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The Government figures that just don’t add up

Inconsistencies and errors in Government department Annual Reports – and Treasury documents – are making it very difficult to determine the extent of the budget blow-out, Opposition Leader Jodeen Carney said today.

Ms Carney said a $6 million dollar discrepancy between the Department of Justice’s Annual Report and the Treasurer’s Annual Financial Statement remains unresolved.

A $50 million dollar mistake in the Community Development Annual Report is also unexplained and the integrity of the Government’s reporting system is questionable because of these errors.

“People rely on these papers to find out what is going on in government. If these papers contain errors then how can the public have confidence in what the Treasurer says,” Ms Carney said.

“The Department of Justice’s Annual Report reports the department spent $136 million dollars last year, (page 69). However, the Treasurer’s Annual Financial Statement says that they spent $130 million (page 101).

“The Treasurer has now admitted that the figures in the Annual Report for the Department of Community Development (page 119) were wrong. This page contains a $50 million dollar error.

“These are not small amounts and these are amounts that I have discovered with the limited resources available to me. How many other errors are there?

“If the Treasurer wants to be taken seriously he has to get his numbers right and he has to be honest with Territorians. That is something he is not doing.”