

To whom it may concern:

For almost a century Aborigines have had their wages administered in an illegal and immoral way by officers of the Queensland Government and probably by other state or federal governments as well. It is time to atone for this injustice in a generous way, not with insulting gestures. At the very least, those Aborigines whose wages were partially or wholly withheld and the children of those whose wages were withheld should be paid in full with a significant increment in lieu of interest, and this should be done immediately. In cases where neither the victims themselves nor any of their immediate family members still survive, the monies owing could be paid into a special fund and used to improve health, education and other important services in indigenous communities. In Australia's current economic climate, we can certainly afford to do this.

Government obfuscation is thwarting the reconciliation process at every turn. Let us take this opportunity to alleviate one problem with a relatively straightforward solution and allow those Aborigines concerned to put this injustice behind them.