

JUVENILE JUSTICE TEAMS — REFERRALS

5096. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the Attorney General's answer on 2 November 2011 to question without notice No. 734 in the other place regarding referrals to juvenile justice teams, and I ask —

- (1) What percentage increase or decrease has there been in police referrals to juvenile justice teams (JJT) in regional and remote areas over the last three years?
- (2) How have the following issues in regional and remote areas that negatively impact on JJT referrals, including both police referrals and referrals made in the context of court proceedings, been addressed —
 - (a) insufficient staff to respond within a reasonable time to JJT referrals; and
 - (b) staff being required to travel long distances?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN replied:

- (1) Over the last three calendar years, the number of Juvenile Justice Team (JJT) referrals originating from the Police to regional field offices and regional JJTs increased/decreased as follows:
 - In 2009 the increase was 32.01 per cent compared to 2008: 664 referrals (2009) compared to 503 (2008).
 - In 2010 the increase was 30.87 per cent compared to 2009: 869 referrals (2010) compared to 664 (2009).
 - In 2011 the decrease was 11.28 per cent compared to 2010: 771 referrals (2011) compared to 869 services (2010).
- (2)
 - (a) The Department of Corrective Services (the Department) has sufficient staffing levels to ensure that responses to JJT referrals are completed within a reasonable time. Overall offending has decreased in rural and remote areas in the last two years and this is the cause of the consequent decrease in Police JJT referrals.
 - (b) The Department's staff travel long distances in rural and remote areas as part of the requirement of their work. However, the overall decrease in offending rates in rural and remote area areas is the cause of the decrease in Police JJT referrals, not long distance travel.