

Legal and Constitutional References [Senate] Committee:

Inquiry into Indigenous Workers Whose Paid Labour Was Controlled by Government [Stolen Wages]

http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/stolen_wages/index.htm

On 13 June 2006, the Senate referred the above inquiry to the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee for inquiry and report by 7 December 2006. Submissions are being called for by **28 July 2006**. Please note:

- submissions may be as short or as long as you like and may contain facts, opinions, arguments or recommendations.
- submissions may cover all the points in the terms of reference or only some of them, depending on what interests you.
- more pages and/or supporting documents may be attached.
- all submissions are considered regardless of their format or medium.
- submissions must not be disclosed to any other person until they are released by the committee.
- if you want your submission to be kept confidential please mark clearly and you must say why.
- don't forget to sign your submission.
- if you make a submission the committee may invite you to give evidence at a public hearing.

If you require further information please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3560 or leave a message with ANTaR National on (02) 9555 6138. Don't forget the deadline for written submissions is 28 July 2006!

Submission to the Legal and Constitutional References [Senate] Committee:

Inquiry into Indigenous Workers Whose Paid Labour Was Controlled by Government [Stolen Wages]

Name:

Address:

Contact Details:

My/Our Submission:

Signature(s):

**RETURN THIS FORM TO: Committee Secretary, Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate, PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600
OR Fax: 02 6277 5794 OR Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au**

This form was developed by Australians for Native Title & Reconciliation (ANTaR) Qld in consultation with the Stolen Wages Campaign Working Group to assist community people and interested members of the public to lodge a submission to the Inquiry. For more information about ANTaR Qld and the Stolen Wages campaign see <http://www.antarqld.org.au>

TERMS OF REFERENCE (also in 'plain English')
Legal and Constitutional References [Senate] Committee:
Inquiry into Indigenous Workers Whose Paid Labour Was Controlled by Government
http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/legcon_ctte/stolen_wages/tor.htm

With regard to Indigenous workers whose paid labour was controlled by Government:

Talking about missing, unpaid and underpaid wages, savings and other benefits (stolen wages) held by Governments:

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| <p>a. the approximate number of Indigenous workers in each state and territory whose paid labour was controlled by government; what measures were taken to safeguard them from physical, sexual and employment abuses and in response to reported abuses;</p> | <p>a. How many people do you know whose wages and savings were controlled by the government?
 Who protected the workers from being physically and sexually abused and/or mistreated at work?
 What happened if someone was reported for abuse?</p> |
| <p>b. all financial arrangements regarding their wages, including amounts withheld under government control, access by workers to their savings and evidence provided to workers of transactions on their accounts; evidence of fraud or negligence on Indigenous monies and measures implemented to secure them; imposition of levies and taxes in addition to federal income tax;</p> | <p>b. What happened to people's wages?
 How were they able to get their money?
 What records did they get about the money paid in and taken out?
 Was there any evidence of fraud or of the money not being looked after properly?
 Did you or do you know people who had to pay tax on their wages on top of federal income tax?</p> |
| <p>c. what trust funds were established from Indigenous earnings, entitlements and enterprise; government transactions on these funds and how were they secured from fraud, negligence or misappropriation;</p> | <p>c. What do you know about the trust funds held by the governments?
 What did the government do with money?
 How did they make sure it was looked after properly?</p> |
| <p>d. all controls, disbursement and security of federal benefits including maternity allowances, child endowment and pensions, and entitlements such as workers compensation and inheritances;</p> | <p>d. What do you know about what happened to maternity allowances, child endowment and pensions?
 What happened to workers' compensation payments and inheritances?</p> |
| <p>e. previous investigations by states and territories into official management of Indigenous monies;</p> | <p>e. What do you know about state & territory governments looking into the way Indigenous monies were managed?</p> |
| <p>f. current measures to disclose evidence of historical financial controls to affected Indigenous families; the extent of current databases and resources applied to make this information publicly available; whether all financial records should be controlled by a qualified neutral body to ensure security of the data and equity of access;</p> | <p>f. How can people who were affected find out about theirs' and their family's financial records?
 How easy is it for them to see the records?
 How many records are there?
 Should all the records be looked after by a neutral group so they are kept safe and can be seen by all who need to see them?</p> |
| <p>g. commitments by state and territory governments to quantify wages, savings and entitlements missing or misappropriated under official management; the responsibility of governments to repay or compensate those who suffered physically or financially under 'protection' regimes;</p> | <p>g. What have governments done to find out how much in wages, savings and entitlements went missing or were stolen while the governments were looking after them?
 Do you think governments should have to pay back the missing money and/or pay compensation to people who suffered physically or financially under protection laws?</p> |
| <p>h. what mechanisms have been implemented in other jurisdictions with similar histories of Indigenous protection strategies to redress injustices suffered by wards; and</p> | <p>h. Do you know of any other state, territory or country which has done something about compensation for people who have suffered injustice at the hands of government?</p> |
| <p>i. whether there is a need to 'set the record straight' through a national forum to publicly air the complexity and the consequences of mandatory controls over Indigenous labour and finances during most of the 20th century.</p> | <p>i. Do we need a national forum to talk about how the money was controlled and what the effects were?</p> |

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