

28/07/2006

Committee Secretary,
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee,
Department of the Senate,
P.O. Box 6100,
Parliament House,
Canberra. ACT. 2600.



Dear Sir or Madam,

RE INQUIRY into STOLEN WAGES

Further to our conversation today I am enclosing the following for your inquiry. As I am at present doing the family tree I have come across many pieces of information but have been unable to get much from the Queensland Govt or from the Canberra Archives for Aboriginal People.

- My wife's Great Grandparents lived at Tolga on the Atherton Tablelands and grandfather was an Aboriginal Black Tracker for the Police. Sgt Dwyer was the Officer of the day. This old man worked but never saw money but relied on handouts from farmers around who knew them. Where are the records as we are told they do not exist, and where are the wages?
- My father in law worked on cattle properties as a stockman drover and my mother in law picked beans and corn to make ends meet but alas no records exist. All aboriginal people where under the Protection Act but records were few and far between. The reason we are told is that the Police did not send them but farmer came to where they were living and hid behind the Act so as to get cheap labour. I have compiled a list of properties and names of farmers who these people worked for and would like to sit down with your enquiry along with those who are still ^{alive} that they may tell you of their struggle to make ends meet and the frustrations at not being able to access money and later at seeing money paid out to some but not all.
- Many records were burnt when Police Officer Sgt Meade's burnt down Police Station in North Queensland to cover up his Fraudulent use of Aboriginal money that was placed under the Act.
- The older Children that I have listed in letter dated 27/07/2006 worked house keeping and station work often for no wages just told to collect eggs or other things to survive. A blatant miss use of the Act.
- Because many employers never keep records the Aboriginal people of the day missed out and many today are to frightened to speak out due to fear

- of litigation and so to get a clear picture of all events we need to have an amnesty for whistle blowers. This Act was very easy for those who wished to be dishonest. I have seen a book held by my wife's Great Grandfather on her father's side that listed payments made under the Aboriginal Protection Act.
- The misuse of the Act has left a scar on our History and has created much mistrust in our Aboriginal People. This whole sorry saga needs to be put right and a nominal amount needs to be paid to all in that age group to clear the air. Queensland Govt hold many Millions in unpaid money and boast of wanting to pay out but not wanting to trust those who apply for what is rightfully theirs putting up barriers to stop them access what is rightfully theirs.
- Many children were taken and resettled elsewhere and in doing so their basic right was taken away along with a loss of identity and pride, which is still relevant today.
- Those who have passed on, their wages should be paid to next of Kin or Estate as this was rightfully worked for and many descendants today have suffered hardship due to this Act.
- Some of the people were Massacred as I have written proof of this along with Police Officer's who took part in this once again denying them of their claim.

Please feel free to contact me as I have more information, which is too numerous to send, but would make it available to be seen. Members of the family would also like to see an Inquiry that travels to the people as many will tell what they Know as they do not have the education to put things in writing.

Yours Faithfully,

Pastor John Andrews.

