# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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#### OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

#### Source Reference

FMA 2006 sec62(2b) TI 947 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 ending 30 June 2008 and the financial position as at 30 June 2008.

AASB 110.17

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

A. Andersion.

Alan Andersson Chief Finance Officer

4 September 2008

John Lightowlers A/Information Commissioner

4 September 2008





## INDEPENDENT AUDIT OPINION

## To the Parliament of Western Australia

## OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008

I have audited the accounts, financial statements, controls and key performance indicators of the Office of the Information Commissioner.

The financial statements comprise the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the Income Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement, Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service, and Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory Notes.

The key performance indicators consist of key indicators of effectiveness and efficiency.

## Information Commissioner's Responsibility for the Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

The Information Commissioner is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions, and the key performance indicators. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and key performance indicators that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances; and complying with the Financial Management Act 2006 and other relevant written law.

## Summary of my Role

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements, controls and key performance indicators based on my audit. This was done by testing selected samples of the audit evidence. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion. Further information on my audit approach is provided in my audit practice statement. Refer "http://www.audit.wa.gov.au/pubs/Audit-Practice-Statement.pdf".

An audit does not guarantee that every amount and disclosure in the financial statements and key performance indicators is error free. The term "reasonable assurance" recognises that an audit does not examine all evidence and every transaction. However, my audit procedures should identify errors or omissions significant enough to adversely affect the decisions of users of the financial statements and key performance indicators.

## Page 1 of 2

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## Office of the Information Commissioner Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators for the year ended 30 June 2008

## Audit Opinion

In my opinion,

- (i) the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial position of the Office of the Information Commissioner at 30 June 2008 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Treasurer's Instructions;
- (ii) the controls exercised by the Information Commissioner provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions; and
- (iii) the key performance indicators of the Information Commissioner are relevant and appropriate to help users assess the Information Commissioner's performance and fairly represent the indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2008.

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COLIN MURPHY AUDITOR GENERAL 8 September 2008

Page 2 of 2

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued**

## OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER Income Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	941,939	948,195
Supplies and services	7	185,100	143,585
Depreciation expense	8	14,747	21,910
Accommodation expenses	9	162,532	98,676
Other expenses	10	62,017	61,905
Total cost of services		1,366,335	1,274,271
Income Revenue			
Other revenue	11	4,398	4,345
Total Revenue	11	4,398	4,345
		.,,,,,,,	.,
Gains			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	12	-	-
Total Gains	12		-
Total income other than income from State Government		4,398	4,345
NET COST OF SERVICES		1,361,937	1,269,926
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT	13		
Service appropriation	15	1,368,000	1,246,000
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer		3,289	5,079
Resources received free of charge		59,569	44,670
Total income from State Government		1,430,858	1,295,749
		7 7	7 7
SURPLUS /(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD		68,921	25,823

The Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	22	92,201	71,213
Receivables	15	2,775	5,837
Amounts receivable for services	16	30,000	33,000
Other current assets	17	4,491	5,078
Total Current Assets		129,467	115,128
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	14	8,864	5,864
Amounts receivable for services	16	-	-
Property, plant and equipment	18	19,945	13,875
Total Non-Current Assets		28,809	19,739
TOTAL ASSETS		158,276	134,867
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	19	83,271	34,990
Provisions	20	112,869	187,575
Total Current Liabilities		196,140	222,565
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	20	63,179	84,266
Total Non-Current Liabilities		63,179	84,266
Total Liabilities		259,319	306,831
NET ASSETS		(101,043)	(171,964)
EQUITY	21		
Contributed equity		27,000	25,000
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(128,043)	(196,964)
TOTAL EQUITY		(101,043)	(171,964)

The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued**

## OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
Balance of equity at start of period		(171,964)	(197,787)
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY	21		
Balance at start of period		25,000	25,000
Capital contribution		2,000	-
Distribution to owners			-
Balance at end of period		27,000	25,000
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	21		
Balance at start of period		(196,964)	(222,787)
Surplus/(deficit) for the period		68,921	25,823
Balance at end of period		(128,043)	(196,964)
Balance of equity at end of period		(101,043)	(171,964)
Total income and expense for the period		68,921	25,823

(a) The aggregate net amount attributable to each category of equity is: surplus \$68,921 (2007: surplus \$25,823)

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Cash Flow Statement** 

For the year ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 \$	2007 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
Service appropriation		1,338,000	1,216,000
Capital contributions		2,000	-
Holding account drawdowns		33,000	35,000
Net cash provided by State Government		1,373,000	1,251,000
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(920,573)	(827,663)
Supplies and services		(415,083)	(346,303)
GST payments on purchases		(34,269)	(25,278)
Receipts			
Receipts from services		4,398	4,345
GST receipts on sales		37,331	161
GST receipts from taxation authority			24,547
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	23	(1,328,196)	(1,170,191)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets		-	-
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(20,816)	(2,575)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(20,816)	(2,575)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		23,988	78,234
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		77,077	(1,157)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	22	101,065	77,077

The Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service						
	Complaint Resolution 2008 \$	slution 2007 \$	Advice & Awareness 2008 \$	reness 2007 \$	TOTAL 2008 \$	2007 \$
COST OF SERVICES						
Employee benefits expense	745.569	742,222	196,370	205,973	941.939	948,195
Supplies and services	131,735	102,052	53,365	41,533	185,100	143,585
Depreciation expense	11,776	15,994	2,971	5,916	14,747	21,910
Accommodation expenses	115,070	71,071	47,462	27,605	162,532	98,676
Carrying value of non-current assets disposed of		·		I		
Other expenses	55,395	47,598	6,622	14,307	62,017	61,905
Total cost of services	1,059,545	978,937	306,790	295,334	1,366,335	1,274,271
Income						
Revenues						
Other revenue	4,398	4,345		'   	4,398	4,345
Total Revenue	4,398	4,345	I		4,398	4,345
Gains Coin an dianach of nan-annant accede						
Gain on usposal of non-current assets Total Gains						
Total income other than income from State Government	4,398	4,345			4,398	4,345
NET COST OF SERVICES	1,055,147	974,592	306,790	295,334	1,361,937	1,269,926
INCOME FROM STATE GOVERNMENT Service antronriation	067 600	872 200	410.400	373 800	1 368 000	1 246 000
Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer	2.401	3.708	888	1.371	3.289	5.079
Resources received free of charge	43,485	32,609	16,084	12,061	59,569	44,670
Total income from State Government	1,003,486	908,517	427,372	387,232	1,430,858	1,295,749
Surplus/(deficit) for the period	(51,661)	(66,075)	120,582	91,898	68,921	25,823

The Schedule of Expenses and Revenues by Service should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## 64 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008

Just Estimate   BELIVERY OF SERVICES Estimate   \$ \$   Item 63 Net amount appropriated to deliver services 980,000   Amount Authorised by Other Statutes 980,000   Freedom of Information Act 1992 169,000   Total appropriations provided to deliver services 1,149,000	0007				
	Actual ¢	Variance ¢	Actual &	Actual	Variance ¢
]		<b>2</b> 17,000	¢ 1,197,000	¢ 1,083,000	\$ 114,000
	000 171,000	2,000	171,000	164,000	7,000
	00 1,368,000	219,000	1,368,000	1,247,000	121,000
CAPITAL					
Capital Contribution 2,000	00 2,000	1	2,000	ı	2,000
GRAND TOTAL OF APPROPRIATIONS	00 1,370,000	219,000	1,370,000	1,247,000	123,000
<b>Details of Expenses by Services</b> Review and Complaint Resolution	00 1,059,545	203,545	1,059,545	978,937	80,608
Advice and Awareness 367,000	306,790	(60,210)	306,790	295,334	11,456
Total Cost of Services 1,223,000	000 1,366,335	143,335	1,366,335	1,274,271	92,064
Less total revenues from ordinary activities (4,000)	00) (4,398)	(398)	(4,398)	(4,345)	(53)
Net Cost of Services 1,219,000	000 1,361,937	142,937	1,361,937	1,269,926	92,011
Adjustment <sup>(a)</sup> (70,000)	00) 6,063	76,063	6,063	(22,926)	28,989
Total appropriations provided to deliver services 1,149,000	000 1,368,000	219,000	1,368,000	1,247,000	121,000
Capital Expenditure					
		20,816	20,816	2,575	18,241
Adjustments for other funding sources 2,000	000 (18,816)	(20, 816)	(18,816)	(2,575)	(16, 241)
Capital Contribution (appropriation) 2,000	000 2,000	'	2,000	ı	2,000

(a) Adjustments are related to movements in cash balances and other accrual items such as receivables, payables and superannuation.

The Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations and Revenue Estimates is to be prepared on an accruals basis.

The Summary of Consolidated Fund Appropriations, Variance to Budget and Actual should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

This Summary provides the basis for the Explanatory Statement information requirements of TI 945, set out in Note 25.

ANNUAL REPORT 2008 65

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

#### 1 Office of the Information Commissioner Mission and Funding

The mission of the Office of the Information Commissioner (the "Commission" for the purpose of these notes) is stated as follows:

To promote public understanding and confidence in the decision making process of government agencies through access to relevant information.

The Commission is funded by parliamentary appropriations. It does not provide services on a fee-for-service basis. The financial statements encompass all funds through which the Commission controls resources to carry on its functions.

## 2 Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards

#### General

The Commission's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2008 have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS), which comprise a Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements (the Framework) and Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

In preparing these financial statements the Commission has adopted, where relevant to its operations, new and revised standards and interpretations from their operative dates as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and formerly the Urgent Issues Group (UIG).

The Australian Accounting Interpretations are adopted through AASB 1048 'Interpretation and Application of Standards' and are classified into those corresponding to International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) Interpretations and those only applicable in Australia.

The AASB has decided to maintain the Statements of Accounting Concepts (SAC 1 and SAC 2) and has continued to revise and maintain accounting standards and the interpretations that are of particular relevance to the Australian environment, especially those that deal more specifically with not-for-profit entity issues and/or do not have an equivalent IASB Standard or Interpretation.

#### **Early Adoption of Standards**

The Commission cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard or Australian Accounting Interpretation unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 'Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements'. No standards and interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective have been early adopted by the Commission for the financial year ended 30 June 2008.

## **3** Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Significant accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements. Unless otherwise stated, these polices are consistent with those adopted in the previous year.

### (a) General Statement

The financial statements constitute a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB as applied by the Treasurer's Instructions (TI's). Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's Instructions to vary the application, disclosure, format and wording. For example, AASB 116 requires land and buildings to be measured at cost or fair value; TI 954 mandates the fair value option.

66 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

The Financial Management Act and the Treasurer's Instructions are legislative provisions governing the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over the Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards <del>Bo</del>ard.

Where modification is required and has a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Modifications or clarifications to accounting standards through the TI's are to provide certainty and ensure consistency and appropriate reporting across the public sector.

## (b) Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard AAS29 'Financial Reporting by Government Departments' on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

## (c) Reporting Entity

The reporting entity comprises the Commission and no other related bodies.

## (d) Contributed Equity

UIG Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities' requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions to be designated by the Government (the owner) as Contributions by Owners (at the time of, or prior to, transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and have been credited directly to Contributed Equity.

## (e) Income

## **Revenue Recognition**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership control transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Revenue is recognised upon delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Service appropriations are recognised as revenues at nominal value in the period in which the Commission gains control of the appropriated funds. The Commission gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited into the Commission's bank account or credited to the holding account held at the Department of Treasury and Finance. See note 13 'Income from State Government' for further detail.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

The Treasurer may make a determination providing for prescribed receipts to be retained for services under the control of the Commission. In accordance with the determination specified in the 2007-2008 Budget Statements, the Commission retained \$4,398 in 2008 (2007: \$4,345) from the following:

- executive vehicle scheme
- · other receipts

#### Gains

Gains may be realised or unrealised and are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

#### (f) Property, Plant and Equipment

Items of property, plant and equipment costing \$1,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$1,000 are recognised as an expense in the Income Statement (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

All items of property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost. For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

After recognition as an asset, the cost model is used for the measurement of property, plant and equipment. Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. See note 18 'Property, Plant and Equipment'.

All non-current assets 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.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are periodically reviewed. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Office equipment	2 to 5 years
Computers	2 years

#### (g) Impairment of Assets

Property, plant and equipment are tested for any indication of impairment at each balance sheet date. 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. As the Commission is a not-for-profit entity, unless an asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less cost to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of asset is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of assets' future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

See note 3(m) 'Receivables' for impairment of receivables.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

## (h) Leases

The Commission holds operating leases for buildings and motor vehicles. The lessors effectively retain all of the risks and benefits incidental to ownership of the items held under the operating leases. Lease payments are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leases.

## (i) Financial Instruments

In addition to cash and bank overdraft, the Commission has two categories of financial instrument:

- · Loans and receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

These have been disaggregated into the following classes:

## Financial Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents
- Restricted cash and cash equivalents
- Receivables

## Financial Liabilities

• Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

## (j) Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purpose of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include restricted cash and cash equivalents. These are comprised of 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.

## (k) Accrued Salaries

The accrued salaries suspense account (see note 14 'Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents') consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of ten financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. No interest is received on this account. The last pay day in 2007/08 was 26 June, therefore an accrual of 2 days was necessary in this financial year.

Accrued salaries (see note 21 'Other Liabilities') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year, as the pay date for the last pay period for that financial year does not coincide with the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Commission considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its net fair value.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

#### (I) Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)

The Commission receives funding on an accrual basis that recognises the full annual cash and non-cash cost of services. The appropriations are paid partly in cash and partly as an asset (Holding Account receivable) that is accessible on the emergence of the cash funding requirement to cover items such as leave entitlements and asset replacement. See also note 13 'Income from State Government' and note 16 'Amounts Receivable for Services'.

#### (m) Receivables

Receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Commission will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 30 days. See also note 3(i) 'Financial Instruments' and note 15 'Receivables'.

An allowance for impairment of receivables can only be raised if there is objective evidence of impairment.

## (n) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Commission 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 they are generally settled within 30 days. See also note 3(i) 'Financial Instruments' and note 19 'Payables'.

#### (o) **Provisions**

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing and/or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal, equitable or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at each balance sheet date. See note 20 'Provisions'.

#### (i) Provisions - Employee Benefits

The liability for annual and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the balance sheet date is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Leave liabilities are in respect of services provided by employees up to the balance sheet date.

A liability for long service leave is recognised after an employee has completed four years of service. An actuarial assessment of long service leave undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2004 determined that the liability measured using the short hand method was not materially different from the liability measured using the present value of expected future payments.

All annual leave and unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

This method of measurement of the liability is consistent with the requirements of AASB 119 'Employee Benefits'.

Employees may contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme now closed to new members or the Gold State Superannuation (GSS) Scheme, a defined benefit lump sum scheme also closed to new members. Both schemes are administered by the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB).

## OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

The Commission has no liabilities for superannuation charges under the Pension or the GSS Schemes. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS Scheme transfer benefits due to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS Scheme obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Commission to the GESB. The concurrently funded part of the GSS Scheme is a defined contribution scheme as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the concurrently funded GSS Scheme obligations.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension and GSS Schemes, and is recouped by the Treasurer for the employer's share.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who are not members of either the Pension or the GSS Schemes became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation (WSS) Scheme. Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super (GESBS) Scheme. Both of these schemes are accumulation schemes. The Commission makes concurrent contributions to the GESB on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. The WSS Scheme and the GESBS Scheme are defined contribution schemes as these contributions extinguish all liabilities in respect of the WSS Scheme and the GESBS Scheme.

See also note 3(p) 'Superannuation expense'.

#### (ii) Provisions - Other

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as expenses and liabilities when the employment, to which they relate to, has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other Expenses' and are not included as part of the Commission's 'Employee Benefits Expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'. See note 10 'Other Expenses' and note 20 'Provisions'.

## (p) Superannuation Expense

The following elements are included in calculating the superannuation expense in the Income Statement:

- Defined benefit plans Change in the unfunded employer's liability (I. e. current service cost and actuarial gains and losses) assumed by the Treasurer in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who accrued a benefit on transfer from that Scheme to the GSS Scheme
- Defined contribution plans Employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS), and the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS).

Defined benefit plans - in order to reflect the true cost of services, the movements (I. e. current service cost and actuarial gains and losses) in the liabilities in respect of the Pension Scheme and the GSS Scheme transfer benefits are recognised as expenses directly in the Income Statement. As these liabilities are assumed by the Treasurer (see note 3(o)), a revenue titled 'Liabilities assumed by the Treasurer' equivalent to the expense is recognised under 'Income from State Government' in the Income Statement. See note 13 'Income from State Government'.

Defined contribution plans - in order to reflect the Commission's true cost of services, the Commission is funded for the equivalent of employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme (excluding transfer benefits). These contributions were paid to the GESB during the year and placed in a trust account administered by the GESB on behalf of the Treasurer. The GESB subsequently paid these employer contributions in respect of the GSS Scheme to the Consolidated Account.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

The GSS Scheme is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government reporting. However, apart from the transfer benefit, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the agency to the GESB extinguish the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

The superannuation expense does not include payment of pensions to retirees, as this does not constitute part of the cost of services provided by the Commission in the current year.

### (q) Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge that can be reliably measured are recognised as income and as assets or expenses as appropriate, at fair value.

## (r) Comparative Figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

## 4 Services of the Office of the Information Commissioner

Information about the Commission's services is set out in the Schedule of Income and Expenses by Service.

The services of the Commission are:

#### Service 1 - Resolution of complaints

Provides an independent review and complaint resolution process which resolves cases in a timely manner and balances the competing needs and expectations of applicants, agencies and Parliament within legislative requirements prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act 1992.

#### Service 2 - Freedom of Information advice and awareness

Provides objective advice and information to members of the public and staff of agencies to assist in the proper lodgement and processing of applications under the Freedom of Information Act 1992. Proposes initiatives to enhance administrative efficiency in agencies when dealing with applications received.

The Department of the Attorney General provides overall corporate support in respect of human resources and financial services (see note 13 for details of charge).

## 5 Disclosure of Changes in Accounting Policy and Estimates -

#### Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The Department has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2007 that impacted on the Department:

1. AASB 7 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures' (including consequential amendments in AASB 2005-10 'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [AASB 132, AASB 101, AASB 114, AASB 117, AASB 133, AASB 139, AASB 1, AASB 4, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'). This Standard requires new disclosures in relation to financial instruments and while there is no financial impact, the changes have resulted in increased disclosures, both quantitative and qualitative, of the Department's exposure to risks, including enhanced disclosure regarding components of the Department's financial position and performance, and changes to the way of presenting certain items in the notes to the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

Interpretation 1038 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities 1 July 2008 The existing requirements in AAS27, AAS 29 and AAS 31 have been transferred to the above new and existing topic-based Standards and Interpretation. These requirements remain substantively unchanged. The new and revised Standards make some modifications to disclosures, otherwise there will be no financial impact.

The following Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not applicable to the Commission as they will have no impact or do not apply to not-for-profit entities:

AASB Standards and Interpretations	
AASB 8	'Operating Segments'
AASB 1049	'Financial Reporting of General Government Sectors by Governments'
AASB 2007-1	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 11 [AASB 2]'
AASB 2007-2	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB Interpretation 12 [AASB 1, AASB 117, AASB 118, AASB 120, AASB 121, AASB 127, AASB 131 & AASB 139]' - paragraphs 1 to 8
AASB 2007-3	'Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 8 [AASB 5, AASB 6, AASB 102, AASB 107, AASB 119, AASB 127, AASB 134, AASB 136, AASB 1023 & AASB 1038]'
Interpretation 10	'Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment'
Interpretation 11	'AASB 2 - Group and Treasury Share Transactions'
	2008 2007
	\$\$

## 6 Employee Benefits Expense

Wages and salaries(a)	792,015	747,575
6	,	,
Superannuation – defined contribution plans(b)	98,169	78,313
Superannuation – defined benefit plans(c)(d)	3,289	5,079
Long service leave(e)	48,466	117,228
Annual Leave(e)	-	-
Other related expenses	-	-
	941,939	948,195

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State and Gold State (contributions paid).

(c) Defined benefit plans include Pension scheme and Gold State (pre-transfer benefit).

(d) An equivalent notional income is also recognised (see note 13 'Income from State Government')

(e) Includes a superannuation contribution component.

Employment on-costs such as workers' compensation, insurance are included at Note 10 "Other Expenses".

The employment on-costs liability is included at Note 20 "Provisions".

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

## 7 Supplies and Services

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Goods and supplies	32,596	30,430
Services and contracts	152,504	113,155
	185,100	143,585
Depreciation Expense		
Equipment	14,747	21,910
	14,747	21,910
Accommodation Expenses		
Building rental operating lease expense	162,532	98,676
	162,532	98,676
Other Expenses		
Communication expenses	10,613	13,521
Printing and binding	3,274	1,833
Equipment and vehicles operating lease expense	19,433	16,800
Electricity	5,960	4,816
Insurance	-	2,545
Repairs and maintenance	3,807	2,657
Other expenses <sup>(a)</sup>	18,930	19,733
	62,017	61,905

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes workers compensation insurance; facilities, equipment and plant hire; bank fees; freight charges; storage and transportation; computing licences; staff travel and accommodation; staff training; and other staff costs.

	2008 \$	2007 \$
11 Other Revenue		
Contributions to motor vehicles scheme	1,524	1,519
Other revenue	2,874	2,826
-	4,398	4,345
12 Net Gain on Disposal of Non-current Assets		
Proceeds from Disposal of Non-current Assets		
Equipment		-
-		-
13 Income from State Government		
Appropriation received during the year:		
Service appropriations <sup>(a)</sup>	1,368,000	1,246,000
-	1,368,000	1,246,000
The following liabilities have been assumed by the Treasurer during the financial year:		
- Superannuation <sup>(b)</sup>	3,289	5,079
	3,289	5,079
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION		

**Notes to the Financial Statements** *for the year ended 30 June 2008* 

ear ended 30 June 2008		
Resources received free of charge <sup>(c)</sup> Determined on the basis of the following estimates provided by agencies:		
Department of the Attorney General - corporate services Department of Housing and Works (Commercial Property Branch)	56,323	41,682
- property management services (notional management	3,246	2,988 44,670
	1,430,858	1,295,749

<sup>(a)</sup> Service appropriations are accrual amounts reflecting the full cost of services delivered. The appropriation revenue comprises a cash component and a receivable (asset). The receivable (holding account) comprises the depreciation expense for the year and any agreed increase in leave liability during the year.

<sup>(b)</sup> The assumption of the superannuation liability by the Treasurer is a notional income to match the notional superannuation expense reported in respect of current employees who are members of the Pension Scheme and current employees who have a transfer benefit entitlement under the GSS Scheme. (The notional superannuation expense is disclosed at note 6 "Employee Benefits Expense'.

<sup>(c)</sup> Where assets or services have been received free of charge or for nominal cost, the Commission recognises revenue (except where the contributions of assets or services are in the nature of contributions by owners in which case the Commission shall make a direct adjustment to equity) equivalent to the fair value of the assets and/or the fair value of those services that can be reliably determined and which would have been purchased if not donated, and those fair values shall be recognised as assets or expenses, as applicable.

## 14 Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents

Accrued salaries suspense account (a)	8,864	5,864
	8,864	5,864

<sup>(a)</sup> Amount held in the suspense account is only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27<sup>th</sup> pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years.

## 15 Receivables

Debtors	-	-
GST receivable	2,775	5,837
	2,775	5,837
16 Amounts Receivable for Services		
Current	30,000	33,000
Non-current	-	-
	30,000	33,000

This represents the non-cash component of service appropriations. See note 3(1) 'Amounts Receivable for Services (Holding Account)'. It is restricted in that it can only be used for asset replacement or payment of leave liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008	2007
7 Other Assets	\$	\$
Prepayments	4,491	5,078
	4,491	5,078
<sup>3</sup> Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office equipment and computers		
At cost	197,511	176,695
Accumulated depreciation	(177,566)	(162,820)
	19,945	13,875
Reconciliation		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant ar period are set out below.	nd equipment at the beginning and en	nd of the reporting
	10.075	22.21
Carrying amount at start of year	13,875	33,210
Additions	20,817	2,575
Depreciation	(14,747)	(21,910)
Carrying amount at end of year	19,945	13,875
9 Payables		
Current		
Trade and other creditors	76,425	31,525
Accrued salaries	6,846	3,465
	83,271	34,990
0 Provisions		
Current		
Employee benefits provision		
Annual leave <sup>(a)</sup>	10,470	36,019
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	93,747	129,155
Superannuation on-cost	7,505	17,056
	111,722	182,230
Other provisions: Employment on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>		
Carrying amount at start of year	5,345	4,689
Additional provisions recognised	(4,198)	656
Carrying amount at end of year	1,147	5,345
	112,869	187,575
Non-current		
Employee benefits provision		
Long service leave <sup>(b)</sup>	58,439	73,919
Superannuation on-cost	4,091	7,925
-	62,530	81,844
Other provisions: Other employee on-costs <sup>(c)</sup>		
Carrying amount at start of year	2,422	2,222
Additional provisions recognised	(1,773)	200
Carrying amount at end of year	649	2,422
	63,179	84,266
		04,200

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

<sup>(a)</sup> Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date.

<sup>(b)</sup> Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after balance sheet date.

<sup>(c)</sup> The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment oncosts including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments. The associated expense is included in note 10 'Other expenses'.

2008	2007
\$	\$

#### 21 Equity

Liabilities exceed assets for the Information Commissioner and there is therefore no residual interest in the assets of the Information Commissioner. This deficiency arose through expenses such as depreciation and accrual of employee entitlements for leave not involving the payment of cash in the current period being recognised in the Balance Sheet.

Contributed equity		
Balance at the start of period	25,000	25,000
Capital contributions <sup>(a)</sup>	2,000	-
Balance at end of period	27,000	25,000

<sup>(a)</sup> Capital contributions (appropriations) have been designated as contributions by owners in Treasurer's Instruction TI 955 'Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities' and are credited directly to equity.

Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Balance at the start of period	(196,964)	(222,787)
Result for the period	68,921	25,823
Balance at end of period	(128,043)	(196,964)

## 22 Notes to the Cash Flow Statement

#### Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents	92,201	71,213
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (see note 14)	8,864	5,864
	101,065	77,077
Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows p	rovided by/(used in) operating a	<u>cctivities</u>
Net cost of services	(1,361,937)	(1,269,926)
Non-cash items:	14.545	21.010
Depreciation expense	14,747	21,910
Superannuation expense	3,289	5,079
Resources received free of charge Net (gain)/loss on sale of equipment	59,569	44,670 -

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

(Increase)/decrease in assets: Current receivables Other current assets	587	(746)
Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:		
Current payables	48,281	(1,635)
Current provisions	(74,706)	24,060
Non-current provisions	(21,087)	6,969
Net change in GST receivables/payables	3,062	(571)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(1,328,195)	(1,170,190)

#### 23 Commitments

Commitments in relation to leases contracted for at the reporting date but not recognised as liabilities are payable as follows:

168,188	139,632
502,074	527,168
-	8,148
670,262	674,948
670,262	674,948
670,262	674,948
	502,074 

#### 24 Explanatory Statement

Significant variations between estimates and actual results for income and expense as presented in the financial statement titled 'Summary of Consolidated Account Appropriations and Income Estimates' are shown below.

Explanations are provided in accordance with TI 945. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$20,000.

## (i) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2008 - total appropriations to deliver services:

## Total appropriation to deliver services for the year Under

The original appropriations for 2007/08 as per the budget statements did not include appropriations for office rent, in anticipation of the passage of privacy legislation and changes to the FOI Act, allowing for possible amalgamation of the office with the State Ombudsman. Separate appropriations were applied for, and granted, after the budget was published.

-\$219,000

-\$203,545

Review and Complaints Under

Expenses were increased this year due to extra salary payments: (a) a secondment to the office and an existing officer increasing their part-time hours while a senior officer was on extended personal leave; (b) the payment to an independent Senior Counsel who was appointed A/Information Commissioner for the purpose of dealing with a specific matter where the current A/Information Commissioner may have been seen to have a conflict of interest; and (c) the long service leave payout to the former A/Information Commissioner.

Advice and Awareness	Under	\$60,210

Expenses for this service have reduced since the abolition of a level 9 position as 80% of those expenses were allocated to this service.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

#### (ii) Significant variances between actuals for 2007 and 2008 - total appropriation to deliver services:

Total appropriation to deliver services	s for the year Under	-\$121,000	
The Commissioner's tenancy was renewed in July 2007. Accommodation costs were not included in the original appropriations for 2007/08. Extra appropriations were requested and approved to cover this expense.			
Advice and Awareness	Under	-\$11,456	
No significant variance.			
(iii) Significant variances between estimate and actual for 2008 - Capital Contribution:			
No significant variance.			

(iv) Significant variances between actuals for 2007 and 2008 - capital contribution:

No significant variance.

## **25** Financial Instruments

## (a) Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

Financial instruments held by the Commission are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, finance leases, Treasurer's advances and receivables and payables. All of the Commission's cash is held in the public bank account (non-interest bearing) apart from restricted cash held in a special purpose account. The Commission has limited exposure to financial risks. The Commission's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Commission's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Commission. The Commission measures credit risk on a fair value basis and monitors risk on a regular basis.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance sheet date in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any provisions for impairment, as shown in the table at Note 26(b).

Credit risk associated with the Commission's financial assets is minimal because the main receivable is the amounts receivable for services (holding account). For receivables other than government, the Commission trades only with recognised, creditworthy third parties. The Commission has policies in place to ensure that sales of products and services are made to customers with an appropriate credit history. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the Commission's exposure to bad debts is minimal. There are no significant concentrations of credit risk.

The Commission is not exposed to interest rate risk because it has no borrowings other than a finance lease.

The Commission is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business. Liquidity risk arises when the Commission is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Commission has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdowns of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet its commitments.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

The Commission does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks. Other than as detailed in the Interest rate sensitivity analysis table at Note 26(b), the Commission is not exposed to interest rate risk because apart from minor amounts of restricted cash, all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non-interest bearing, and have no borrowings other than the Treasurer's advance (non-interest bearing) and finance leases (fixed interest rate).

## (b) Categories of Financial Instruments

In addition to cash and bank overdraft, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the balance sheet date are as follows

	2008	2007
	\$	\$
Financial Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	92,201	71,213
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	8,864	5,864
Loans and receivables(a)	-	-
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	76,424	31,525

(a) The amount of loans and receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

## (b) Financial Instrument Disclosures

The following table details the exposure to liquidity risk and interest rate risk as at the balance sheet date. The Commissions maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying amount of the financial assets as shown on the following table. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Commission. The contractual maturity amounts in the table are representative of the undiscounted amounts at the balance sheet date. An adjustment for discounting has been made where material.

The Commission does not hold any collateral as security or other credit enhancements relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Commission does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.



Adjustment Total for discounting	\$		92,201	·	8,864		·	30,000	- 131,065		76,424			- 76,424	- 04,041
Over 5 years	÷														1
4 - 5 years	S								T					ı	I
1-2 years 2 - 3 years 3 - 4 years 4 - 5 years	÷													ı	ı
2 - 3 years	S														
1-2 years	\$													L	
Within 1 year	\$								T					I	1
Non- Interest Bearing	÷		92,201		8,864			30,000	131,065		76,424			76,424	041
Variable Interest Rate	÷														
Weighted average interest rate	%							r services					S	es	bilities)
	2008	Financial assets Cash and	cash equivalent assets	Restricted cash and	cash equivalent assets	Receivables	Loans and advances	Amounts receivable for services	Total financial assets	Financial liabilities	Payables	Other borrowings	Finance lease liabilities	Total financial liabilities	 Net financial asset/(liabilities)

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2008

Total	S		71,213	5,864 -		33,000	110,077		31,525 -	'	31,525
Adjustment for discounting	\$						I				I
Over 5 years	\$						ı				1
4 - 5 years	S						I				
1-2 years 2 - 3 years 3 - 4 years 4 - 5 years	\$						I				
2 - 3 years	S										
1-2 years	S						I				
Within 1 year	S						I				'
Non- Interest Bearing	S		71,213	5,864		33,000	110,077		31,525		31,525
Variable Interest Rate	S										
Weighted average interest rate	%					ervices					
	2007	<b>Financial assets</b> Cash and	cash equivalent assets Restricted cash and	cash equivalent assets Receivables	Loans and advances	Amounts receivable for services	Total financial assets	<b>Financial liabilities</b>	Payables Other borrowings	Finance lease liabilities	Total financial liabilities

a) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

78,552

Net financial assets/(liabilities)

78,552

The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows of each class of financial liabilities

## 82 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2008

#### 26 Remuneration of Senior Officers

#### Remuneration

The number of senior officers, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year fall within the following bands, are:

\$	2008	2007
140,001 - 150,000		1
160,001 - 170,000		1
170,001 - 180,000	1	
180,001 - 190,000	1	
Total remuneration of senior officers:	\$363,470	\$311,483

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Commission in respect of senior officers.

No senior officer was a member of the Pension Scheme during the financial year (2007: nil).

## 27 Remuneration of Auditor

Remuneration payable to the Auditor General for the financial year is as follows:

Auditing the accounts, financial statements and		
performance indicators	\$19,000	\$17,200

The expense is included in note 7 'Supplies and services'.

## 28 Supplementary Financial Information

- . There was no public property written off by the Commission during the financial year (2007: nil).
- . There were no losses of public moneys, public and/or other property through theft, default or other causes during the financial year (2007: nil).
- . There were no gifts of public property provided by the Commission during the financial year (2007: nil).
- There were no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2008 (2007: nil).
- . There were no events occurring after the balance sheet date (2007: nil).
- . The Commission had no related bodies during the financial year (2007: nil).
- . The Commission had no affiliated bodies during the financial year (2007: nil).

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84 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION