets:

	Notes
Plant and equipment	4.1
Right-of-use assets	4.2

4.1 Plant and equipment

Year ended 30 June 2026	Intangibles \$	Computer Hardware \$	Office Equipment \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Total \$
Transfers from the former OIC ^(a)					
Gross carrying amount	10,570	13,500	16,879	-	40,949
Accumulated depreciation	(10,570)	(13,500)	(16,879)	-	(40,949)
Carrying amount at start of period	-	-	-	-	-
Additions	-	-	14,348	91,094	105,442
Depreciation expenses	-	-	(493)	(1,212)	(1,705)
Carrying amount at end of period	-	-	13,855	89,882	103,737
Gross carrying amount	10,570	13,500	22,678	91,094	137,842
Accumulated depreciation	(10,570)	(13,500)	(8,823)	(1,212)	(34,105)

^(a) On 1 July 2025, amounts previously attributed to the former OIC were transferred to the newly established OIC. This includes the gross carrying amount and accumulated depreciation amounts

Initial recognition

Items of plant and equipment, costing \$5,000 or more are measured initially at cost. Where an asset is acquired for no cost or significantly less than fair value, the cost is valued at its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items of plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of comprehensive income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

Subsequent measurement

Plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Useful lives

All plant and equipment having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits. The exceptions to this rule include assets held for sale, land and investment properties.

Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life
Computer hardware	5 years
Office equipment	5-10 years
Leasehold improvements	7 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments should be made where appropriate.

The OIC's current accommodation lease expires on 30 June 2028. It is reasonably expected that the lease will be renewed for another five years. This extension covers the seven year depreciation period for leasehold improvements.

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired. Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised.

Where an asset measured at cost and is written down to its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised through profit or loss.

4.2 Right-of-use assets

Year ended 30 June 2026	Vehicles \$	Total \$
Carrying amount at beginning of period	-	-
Additions	48,831	48,831
Disposals	(7,437)	(7,437)
Depreciation expenses	(9,743)	(9,743)
Net carrying amount as at end of period	31,651	31,651

The OIC has a vehicle lease. Lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-10 years with an option to renew the lease after that date.

The OIC has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Housing and Works for the leasing of office accommodation. These are not recognised under AASB 16 because of substitution rights held by the Department of Housing and Works and are accounted for as an expense as incurred.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

Initial recognition

At the commencement date of the lease, the OIC recognises right-of-use assets and a corresponding lease liability for most leases. The right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising of:

- the amount of the initial measurement of lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs, and
- restoration costs, including dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

The corresponding lease liabilities in relation to these right-of-use assets have been disclosed in note 6.2.

Subsequent measurement

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets, requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses and adjusted for any re-measurement of lease liability.

Depreciation and impairment of right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful lives of the underlying assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the OIC at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

Right-of-use assets are tested for impairment when an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in note 4.1.

5. Other assets and liabilities

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the OIC's controlled operations and includes other assets utilised for economic benefits and liabilities incurred during normal operations:

	Notes
Receivables	5.1
Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)	5.2
Other assets	5.3
Payables	5.4

5.1 Receivables

	2026 \$
Current	
Accounts receivable	158,763
Total current	158,763
Non-current	
Accrued salaries account ^(a)	137,285
Total non-current	137,285
Total receivables at end of the period	296,048

^(a) Funds transferred to the Department of Treasury and Finance for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a reporting period that occurs every 11 years. This account is classified as noncurrent except for the year before the 27th pay year.

Trade receivables are initially recognised at their transaction price or, for those receivables that contain a significant financing component, at fair value. The OIC holds the receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for impairment.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

The OIC recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) on a receivable not held at fair value through profit or loss. The ECLs based on the difference between the contractual cash flows and the cash flows that the entity expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate. Individual receivables are written off when the OIC has no reasonable expectations of recovering the contractual cash flows.

For trade receivables, the OIC recognises an allowance for ECLs measured at the lifetime expected credit losses at each reporting date. The OIC has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment. No ECLs were expensed in this financial year.

Accrued salaries account contains amounts paid annually into the Treasurer's special purpose account. It is restricted for meeting the additional cash outflow for employee salary payments in reporting periods with 27 pay days instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account.

5.2 Amounts receivable for services (Holding Account)

	2026 \$
Non-current	70,000
Total amounts receivable for services at end of period	70,000

Amounts receivable for services represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

The amounts receivable for services are financial assets at amortised cost and are not considered impaired (i.e. there is no expected credit loss of the holding accounts).

5.3 Other assets

	2026 \$
Current	
Prepayments	20,609
Total other assets at end of period	20,609

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services, or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

5.4 Payables

	2026 \$
Current	
Trade payables	30,253
Accrued salaries and superannuation	144,172
Accrued expenses	81,693
Total payables at end of period	256,118

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the OIC becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as settlement for the OIC is generally within 15 - 20 working days.

Accrued salaries represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the reporting period. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight after the reporting period. The OIC considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

6. Financing

This section sets out the material balances and disclosures associated with the financing and cashflows of the OIC.

	Notes
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1
Lease liabilities	6.2

6.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2026 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	3,741,109
Balance at end of period	3,741,109

For the purpose of the Statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalent assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

6.2 Lease liabilities

	2026 \$
Not later than one year	7,425
Later than one year and not later than five years	24,411
Total	31,836
Current	7,425
Non-current	24,411
Total	31,836

Initial measurement

At the commencement date of the lease, the entity recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease. If that rate cannot be readily determined, the OIC uses the incremental borrowing rate provided by Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

Lease payments included by the OIC as part of the present value calculation of lease liability include:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options (where these are reasonably certain to be exercised);
- payments for penalties for terminating a lease, where the lease term reflects the agency exercising an option to terminate the lease; and
- periods covered by extension or termination options are only included in the lease term by the OIC if the lease is reasonably certain to be extended (or not terminated).

The interest on the lease liability is recognised in profit or loss over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Lease liabilities do not include any future changes in variable lease payments (that depend on an index or rate) until they take effect, in which case the lease liability is reassessed and adjusted against the right-of-use asset.

Variable lease payments, not included in the measurement of lease liability, that are dependent on sales are recognised by the OIC in profit or loss in the period in which the condition that triggers those payments occurs.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

Subsequent measurement

Lease liabilities are measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liabilities; reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made; and remeasuring the carrying amount at amortised cost, subject to adjustments to reflect any reassessment or lease modifications.

	2026 \$
Lease expenses recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income	
Lease interest expense	1,178

Short-term leases with a lease term of 12 months or less are recognised on a straight-line basis unless the lessor is a public sector entity.

Low-value leases with an underlying value of \$5,000 or less are recognised on a straight-line basis.

Variable lease payments that are not included in the measurement of the lease liability are recognised in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occurs.

7. Financial instruments and contingencies

This note sets out the key risk management policies and measurement techniques of the OIC.

	Notes
Financial instruments	7.1
Contingent assets and liabilities	7.2

7.1 Financial instruments

The carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2026 \$
Financial assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	3,741,109
Financial assets at amortised cost ^(a)	368,903
Total financial assets	4,110,012
Financial liabilities	
Payables ^(b)	256,118
Lease liabilities ^(b)	31,836
Total financial liabilities	287,954

^(a) The amount of financial assets at amortised cost excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

^(b) The amount of financial liabilities at amortised cost excludes GST payable to the ATO (statutory payable).

7.2 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Statement of financial position but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at the best estimate.

The OIC has no contingent assets or liabilities to disclose at the end of the reporting period.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

8. Other disclosures

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or other pronouncements, for the understanding of this financial report.

	Notes
Events occurring after the end of the reporting period	8.1
Correction of period errors/changes in accounting policy	8.2
Key management personnel	8.3
Related parties	8.4
Related bodies	8.5
Affiliated bodies	8.6
Remuneration of auditors	8.7
Supplementary financial information	8.8

8.1 Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

The OIC had no events occurring after the end of the reporting period that impacted on the financial statements.

8.2 Correction of period errors/changes in accounting policy

The OIC has not made any changes to its accounting policies or corrected any prior period errors that would impact on the reported results of the OIC.

8.3 Key management personnel

The OIC has determined key management personnel to include senior officers of the OIC. The OIC does not incur expenditures to compensate ministers and those disclosures may be found in the *Annual Report on State Finances*.

The total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for senior officers of the OIC for the reporting period are presented within the following bands:

Compensation band (\$)	2026
550,001 – 600,000	1
200,001 – 250,000	1
150,001 – 200,000	2
100,001 – 150,000	1
50,001 – 100,000	1
	2026
	\$
Total compensation of senior officers	1,338,216

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

8.4 Related parties

The OIC is a wholly-owned public sector entity that is controlled by the State of Western Australia.

Related parties of the OIC include:

- all senior officers and their close family members, and their controlled or jointly controlled entities;
- other agencies and statutory authorities, including related bodies, that are included in the whole of government consolidated financial statements (i.e. wholly-owned public sector entities);
- associates and joint ventures of a wholly-owned public sector entity; and
- Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

Material transactions with related parties

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the OIC, there were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel and/or their close family members and/or their controlled (or jointly controlled) entities.

8.5 Related bodies

The OIC had no related bodies during the financial year.

8.6 Affiliated bodies

The OIC had no affiliated bodies during the financial year.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current reporting period is as follows:

	2026 \$
Auditing the financial statements, controls, and key performance indicators	37,600

8.8 Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-Offs

There were no write-offs during the financial year.

(b) Losses through theft, defaults and other causes

There were no thefts, defaults or losses during the financial year.

(c) Forgiveness of debts

There were no debts waived during the financial year.

(d) Gift of public property

There was no gift of public property during the financial year.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

9. Transfer of net assets from the former OIC

Effective 1 July 2025, the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) commenced operations as a separate reporting entity. As part of the establishment process, the assets and liabilities of the former OIC were transferred to the new OIC at their carrying amounts as at 1 July 2025, resulting in a net asset transfer of \$1,266,699 (as per breakdown provided below), which has been recognised as contributed equity. The net assets received have been recognised as a contribution by owners in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to restructures of administrative arrangements and transfers within the Western Australian public sector.

	2025 \$
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	1,936,860
Receivables	18,687
Other current assets	21,772
Total Current Assets	1,977,319
Non-Current Assets	
Receivables	55,510
Amounts receivable for services	70,000
Total Non-Current Assets	125,510
Total Assets	2,102,829
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Payables	131,654
Employee related provisions	622,665
Total Current Liabilities	754,319
Non-Current Liabilities	
Employee related provisions	81,811
Total Non-Current Liabilities	81,811
Total Liabilities	836,130
Net Assets	1,266,699

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10. Explanatory statements

This section explains variations in the financial performance of the OIC.

	Notes
Explanatory statement for controlled operations	10.1

10.1 Explanatory statement for controlled operations

This explanatory section explains variations in the financial performance of the OIC undertaking transactions under its own control, as represented by the primary financial statements.

All variances between annual estimates (original budget) and actual results for 2026 are shown below. The OIC is exempt from providing comparisons between the actual results for 2026 and 2025 due to this being the first year of operations under the new OIC. Narratives are provided for major variances which are more than 1% of the following (as appropriate):

1) Estimate and actual results for the current year:

- Total Cost of Services of the annual estimates for the Statement of comprehensive income and Statement of cash flows (i.e. 1% of \$7,321,000); and
- Total Assets of the annual estimates for the Statement of financial position (i.e. 1% of \$3,132,000).

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10.1.1 Statement of comprehensive income variances

	Variance Note	Estimate ⁽¹⁾ 2026	Actual 2026	Variance between actual and estimate
		\$	\$	\$
Expenses				
Employee benefits expense	1	5,610,000	3,526,419	(2,083,581)
Supplies and services		1,059,000	1,089,741	30,741
Depreciation and amortisation expense		-	11,448	11,448
Finance costs		-	1,178	1,178
Accommodation expenses		292,000	288,735	(3,265)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	5,228	5,228
Other expenses	2	360,000	286,745	(73,255)
Total cost of services		7,321,000	5,209,494	(2,111,506)
Income				
Commonwealth grants and contributions		-	1,426	1,426
Other Income		-	8,501	8,501
Total income other than income from State Government			9,927	9,927
Net cost of services		7,321,000	5,199,567	(2,121,433)
Income from State Government				
Service appropriation		6,460,000	6,460,000	-
Resources received free of charge	3	622,000	498,594	(123,406)
Other revenue from State Government	4	-	169,702	169,702
Total income from State Government		7,082,000	7,128,296	46,296
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		(239,000)	1,928,729	2,167,729

⁽¹⁾ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10.1.2 Statement of financial position variances

	Variance Note	Estimate ⁽¹⁾ 2026	Actual 2026	Variance between actual and estimate
		\$	\$	\$
Assets				
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents		703,000	3,741,109	3,038,109
Receivables		21,000	158,763	137,763
Other current assets	5	96,000	20,609	(75,391)
Total current assets		820,000	3,920,481	3,100,481
Non-current assets				
Receivables		58,000	137,285	79,285
Amounts receivable for services		75,000	70,000	(5,000)
Plant and equipment	6	1,536,000	103,737	(1,432,263)
Intangible assets	7	643,000	-	(643,000)
Right of use		-	31,651	31,651
Total non-current assets		2,312,000	342,673	(1,969,327)
Total assets		3,132,000	4,263,154	1,131,154
Liabilities				
Current liabilities				
Payables		70,000	256,118	186,118
Borrowings and leases		-	7,425	7,425
Employee related provisions	8	570,000	535,856	(34,144)
Other liabilities	9	42,000	-	(42,000)
Total current liabilities		682,000	799,399	117,399
Non-current liabilities				
Lease liabilities		-	24,411	24,411
Employee related provisions	8	69,000	143,916	74,916
Total non-current liabilities		69,000	168,327	99,327
Total liabilities		751,000	967,726	216,726
Net assets		2,381,000	3,295,428	914,428
Equity				
Contributed equity		2,620,000	1,366,699	(1,253,301)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(239,000)	1,928,729	2,167,729
Total equity		2,381,000	3,295,428	914,428

⁽¹⁾ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

10.1.3 Statement of cash flow variances

	Variance Note	Estimate ⁽¹⁾ 2026 \$	Actual 2026 \$	Variance between actual and estimate \$
Cash flows from State Government				
Service appropriation		6,460,000	6,460,000	-
Capital appropriation		100,000	100,000	-
Equity contribution	10	-	1,936,860	1,936,860
Funds from other public sector entities	4	-	169,702	169,702
Digital Capability Fund	11	882,000	-	(882,000)
Net cash provided by State Government		7,442,000	8,666,562	1,224,562
Cash flows from operating activities				
Payments				
Employee benefits	1	(5,610,000)	(3,617,669)	1,992,331
Supplies and services	12	(388,000)	(517,928)	(129,928)
Finance costs		-	(1,178)	(1,178)
Accommodation		(292,000)	(288,735)	3,265
GST payments on purchases	13	(48,000)	(109,473)	(61,473)
Other payments	2	(409,000)	(286,745)	122,255
Receipts				
Commonwealth grants and contributions		-	1,426	1,426
GST receipts from taxation authority	13	48,000	96,540	48,540
Other receipts		-	312	312
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		(6,699,000)	(4,723,450)	1,975,550
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments				
Purchases of non-current physical assets	14	(743,000)	(105,442)	637,558
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(743,000)	(105,442)	637,558
Cash flows from financing activities				
Principal element of lease payments		-	(14,786)	(14,786)
Payment to accrued salaries account	15	-	(81,775)	(81,775)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities		-	(96,561)	(96,561)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		(703,000)	-	(703,000)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		-	3,741,109	3,741,109
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period		703,000	3,741,109	3,038,109

⁽¹⁾ These are annual estimates published for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Financial statements (continued)

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 30 June 2026

Major estimate and actual (2026) variance narratives:

1. The variance in employee benefits is due to recruitment of many new positions which were unfilled for longer periods of time than originally anticipated. (Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows).
2. The variance in other payments is mainly due to lower than expected costs for insurance (Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows).
3. The variance in resources received free of charge is due to lower than expected costs incurred by the Department of Justice in relation to the implementation of the OIC.
4. The variance in other revenue from State Government is due to the non-budgeted transfer of resources initially allocated to the Department of Justice to support the implementation of the OIC.
5. The variance in other current assets is due to lower prepaid expenditure at year-end than budgeted, primarily attributable to differences in the timing of payments and the subsequent recognition of expenses during the reporting period.
6. The variance in plant and equipment is due to the deferral of the procurement process for the Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System.
7. The variance in intangible assets (software) did not eventuate due to the deferral of the procurement process for the Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System.
8. The variance in employee related provisions is due to classification changes between current and non-current employee related provisions for long service leave.
9. The variance in other liabilities is due to no budget being provided for accrued salaries.
10. The variance in the equity contribution is due to the non-budgeted transfer of cash equity from the former OIC.
11. The variance in Digital Capability Funds is due to the deferral of the procurement process for the Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System.
12. The variance in supplies and services is mainly due to costs associated with the OIC's establishment.
13. The variance in GST payments and receipts is largely due to increased GST paid and received from the ATO than originally anticipated in the budget. (Statements of Comprehensive Income and Cash Flows).
14. The variance in the purchase of non-current physical assets is due to the deferral of the procurement process for the Case Management and Electronic Document and Records Management System.
15. The variance in payment to accrued salaries occurred because the expense was not budgeted.

Disclosures

Enabling and administered legislation

- *Information Commissioner Act 2024 (WA)*
- *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024 (WA)*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)*

Other key legislation impacting on the OIC WA's activities

- *Auditor General Act 2006 (WA)*
- *Corruption Crime and Misconduct Act 2003 (WA)*
- *Disability Services Act 1993 (WA)*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (WA)*
- *Financial Management Act 2006 (WA)*
- *Industrial Relations Act 1979 (WA)*
- *Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 (WA)*
- *Procurement Act 2020 (WA)*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003 (WA)*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994 (WA)*
- *Salaries and Allowances Act 1975 (WA)*
- *State Records Act 2000 (WA)*
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)*

FOI reporting

Section 111 of the FOI Act requires the annual report to Parliament to include certain specified information relating to the number and nature of applications agencies deal with under the FOI Act during the year. This is contained in a new Part 2 'Agency Statistics'.

The Commissioner is also required to provide the following information, which is found under Performance in this report:

- the number of external review applications made to the Information Commissioner and the results of those applications;
- the number of other applications made to the Information Commissioner and the results of those applications; and
- the number of appeals to the Supreme Court and results of those appeals.

Disclosures (continued)

Privacy reporting

Section 146 of the PRIS Act requires the Information Commissioner to report on certain matters, including:

- The number of applications for public interest determinations and temporary public interest determinations (or extension of such determinations)
- The number of privacy complaints and the outcomes of those complaints
- The number of applications for review to the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) and appeals to the Supreme Court from decisions of the SAT
- The number of notifiable information breaches and the number (or an estimate of the number) of affected individuals, and
- The number of compliance notices issued.

Most substantive privacy provisions contained in the PRIS Act commenced on 1 July 2026, including the Information Commissioner's powers to investigate privacy complaints. The notifiable information breach provisions do not commence until 1 January 2027. Accordingly, there is nothing to report for 2025–26.

Pricing policies of services provided

The services provided by the OIC WA are free of charge. The fees and charges prescribed by the FOI Act for making an FOI application are paid directly to the agency receiving the application. There are currently no fees prescribed by the PRIS Act.

Capital works

Capital projects in-progress

- Case management system and a fit-for-purpose document management system – this initiative referenced in previous Annual Reports commenced in 2023–24 to modernise case management and records management functions, with initial funding of \$1.4 million from the Government's Digital Capability Fund supporting procurement and tender development activities through 2024 and 2025. Following the establishment of the new OIC WA on 1 July 2025 and the expansion of its statutory responsibilities under the PRIS Act, the procurement process was reassessed to ensure alignment with broader privacy and cyber security requirements. Additional funding of \$2.4 million from the Government's Digital Capability Fund was subsequently approved to support the expanded responsibilities of the new OIC WA. A new tender process commenced in 2025–26 and is progressing, with implementation targeted for 2027.

Capital projects completed

- Office accommodation fit-out (Phase 1) – In 2025–26, the OIC WA received \$100,000 in capital funding to undertake office fit-out works to accommodate approved staff growth. The OIC WA continues to operate from Albert Facey House in the Perth CBD, and the fit-out has been designed to provide a flexible and adaptable workspace capable of supporting future workforce growth. The project meets immediate operational needs. Phase 1 of the fit-out was completed during the financial year.

Disclosures (continued)

Employment and industrial relations

Staff profile

Table 10: Staff profile

Employee category	At 30 June 2025	At 30 June 2026 ⁽¹⁾
Full-time permanent	10	14
Full-time contract	3	6
Part-time permanent	3	2
Part-time contract	3	2
Total	19	24

- (1) The new OIC WA was established on 1 July 2025 following the abolition of the former OIC WA. Employees of the former OIC WA transferred to the new OIC WA. Workforce movements during 2025–26 primarily reflected the implementation of the new organisational structure and targeted recruitment activities to build capability and support the agency's expanded operating model. Recruitment initiatives remained ongoing at 30 June 2026 as the OIC WA continued to strengthen its workforce and fill key positions.

Staff development

As a small office, our people are our most important asset and we are committed to investing in their ongoing professional development to ensure they maintain the skills, knowledge and capabilities needed to deliver high-quality services in a rapidly evolving regulatory and digital environment.

During 2025–26, our professional development program delivered more than 50 learning opportunities, including in-house knowledge-sharing sessions, external training courses, conferences and professional development events. These activities supported employees to strengthen technical expertise, build leadership capability, remain informed of legislative and policy developments, and share knowledge across the office.

We also successfully enrolled in the WA Public Sector Skills Academy. The Skills Academy provides a whole-of-sector approach to learning and development. Through a range of learning formats and structured learning pathways, it supports employees to build the core capabilities needed now and into the future.

By continuing to invest in professional development, we are strengthening capability, fostering a culture of continuous learning and ensuring our workforce is equipped to meet current and emerging challenges.

Workers' compensation

There were zero workers compensation claims in 2025–26.

Disclosures (continued)

Governance disclosures

No senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the OIC WA other than normal contracts of employment service.

The OIC WA has no boards or committees, and therefore no remuneration costs in this regard.

The OIC WA made no act of grace payments.

No expenditure was spent on advertising agencies, polling organisations, direct mail organisations or media advertising organisations.

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and ethical codes

The OIC WA operates under an established code of conduct that references the WA Public Sector Code of Ethics (the Code). The OIC WA also has an employee grievance resolution policy in place. New staff are provided with OIC WA policies and procedures as part of their induction and these documents are also available to staff on the OIC WA's intranet site.

During this financial year there were no breaches of standards.

Unauthorised use of credit cards

Officers of the OIC WA hold corporate credit cards where their functions warrant usage of this facility. Of the two cardholders, there were no instances of the cards being inadvertently used for private expenses.

Conflicts of interest

The OIC WA maintains a Conflicts of Interest Register. During the reporting period, three conflicts were registered by the officers concerned and appropriate measures were put in place to manage that potential conflict.

Gifts register

The OIC WA has a gifts policy and maintains a Gifts Register. Small gifts for services provided (predominantly for briefings or speaking engagements) are generally accepted. During the reporting year, thirteen gifts were registered as accepted. The majority of these gifts were in the form of complimentary tickets provided to the OIC WA for speaking engagements. These were shared with OIC WA staff and contributed to over 100 hours of staff professional development. Gifts promoting services or where a discretionary authority exists with the gift recipient (e.g. purchasing discretion), are declined.

Complaints about the OIC WA

The OIC WA's complaints policy and procedures have been developed in line with the Australian and New Zealand Standard Guidelines for complaint handling in organisations AS/NZS 10002:2014. A complaint under the OIC WA complaints policy and procedure is an expression of dissatisfaction about the actions or services of the OIC WA, or the associated conduct of the Commissioner and/or OIC WA staff and may be either a general comment or a formal complaint requiring investigation and response. Three formal complaints were received during the year. A copy of the complaint's procedure is available on the OIC WA's [website](#).

Disclosures (continued)

Governance disclosures (continued)

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

As required under the *Disability Services Act 1993* (WA), the OIC WA has published a [Disability Access and Inclusion Plan \(DAIP\)](#). The purpose of the DAIP is to ensure people with disability, their families, and carers can fully access the range of services and facilities of the OIC WA.

A yearly progress report on the initiatives in the DAIP has been lodged with the Department of Communities. Most strategies are ongoing practices, such as maintaining access to premises and employment opportunities that may arise.

During the year, the OIC WA was able to progress initiatives from the OIC WA's DAIP regarding improving accessibility of information on the OIC WA's website, under Outcome 3 (people with a disability receive information from a public authority in a format that enables them to access the information as readily as other people). The OIC WA's website now includes audio features to improve accessibility, and web content can be viewed in multiple languages.

Records management

The OIC WA currently manages its records both electronically and by way of paper record files.

In the absence of a fully developed electronic document management system, some of our administrative and functional records continue to be printed and physically filed. This system of records management will be updated when the procurement process for a new case management system and an electronic document and records management system is finalised and implemented.

During this financial year, the OIC WA reviewed and refreshed its recordkeeping plan which the State Records Office approved.

Disclosures (continued)

Injury management targets

Table 11: Injury management targets

Measures	2025/26	Targets	Comment on Outcome
Number of fatalities	0	0	Target met
Incidence of work-related injury or illness	0	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Incidence rate of serious claims with one or more weeks' lost time	0	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Incidence rate of claims resulting in permanent impairment	0	Reduce by 2% per year and 15% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Incidence rate of work-related respiratory disease	0	Reduce by 2.5% per year and 20% by 2033 compared with 2023	Target met
Managers and supervisors trained in:			
1. work health and safety as relevant to the PCBU's risk profile; and	14%	Greater than or equal to 80% of cohort trained within last two (2) years	Target not met for 2025-26*
2. injury management.	0	Greater than or equal to 80% of cohort trained within last five (5) years	Target not met for 2025-26*
Percentage of workers returned to work on full duties and hours			
(i) within 13 weeks	N/A	No target	
(ii) within 26 weeks	N/A	Greater than or equal to 70% returned to work within 26 weeks	
Agency has a WHS management system that has been independently assessed in last five years	No	Yes	Target not met for 2025-26.
Consultative systems:			
1. Number of health and safety representatives			
i. in total;	i) 1	No target – intended for agency trend information	
ii. who have attended HSR training;	ii) 1		
iii. shown as a percentage of workers;	iii) 4%		
iv. shown as a ratio to the number of workplaces occupied by the Agency; and	iv) N/A		
2. Name/s of health and safety committees and sub-committees	N/A		

* The targets were not met due to significant structure changes within the OIC WA and ongoing recruitment for key positions still underway as at 30 June 2026.

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