

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Ms Carney to Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

Crime Statistics Reporting Model Methodology

- 1) Would you please confirm the start date of the changed methodology in the reporting of crime to comply with the national model?

No date has been set to change the current offence based recorded crime reporting to the victim based recorded crime reporting adopted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

While the ABS' victim based collection is the only data source that enables comparisons to be made on crime rates among jurisdictions it is not a national model. Several jurisdictions including New South Wales have their own counting rules for crime reporting.

- 2) Would you please provide full details of the changed crime reporting methodology and the effect it will have in the reporting of crime and collection of quarterly crime statistics?

The Department of Justice has embarked on a project to review the contents of the Northern Territory Crime and Justice Quarterly publication with an aim to better inform the public on crime trends and other justice matters. One of the options being considered is to change the counting rules from offence based to victim based for the reporting of recorded crimes. Preliminary findings indicate that the differences between offence based and victim based are small for serious crimes such as Homicide, Sexual Assault, Assaults and Break-ins.

- 3) What plans do you have to notify Territorians of the implications of these changes?

Once the content and format of the new publication have been finalised, a communication plan will be developed to inform the public of the change.