



## **INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**To the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations**

### **Matters relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Financial Report**

This audit report relates to the financial statements published in both the annual report and on the website of Comcare for the year ended 30 June 2004. The Director of Comcare is responsible for the integrity of both the annual report and its web site.

The audit report refers only to the statements named below. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from the audited financial statements.

If the users of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communications they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements in Comcare's annual report.

### **Scope**

The financial statements comprise:

- Statement by the Director and Chief Executive Officer;
- Statements of Financial Performance, Financial Position and Cash Flows;
- Schedules of Commitments and Contingencies; and
- Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements

for both Comcare and the consolidated entity, for the year ended 30 June 2004. The consolidated entity comprises both Comcare and the entities it controlled during that year.

The Director of Comcare is responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial statements.

#### *Audit approach*

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to you. My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive, rather than conclusive, evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

While the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting was considered when determining the nature and extent of audit procedures, the audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

I have performed procedures to assess whether, in all material respects, the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with my understanding of Comcare's and the consolidated entity's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the statements of financial performance and cash flows.

The audit opinion is formed on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report; and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Director of Comcare.

#### **Independence**

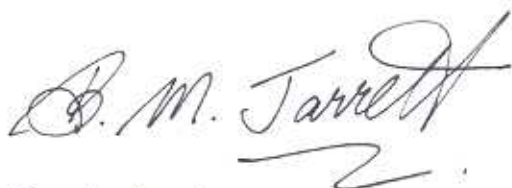
In conducting the audit, I have followed the independence requirements of the Australian National Audit Office, which incorporate Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

## Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements:

- (i) have been prepared in accordance with the Finance Minister's Orders made under the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* and applicable Accounting Standards; and
- (ii) give a true and fair view, of the matters required by applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and the Finance Minister's Orders, of the financial position of Comcare and the consolidated entity as at 30 June 2004, and of their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

Australian National Audit Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. M. Jarrett', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Brandon Jarrett  
Executive Director

Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
24 August 2004