

## **Estimates Committee 2003**

### **Questions Taken On Notice**

( 01/10/2002 to 01/10/2004 )

Date: 06/26/2003 Output:  
Sub Output:  
Subject: Resolution of coronial matters

**From:** Mr MALEY to Honourable Dr Peter TOYNE  
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

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**Question:** **4-4**  
In the 2002-03 budget, at page 112, your department [Department of Justice] stated that 81% of coronial matters are resolved within six months. However, in the most recent budget, at page 98, that figure has fallen to 71%, and it is not anticipated to increase next year. Why has there been a 10% decrease?

**Answer:**  
Answered On: 06/25/2003  
Answer: Hansard - The other is question 4.4 regarding the outcomes to coronial matters. I will read the answer here that has been provided: when the estimate of 2002-03 was done in the budget papers for 2002-03 the latest figure available for finalisations of coroner's matters within six months was over 80% as per OCA 2000-01 annual report. Hence the figure was set at 81%. When the figure was set for budget paper 2003-04 the latest figures available were 62% actual, which came from the DOJ 2001-02 annual report, and the December 2002 quarterly output figures indicated 71%. Hence the figure was revised downwards to 71%. This indicator has historically fluctuated widely - 43% in 1999-2000; 84% in 2000-01; 62% in 2001-02; 71% in year to date, December 2002 and is subject to a number of the external influences such as the nature and types of death, where they occur and the availability of police and pathology services. As such it does not necessarily provide an accurate indication of the performance of the office.

Attachments: