

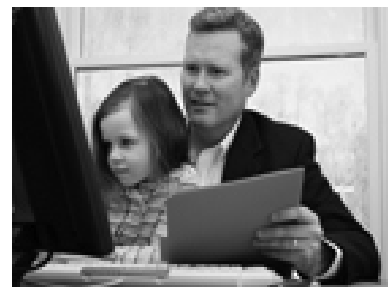
## *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994* – Public Interest Disclosures (s31)

The department has guidelines available to all departmental staff about the protection of whistleblowers and the investigation of public interest disclosures. The department as both a matter of duty and policy actively supports the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*. The Act's principal objective is to promote the public interest by protecting people who disclose unlawful, dangerous, negligent, or improper conduct affecting the public sector and public health and safety. In 2007-08 there were five public interest disclosures under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*. One public interest disclosure was substantially verified in the same period.

## Business systems

### Budget and resource management

The department's financial management systems are designed to ensure that resources are managed responsibly and in accordance with the relevant financial legislation, standards, policies and procedures and are applied to maximise service delivery. The department's budget and resource management is overseen by the Executive Business Team. The Director-General is also advised by the Audit Committee (see page 65 for report). For details about the department's financial performance please read the Financial Summary (page 20) and the full financial statements (page 102)



### Business improvement

The DEIR Business Improvement Strategy 2007-11 seeks to ensure that the department reviews its business systems and processes to promote effectiveness and innovation. The following priority areas for business improvement over the next three years include:

- knowledge management
- service delivery performance
- policy development and community engagement
- internal government processes.

The department continued its commitment to improving its knowledge management capability. Work continued in the specific areas of:

- delivering on compliance to Information Standard 40: Recordkeeping
- functional appraisal
- review of the departmental DRM Thesaurus and File Plan
- metadata standard development.

This work contributed to the overall implementation of an electronic document and record management solution, further strengthening the department's compliance with contemporary information management standards, protocols and practices.

### Information and communication technology

The ICT Business Systems Board guides the department's investment in information and communications technology in accordance with the *Information and Communications Technology Resources Strategic Plan 2007-11*. The plan is a framework for planning, implementing and managing DEIR information and communication technology resources. The ICT strategy aims to:

- deliver efficient and cost effective ICT to support DEIR business activities
- improve the department's capability for information and knowledge management
- align the department's ICT strategy with whole-of-government direction.

## Community engagement

Community engagement refers to the connections between governments, citizens and communities on a range of policy, program and service issues. DEIR undertakes a range of community engagement activities as part of its policy leadership and service delivery activities.

Legislation administered by the department establishes ministerial advisory bodies such as the Workplace Health and Safety Board and Industry Sector Standing Committees and the Electrical Safety Board and committees (see reports from these bodies in *Additional Reports* section – page 70). The department also undertook consultation as part of the process for making legislative changes.

Each year the department produces materials to assist to raise awareness and develop understanding of issues relating to workplace health and safety, electrical safety, industrial relations, employment programs and Indigenous employment.

The department uses a variety of media to deliver messages to sectors of industry, workers and the public. This year major campaigns focused on improving health and safety at work and recruiting and retaining mature age workers in the workforce. Other campaigns introduced new wiring rules for the electrical industry and informed workers and employers of changes to awards and conditions brought about by the introduction of Work Choices.

The department's Director-General is the Government Champion for the Cape York community of Laura. This role of Government Champion is established under *Meeting Challenges, Making Choices*, the Queensland Government strategy developed to address local community concerns, particularly alcohol abuse and violence.



## Waste management

The department is committed to Queensland Government's strategies *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000* and *ClimateSmart 2050* which aim to reduce the government's carbon footprint. Information regarding the department's carbon emissions can be found in the Carbon Emissions Report on page 83.

The department's waste management plan provides a framework for managing water, energy and general office waste, and was developed in accordance with the *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Policy 2000*. The department supports the Government Energy Management Strategy (GEMS) and is investigating ways to improve energy efficiency, particularly in the use of electricity, gas, water and fuel. Also employees receive general advice via the department's intranet site about ways to reduce energy and water consumption.