

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Carney

to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

Grant payments transfer to Legal Policy Unit

I would be grateful if you would provide the answers to the following questions in relation to the Justice Department's Budget for 2004-05. In order to assist you, please note that this question relates to output group: **1.0 Legal Services (1.1: Solicitor for the NT)**.

1. Under the heading 'key variations' on page 115, it is stated 'Grant payments of \$2.9m have been transferred from the Solicitor for the NT output to the Legal Policy output from 2003-04.' On page 116 the 'grant payments' are described as "Legal Aid grants"

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[Legal Policy '*develops reviews and implements legislative change, advises the Attorney-General and the Government on law and justice measures, and provides Ministerial support*'. [p117] - }

- (a) What is the main purpose of the grants;
- (b) Why were the grant payments transferred to Legal Policy;
- (c) Did Treasury make a recommendation to transfer the grants, or was the decision made in the Department of Justice;
- (d) What are the policy or budgetary reasons for transferring legal aid grants to Legal Policy;
- (e) Why have the grant payments been transferred now and not in the past;
- (f) Is it the case that this transfer of \$2.34m amounts to an injection of funds directly to assist the Attorney-General do his job; and
- (g) What will the \$2.34m be used for.

ANSWER