

strategies

Sustained progress on six key goals in our 2002–05 strategic plan

Direction and context

Results in 2003-04

Fight fraud and misconduct

The public rates enforcement as our highest priority.

This year, ASIC:

- succeeded in 93% of litigation, page 6
- maintained high levels of enforcement activity, pages 14, 34 and 35
- shut down 60 illegal investment schemes, involving about 5,000 investors and \$110 million, page 15
- increased publication and distribution of warnings, page 30

Raise standards in financial services and further build our expertise

Parliament has given us a major task to implement its financial services reforms smoothly.

This year, ASIC:

- successfully completed the transition to new licensing and conduct requirements for the whole financial services industry, page 21
- released model fee disclosure guidelines for investment products, a report on soft dollar commissions, pages 22 and 30
- inspected market operators and clearing houses and reported to the Minister, page 26

Make a greater impact in the boardroom and improve the financial system.

The market needs effective disclosure but some company boards and company auditors have not delivered.

This year, ASIC:

- was given power to fine companies for breaches of market disclosure rules, pages 15 and 27
- reviewed financial reports of 459 listed companies, page 26
- acted to reduce insolvent trading, page 34
- issued guidance for auditors and directors on higher standards to be imposed by law, page 27
- acted against 429 companies for failing to lodge financial reports, page 36

Detect and act on early warning signs

We have responded well to events but in the past some important issues have jumped out unexpectedly.

This year, ASIC:

- established a strategic analysis unit to research and analyse emerging issues and risks for markets and consumers
- set national regulatory priorities for 2004–05 based on risk analysis
- established new cross-disciplinary projects to mitigate key risks identified

Maintain optimal funding, relevance and efficiency

Our responsibilities and workload have increased significantly over the past few years.

This year, ASIC:

- secured an additional \$13.5 million for 2004–05 operations, auditor surveillance, page 10
- achieved government targets for reduced energy use, page 41
- cut cost of office services by 4.5%, and maintained efficient use of accommodation, page 41

Strengthen the skills of our staff

Our increased workload and responsibilities mean we must strengthen the skills within the organisation.

This year, ASIC:

- increased staff 10% to meet higher demand for services, page 9
- redressed staff remuneration to move closer to other Treasury portfolio agencies, page 9
- maintained strong commitment to staff development, page 9