

I would like to submit the following comments into the Senate Inquiry into Stolen Wages:

As a recipient of the policies of the day that related to Aboriginal people in Queensland and a member of the Stolen Wages Working Group, I provide this first-hand account.

“The offer that the Beattie Government tabled in Parliament is an insult to Indigenous people in Queensland”

With the \$4000 and \$2000 almost completely distributed and the Wages and Savings Branch closed down, we are concerned about the balance of funds that remain.

Although Mr Beattie recently made a statement to Parliament that in relation to the Stolen Wages and I quote *“These funds are not mine they are taxpayers money”* (Hansard 51). Supported by Minister Mickel.

I ask the inquiry to clarify what is happening to the funds, and if by some miracle these funds are released, that we the Indigenous people and recipients of the first payout be involved in the decision to determine what will happen with these unspent funds.

This matter like a thorn in the flesh has been allowed to fester causing considerable pain and frustration to us all!

After three (3) Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs we've taken as many steps back as to so few forward.

Our stories are well and truly aired with little regard to rate of pay and conditions. Our campaign for justice has taken its toll in that many elders have died before the whole issue was resolved.

I ask the following questions:

- (1) What was the balance of the employment and savings Accounts when Beattie came to power?
- (2) What was the balance when the Nationals were in power?
- (3) Will there be an end to all monies held in trust for Indigenous people e.g. Welfare Fund, Deceased Estates etc ?
- (4) Does the current government have a case to answer in relation to its Fiduciary duty to the Crime and Misconduct Commission?

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