

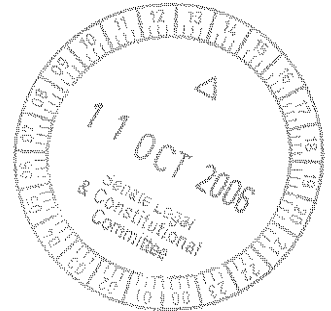


## CHIEF MINISTER

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Mr Jonathon Curtis  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Mr Curtis

The Chair of the Inquiry into "Stolen Wages of Indigenous Workers whose paid labour was controlled by Government", wrote to me on 24 August 2006 inviting the Northern Territory Government to make a submission on this matter. In particular, the Chair referred to the submission of Dr Ros Kidd and invited the Northern Territory to respond to that document.

The Northern Territory of Australia, as a body politic, came into existence on 1 July 1978 on the commencement of the Commonwealth's *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978*.

It is noted that this date falls after both:

- The 1965–66 Equal Wage Case (Northern Territory Cattle Station Industry Award before the Commonwealth's Conciliation and Arbitration Commission 1965-66, implemented 1968), and
- The commencement of the Commonwealth's *Racial Discrimination Act 1975*.

Dr Kidd's submission refers primarily to events that occurred from the late 1800's to mid 1900's.




Actions taken between 1911 and 1978 would have been the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, involving Commonwealth Department's and any records would be held by Commonwealth Archives. In this regard I would draw your attention to S72 (1) of the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* whereby the Commonwealth indemnifies the Territory against any action made against it, where such an action could have been made against the Commonwealth but for the operation of the *Self-Government Act*.

Prior to 1911 what is now the Northern Territory was administered under a variety of different arrangements.

In these circumstances there would appear to be little the Northern Territory Government could contribute to the inquiry by way of factual material. We wish you well in your endeavours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

CLARE MARTIN

6. 10. 06