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My Submission:

My name is Alan Han and I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Queensland. I recently learnt about the wages which have not been paid to Indigenous peoples, who worked for white landowners in Queensland and in other states. After hearing the stories of Indigenous peoples who have attempted, often in vain, to contact consecutive Queensland state government representatives, who refuse to meet with many of these Indigenous peoples, I found these stories both heart-breaking and offensive to the many Indigenous peoples who worked without pay, many of whom have unfortunately passed on.

Claiming that these funds cannot be traced or have already been paid to these Indigenous peoples is a poor excuse. These funds have clearly not been paid to these Indigenous peoples, evidenced by their uniform stories of being mis-treated by Queensland state governments, who often refuse to meet with them. Furthermore, claiming that there are no records of these payments, allegedly paid out to Indigenous peoples or into a government trust account, is not an excuse for taking this frustratingly long period of time to reach a resolution with these Indigenous peoples. The government has a fiduciary duty to locate these records, or if they are unlocatable, to meet with Indigenous representatives to reach a resolution and a fair compensation to these Indigenous workers to money that is rightfully theirs.

This is not just about money, this is about justice. Please have the political back-bone to provide justice to Indigenous peoples who are fighting for their stolen wages.

Thankyou

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