

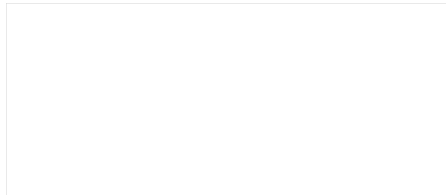
Question No : 233

Question : Alcohol and Drug Services

Question Date : 17/11/92

Member : Mr BAILEY

To : MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES



1. What are the details of services provided by the Employee Assistance Service.
2. What mechanisms does the Department of Health and Community Services have to ensure that alcohol and drug funding given to community groups is properly utilised.
3. What assessments does the Department of Health and Community Services undertake to ensure that the alcohol and drug programs funded by the government are successful or have failed.
4. What assessments does the Department of Health and Community Services undertake of the effect of community groups it grants money to.

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Employee Assistance Service has been established to develop employee assistance programs and provide confidential counselling advice to employees experiencing personal or work related difficulties.

These problems include marital and family conflicts, alcohol and drug abuse, interpersonal conflicts, career disappointments, financial difficulties, various emotional stresses and a multiplicity of work-related concerns.

The Service does not focus exclusively on alcohol. However, some 30% of clients are experiencing alcohol problems.

2. All community agencies receiving funding from the Department of Health and Community Services are required to sign a Service Agreement form. This includes the requirement for an annual audited financial statement. Funded organisations are also required to undertake ongoing evaluation and

collect data to assist in determining the effectiveness of the service.

3. Activity reports are required by the department from all funded organisations in order to assess how well the purpose of the grant is being met in carrying out the aims and objectives of the funded service. The department analyses the regular data returns from each organisation. One-off reviews or evaluations are also commissioned as appropriate.
4. Data collection and analysis is one process to assess the performance of agencies. The Alcohol and Other Drugs Program has an established data collection system dating from 1983.

The effectiveness of various treatment approaches for advanced drug and alcohol problems are still considered to be poor. This is inherent in the problem itself and not a reflection of the service provided. As a consequence there is increasing attention being paid to early detection and intervention and appropriate methods for these services are being implemented.