

# Media Statement

WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2008

## Auditor-General's Report: Private Practice Arrangements in Health Services

A report by **Auditor-General, Des Pearson** on the results of a performance audit into private practice arrangements in health services, was tabled in the Victorian Parliament today.

The report—*Private Practice Arrangements in Health Services*—examined whether arrangements for specialists employed at a health service, exercising rights of private practice in outpatients' clinics complied with the Australian Health Care Agreement (AHCA) and the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

The health service examined had instituted a range of procedures to ensure compliance with the AHCA; however, there was less certainty around compliance with the *Health Insurance Act 1973*.

The report found that the benefits of these arrangements included greater choice for patients and attracting and retaining specialists in the public health system.

'While the audit revealed there were benefits in private practice arrangements,' said Mr Pearson, 'there was a lack of transparency surrounding the level of support the health services actually provided to individual specialists. I expect health services will take steps to improve transparency in this area.'

These arrangements are common across Victoria, and the findings and recommendations should be considered by all Victorian health services.

Direct link to report: <http://www.audit.vic.gov.au>

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