

Summary of our draft 2022/23 work programme

For more information on this proposed work, see [Parts 3 – 6 of our Draft annual plan 2022/23 \(https://www.oag.parliament.nz/2022/draft-annual-plan\)](https://www.oag.parliament.nz/2022/draft-annual-plan) To provide feedback on our draft annual plan, email enquiry@oag.parliament.nz. Feedback is requested by **Friday 27 May 2022**.

How well the public sector is improving the lives of New Zealanders

Focus areas	Work we propose for 2022/23	What we intend to look at
Covid-19 response and recovery	Examination of equity initiatives in the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme	We intend to examine the effectiveness of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in meeting its equity objectives. This follows our reporting on preparations for the nationwide roll-out of the Covid-19 vaccine and on the implementation of the recommendations we made in that report.
Family violence and sexual violence	How well are agencies working together and with the non-government sector to meet the needs of people affected by family violence and sexual violence?	We intend to complete an audit focusing on how well government agencies are working together, with non-governmental organisations, and with others to understand the needs of those affected by family violence and sexual violence.
Housing outcomes	Leadership of the housing and urban development system	We will complete the audit we started in 2021/22 looking at how well placed Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is to lead the housing and urban development system.
	Planning of significant housing and urban development projects	We intend to look at how Kāinga Ora Homes and Communities works with other organisations to plan and implement significant housing and urban development projects. We are particularly interested in how effectively central and local government interact on infrastructure planning and implementation, especially given the significant additional funding (\$3.8 billion) for infrastructure and land development in 2021.
Education outcomes	Understanding and addressing educational disparities	We intend to examine how effectively the Ministry of Education understands and is addressing educational disparities. This includes looking at how effectively the Ministry is using information to understand the multiple drivers of educational disparities; and how this information has informed the design and implementation of strategies and interventions to address them.
Health outcomes	Effectiveness of mental health and addiction services for young people	We intend to assess how mental health and addiction services are prioritised for the young people with the highest level of need for those services. This includes reporting on what agencies understand about current access to services for young people, and about the extent, distribution, and causes of unmet need for services among this age group.
Efforts to reduce child poverty	Progress of the Government's efforts to reduce child poverty	We intend to look at progress on the Government's objective to reduce child poverty. Results from a survey we carried out confirmed this is a topic of interest for New Zealanders. Our work will contribute to the national conversation about the work that public organisations are doing to tackle this complex issue.
Effectiveness of immigration processes	Immigration New Zealand resident visa processing - accountability and effectiveness of the visa process	We propose to look at how well Immigration New Zealand is managing visa processing for skilled migrants, in order to assess how well they are meeting the needs of applicants.

How well the public accountability system is working as a whole

Focus areas	Work we propose for 2022/23	What we intend to look at
Public sector accountability to Māori	Understanding how well the public sector is delivering outcomes that matter for Māori	We intend to complete the audit we started in 2021/22 to identify areas of significant investment targeted toward improving outcomes for Māori and compare that with what has been achieved. The aim of this audit is to provide better transparency over government spending on initiatives designed to support improved outcomes for Māori.
	How effectively the public sector is supporting the Whānau Ora approach	We will complete our work to provide an independent view on how effectively the public sector is supporting the Whānau Ora approach.
	How well public organisations are meeting Te Tiriti settlement obligations	We intend to look at and report on the complex system of Treaty settlement commitments. Our work will include who oversees and monitors the honoring of the Crown's commitments, what support is available to help agencies meet their obligations, and what happens when commitments are not honoured in a timely and complete way.
Planning for the future	Cybersecurity maturity and preparedness	We intend to carry out an audit to understand how well a small number of selected public organisations govern cybersecurity risk preparedness and response within their organisations. That work will include looking at the extent to which that governance relies on, and is informed by, the work of the National Cyber Security Centre ¹ and other relevant organisations.
	Infrastructure Commission's Infrastructure Strategy - how is it influencing the way agencies are planning investment?	We anticipate looking at how agencies are integrating the <i>New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy Rautaki Hanganga o Aotearoa</i> into the way they plan for and make investment decisions. In particular, we are interested in the extent to which public organisations are co-ordinating to consider climate targets in infrastructure planning and investments.
	Climate change and local government	We intend to audit the readiness of the local government sector to respond to climate change, including an evaluation of how a cross-section of councils are preparing for and setting priorities for their climate response, and the steps they are taking to respond to climate change effects, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a low carbon economy.
Integrity in the public sector	Promoting and supporting the integrity framework and guidance	Following publication of our integrity framework and guidance, which we are intending to publish in 2021/22, we plan to focus on encouraging the public sector to engage with and implement the framework in their organisations. We will also work to translate the framework and guidance into a performance audit methodology we can use to better assess integrity culture in public organisations.
	Looking at integrity in central government procurement	As part of our multi-year performance audit work programme on integrity, we plan to examine how government departments support integrity practices when they procure goods and services in emergency situations, and how they provide transparency to the public.
	Monitoring progress: Operation Respect (New Zealand Defence Force)	The New Zealand Defence Force has requested the Auditor-General to carry out an audit of the New Zealand Defence Force's progress on Operation Respect. The first performance audit will be completed in 2022/23, and we intend to look at how well Operation Respect has been designed and set up to achieve the aims of the programme.
Reporting on well-being	Commentary on the Wellbeing Report	We intend to look at how well the Wellbeing Report, to be published by Treasury in November 2022, describes the state and sustainability of well-being in New Zealand. We will also look at the report's position and place in the suite of stewardship reporting for well-being, and how it is used to support the quality and depth of information, and the Government's long-term well-being objectives.

¹ The National Cyber Security Centre is part of the Government Communications Security Bureau. Their role is to help New Zealand's most significant public and private sector organisations to protect their information systems from advanced cyber threats.

Keeping New Zealanders informed about public sector performance and accountability

Focus areas	Work we propose for 2022/23	What we intend to look at
Public sector accountability to communities	Public sector accountability to communities - research	We plan to carry out research into what the public considers important to understand the performance of public services and their impacts on community outcomes. Our research will inform our work on improving performance reporting in the public sector, as well as the issues we choose to focus on and how we present our own information.
Sector-level performance reporting	Presenting a picture of sector-level performance reporting	We intend to begin work to provide Parliament and the public with a better view of how well the public sector is reporting on its performance at a sector level. We are planning to pilot this work in the transport sector, with consideration to agencies that contribute to achieving the outcomes described in the Transport Outcomes Framework.
	Performance information in sectors undergoing major change	We have developed and now maintain a data base of performance information drawn from published annual reports of several types of public organisations. We use this information to inform the different types of work we do. This year we are also intending to draw on this information to see how well public organisations involved in reforms are maintaining their performance during the transition.
Our regular reporting	Observations from our central government audits: 2021/22	Each year we consolidate the results of our annual audits in central and local government, and other sectors. We also report on the results of our annual audit of the financial statements of the Government, and we regularly produce reports that focus on Auckland.
	Results of the 2021 school audits	
	Results of the 2021 audits of tertiary education institutions	
	Results of the 2021/22 district health board audits	
	Local government: Results of the 2021/22 audits	
	Auckland landscape scan	
	Auckland Council Review of service performance (topic to be confirmed)	
	Half-year Controller update	Every year, we present a report to Parliament that includes an account of the work carried out under our Controller function for the full financial year, along with our findings and conclusions. We also produce an interim report on our half-year findings (our work from 1 July to 31 December of each year) and various reports on matters of interest.
Advice and support to Parliament and select committees	Drawing on information and insights from our work, we provide advice and support to Parliament and select committees to assist their scrutiny of public sector performance.	

Sharing insights about what "good" looks like

Focus areas	Work we propose for 2022/23	What we intend to look at
Sharing insights about what "good" looks like	Helping to support the effectiveness of audit and risk committees	Building on our work in 2021/22, we will continue to support and strengthen our relationships with audit and risk committees by continue the forums and workshops we have established. We will also review and update our good practice guidance for audit and risk committees.

Focus areas	Work we propose for 2022/23	What we intend to look at
	Good practice guidance on performance reporting	We have recently published the first of a series of guidance on performance reporting, focusing on good examples from central government. In 2022/23 we intend to publish further good practice guidance. We will consult public sector entities and other stakeholders to determine the focus of the second guidance.
	Auditor-General quarterly updates for Chief Executives	Every quarter we send out the “Auditor-General’s Update” to chief executives and audit and risk committee chairpersons. These provide public organisations’ chief executives and governors with information about our work and shares insights and good practice.
	Sharing good practice speaker series	We will continue our quarterly speaker series where we host events with a range of speakers and panellists from the public and private sectors to share good practice experience, practices, and processes.
	Procurement reflections report - wrap up of procurement work	In 2018/19 we started a three-year work programme on procurement and since then we have produced a range of procurement related reports, some of which are still underway. We are intending to publish a report reflecting on this work as the final piece of this work programme, with the aim of informing and engaging key public sector stakeholders to improve public sector procurement practices.