

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY**WRITTEN QUESTION**

Ms J Carney

to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

Director of Public Prosecutions - Average Cost per Completed Matter

1. (DPP) In last year's Budget Papers more details were provided and therefore more details were made available to Territorians. In particular, you included last year the 'average cost per completed matter and per client'. Why haven't they been included this year?
2. The average cost per completed matter last year was \$6209. What is it this year?
3. The average cost per client last year was \$1192. What is it this year?

ANSWER

As advised in the 2005-06 Budget Paper 3, (p 5) during the 2004-05 year, the Northern Territory Treasury reviewed the measures of output delivery used by agencies and decided there were "inherent limitations on unit cost measures due to significant levels of fixed costs, short-term fluctuations in activity, and the aggregation of sub-outputs into output measures".

Consequently, from 2005-06 agencies are not required to measure unit cost and this is why 'average cost per lodgement' does not appear in the 2005-06 Budget.

Average costs per completed matter and per client in 2004-05 were, however, published in both the 2004-05 Department of Justice Annual Report and the 2004-05 Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions Annual Report.

The average cost per completed matter in 2004-05 was \$7,240.

The average cost per client was \$1,235.