

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

---

**SUPREME COURT CONVICTION RATES AND SEXUAL ASSAULT MATTERS**

1. What is the conviction rate in the Supreme Court for all matters involving trial by jury for 2004-05?
2. What was the conviction rate in 2003-04 and 2002-03?
3. Do you accept that few reports of unlawful sexual assaults result in convictions?
4. As Attorney-General, is it not your role to monitor conviction rates?
5. Of the convictions recorded for unlawful sexual intercourse, what percentage were a result of pleas of guilty and how many were a result of guilty verdicts at trial for the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?
6. How many convictions at trial were there in 2004-05 for sexual assault matters?
7. Of the convictions recorded for indecent assaults, what percentage were a result of pleas of guilty and how many were a result of guilty verdicts at trial for the years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05?

**ANSWER**

1. The conviction rate in the Supreme Court involving trial by jury in 2004-05 was 51%.
2. The conviction rate in the Supreme Court involving trial by jury in 2002-03 was 60% and in 2003-04 was 56%.
3. It is difficult to answer this question with accuracy. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions does not record the number of complaints of sexual assault which do not result in a person being charged with an offence. Additionally, no specific timeframe has been given in the question.
4. As part of the performance measures set by the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions, conviction rates are published in both the Director's Annual Report and the Department of Justice Annual Report.
5. The following table details the number and percentage of guilty pleas and guilty verdicts for sexual assault convictions. Please note that the Department is not currently able to separate unlawful sexual intercourse from other sexual assaults (i.e. gross indecency).

Year		Total no. of convictions	No. Guilty Pleas	% Pleas	Guilty at trial	% Guilty at Trial
2004/05	Adult <sup>1</sup>	21	16	76	5	24
	Child <sup>2</sup>	19	17	89	2	11
	Total	40	33	82	7	18
2003/04	Adult	8	7	87	1	13
	Child	6	6	100	0	0
	Total	14	13	93	1	7
The previous Data management system used (CRIMS) did not have the ability to retain detailed data. Therefore specific statistics can not be obtained for 2001/02 and 2002/						

6. Refer to the table above.

7. Refer to the table above.

---

<sup>1</sup> Refers to victims of sexual assault.

<sup>2</sup> Those under 16 years of age.