

Estimates Committee 2007 Questions Taken On Notice

(20/06/2006 to 31/08/2006)

Date: 27/06/2007 Output: 1
Sub Output: 1.4
Subject: Performance Measures in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

From: Mr Gerry Wood to Honourable Syd STIRLING
Minister for Justice and Attorney-General

Question: 2-5
In relation to the Office of the Director and Public Prosecutions, in the annual report on page 45 under performance measures for timeliness for filing of indictments within 28 days of committal, you show 57% as the actual for 2004-05 and you show 64% as the actual for 2005-06, although your estimate was 85%. Why then did you estimate that in 2006-07 you could reach 85% when you were nowhere near it in previous years?

Answer:
Answered On: 29/06/2007
Answer: The Filing of indictments within 28 days of committal is a relatively new measure introduced in 2004/05. This measure is used in other jurisdictions and impacts on other areas of the criminal justice system.

The ODPP may have been overly optimistic in its aim to achieve the target of 85%. However, the ODPP believes that it will be close to meeting the adjusted target of 80% in 2007-08.

Since the introduction of this measure the ODPP guidelines have been amended, work practices streamlined and new procedures for the filing of indictments introduced. It is estimated that the actual for 2006-07 will be around 70%.