

Estimates Committee 2004 Questions Taken On Notice

(22/06/2004 to 01/10/2004)

Date: 24/06/2004 Output: 6.0 Public Health services
Sub Output: 6.3 Alcohol and Other Drugs

Subject: Alcohol and Other Drugs 2002-03

From: Ms Susan Jill CARTER to Honourable Marion SCRYMGOUR
Minister for Family and Community Services

Question: **9-5**
Minister, the last Department of Health and Community Services annual report covering 2002-03 claims that the Alcohol and Other Drugs program under spent because of 'lower than expected corporate services costs'.

The extent of the under spending was \$15.8m budget minus \$14m the actual expense, totalling a difference of \$1.8m or 11% of the Alcohol and Other Drugs budget not being spent. Minister why was such a significant amount of money not spent last year in this important area?

Answer:
Answered On: 24/06/2004
Answer: Corporate overheads in 2002-03 were under spent by \$3.1M. The under spend was largely due to reduced expenses in depreciation, (\$1.2M), and repairs and maintenance (\$1.3M). Depreciation is an unfunded non-cash expense, and repairs and maintenance expense is quarantined under the NT Government BAMS program. The under spend in corporate overheads led to reductions in costs of outputs including the Alcohol and other Drugs program, however they had no effect on the direct costs associated with service delivery.