

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Family and Community Services

Alcohol and Other Drugs Programs, Funding

Minister last year during the Estimates Committee hearing we established that there had been seven Directors of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program since 2002, up to and including Nick Gill. I don't know how many more have stepped in since Nick had to step aside, however all up, it is a lot of change at the top:

1. Minister to what extent has all this change contributed to the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program being unable to spend it's allocated funding? [Specifically Budget Book 3, p123 advises that there will be a carry forward of \$2.1M into 2005/06.]
2. What services were not delivered as planned during 2004/05?

ANSWER

There has been continuity in the position Director of the Alcohol and Other Drugs Program (AODP) since October 2004 and the position has been successfully recruited to.

Decisions about carry forwards are not influenced by vacancy rates in the public service and there are very specific criteria set by NT Treasury stipulating what is able to be carried forward..

The \$2.1M relates to Australian Government's Illicit Drug Diversion funds (\$1.2M). The AODP received two payments in 2004/05 because of the timing of the negotiations for the new agreement with the Australian Government. The remaining \$945 000 relates to funding for remote services for people with petrol sniffing problems, which were committed but were still being negotiated with the community or service provider at the end of the financial year. These funds have since been allocated.