

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

SUMMARY PROSECUTIONS FIGURES

1. In reference to the Department of Justice Annual Report, the figures for the work of Summary Prosecutions show an increase in the number of files of 1100 between 2002-03 and 2003-04 in Darwin. Is it not the case that the reason for this increase is that there is more crime?
2. How can the number of cases increase without there being no increase in crime?
3. The director said in his report that Summary Prosecutions figures in Alice Springs 'highlight the urgent need for a permanent staff increase with a 19% increase in new files ...'. How can crime be going down when there are figures like this?
4. Should not Territorians trust those figures more than the ones coming from your office?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Government has increased police numbers and also increased the overall Police, Fire & Emergency Services budget by 55% since 2001. As a result of increased numbers and increased capacity there has been both increased detection and increased arrests. The confidence this inspires also leads to increased reporting. Clean up rates have also increased.
2. See 1.
3. See 1.
4. See 1.