

# Factsheet: Evolution of Internal Audit

Updated 2020

Features	Checking Up to 1960s	Compliance 1960s – 1980s	System-based 1980s – 1990s	Risk-based 1990s – 2010s	Partnership 2010s –	Value-based Emerging
Independence	Independent of activities audited	Independent of activities audited	Independent of activities audited	Independent of activities audited	Independent of activities audited	Independent of activities audited
Serving	Finance	Finance	Finance / business units	Business units	Organisation	Organisation
Reporting to	Generally CFO	Generally CFO	Generally CFO	Emerged to CEO and then Audit Committee reporting	Audit Committee for operations; CEO for administration	Audit Committee for operations; CEO for administration
Objective	Assurance	Assurance	Assurance	Assurance	Assurance and advisory; value-adding	Assurance and advisory; value-adding; proactive; offer insights; key agent of change
Focus	Historical	Historical	Historical	Historical	Forward-looking	Forward-looking; insights
Coverage	Controls	Controls	Controls	Controls	Governance, risk management, controls	Governance, risk management, controls
Outcome	Detect mistakes	Detect mistakes	Improve controls	Improve business unit controls	Improve business units	Improve organisation; actively seek innovation
Fraud focus	Detect fraud	Detect fraud	Detect fraud	Detect fraud	Prevent fraud	Prevent fraud
Reports go to	Management	Management	Management	Management; emerged to Audit Committee	Management and Audit Committee	Management and Audit Committee
Standards	No	Internal Audit Standards in 1978	Internal Audit Standards	Internal Audit Standards	Internal Audit Standards	Internal Audit Standards
Resourcing	In-house	In-house	In-house	In-house; emerged to co-sourced	Co-sourced; subject matter experts and guest auditors	Co-sourced; subject matter experts and guest auditors
Staff qualifications	Financial	Financial	Financial	Financial	Some non-financial disciplines	More non-financial disciplines
Planning	Cyclical annual plan	Cyclical annual plan	Cyclical 5-year plan	Risk-based 3-year plan	Risk-based 3-year or annual plan	Risk-based rolling plan
Audit types	Compliance	Compliance	System	Operational	Integrated	Service catalogue
Management requested services	No	No	No	Some	Yes	Yes; many