

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Elferink to Treasurer

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND 2006/07 ANNUAL REPORT

Section 68B(4) of the *Gaming Control Act* requires that an annual report be provided to Parliament regarding the operation and dissemination of the Community Benefit Fund. Essentially the Report cannot be tabled later than October in the next financial year. The 2006-07 Annual Report has not been submitted.

Why is the Community Benefit Fund Annual Report still not available even though it is a year late and why have the requirements of the Act (*Gaming Control Act*) not been adhered to?

ANSWER

The Community Benefit Fund committee must provide a report on its activities within three months of the end of the financial year.

During October 2006, responsibility for the Fund transferred from Northern Territory Treasury to the Department of Justice, along with other Racing, Gaming and Licensing functions. In April 2007, due to a re-alignment of functions, the Fund Secretariat transferred from Enterprise House to the Community and Justice Policy unit in Old Admiralty Towers.

Information about the overall performance of the Fund and its grant program were included in the Department of Justice Annual Report for that year. The Fund Secretariat assumed that this information formed the Annual Report of the Committee.

Due to the passage of time, the Chair of the Committee assumed that the regulatory requirements had been met.

The information in the Department of Justice Annual Report is insufficient to meet the requirements of the Act. Once the error was realised, a report was finalised and was tabled in the October 2008 SITTINGS.

The Fund is audited on a regular basis and documentation on all aspects of the Fund is maintained.