

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TRIAL PROGRAM 2000-2003

4317. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the restorative justice trial program conducted at Court 37 in the Central Law Courts between 2000 and 2003, and I ask —

- (1) Do you consider the trial program to have been successful?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Why has the program now operating at Court 37 been altered from the original design?
- (4) Has the altered version been evaluated?
- (5) If yes to (4) —
 - (a) when;
 - (b) by whom;
 - (c) what was the outcome;
 - (d) where is the evaluation publicly accessible; and
 - (e) if the evaluation is not publicly accessible, why not?
- (6) If no to (4) —
 - (a) why not; and
 - (b) when will it be evaluated?
- (7) Will the Minister reintroduce the original version of the program for adult offenders?
- (8) If yes to (7), when?
- (9) If no to (7) —
 - (a) why not;
 - (b) has there been an estimate of the cost;
 - (c) if yes to (9)(b), what is the cost estimate;
 - (d) has an assessment been made regarding the likely impact of reintroducing the original version on —
 - (i) re-offending by offenders involved with the program;
 - (ii) number and length of imprisonment sentences imposed on offenders involved with the program; and
 - (iii) victims involved with the program?
 - (e) if yes to (9)(d), what is the assessment?
 - (f) if no to (9)(d), why not?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Not applicable
- (3) Changes to the program support the recommendations of an internal review of the Justice Mediation Court, completed in 2004.
- (4) Yes
- (5)
 - (a) 2007
 - (b) TNS Consultants for the Department of Corrective Services.
 - (c) The program was found to be a positive initiative and recommended minor changes to operational practices.
 - (d) It is not publically available.
 - (e) The Evaluation Report has only been cleared for internal operational use.
- (6) (a)–(b) Not applicable.

- (7) No
- (8) Not applicable
- (9)
 - (a) The altered version of the program addresses the recommendations of an 2004 internal review of the Justice Mediation (Court 37) Program which, while identifying a number of positive outcomes, recommended changes across various broad areas including stakeholder communication and awareness; issues around victim engagement; barriers to the engagement of Aboriginal defendants and victims; and power imbalances and other issues of female victims and defendants.
 - (b) No
 - (c) Not applicable
 - (d) (i)–(iii) No
 - (e) Not applicable
 - (f) The altered program incorporates the recommendations of the internal review and the trial program is considered to have been successful.