

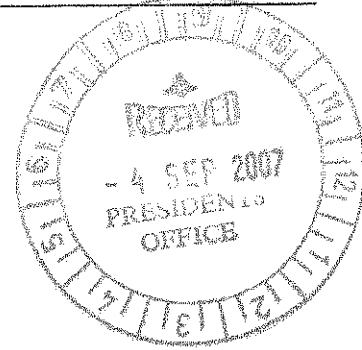
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Premier of Western Australia



Our Ref: 200707535

Senator the Hon Paul Calvert
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



Dear Senator Calvert

Thank you for your letter dated 6 July 2007 requesting the Western Australian Government's response to the recommendations of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee report, *Unfinished Business: Indigenous Stolen Wages* (the Report).

As preface to my comments, I would like to advise you that the Western Australian Government has made a commitment to examine the stolen wages issue and expects to determine its position by 30 June 2008.

I am pleased to provide the following response to recommendations in the Report that are relevant to Western Australia.

Recommendation 1

The Western Australian Government supports the recommendation as a general principle. Individuals have a right to access their personal information held in restricted archives of the Government and access is available through application to appropriate agencies. With regard to access by representatives for the purpose of researching the Indigenous stolen wages issue, the Western Australian Government will be examining and providing a process for access that preserves confidentiality for individuals.

Recommendation 2

I am advised that this recommendation was discussed at the 3 August 2007 Ministerial Council on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs meeting. The Western Australian Government is of the view that each jurisdiction should undertake its own education and awareness campaign and examine legal issues within the context of legislative and policy regimes that have been in force. This will ensure a focussed approach, while recognising the progress being made in each jurisdiction.

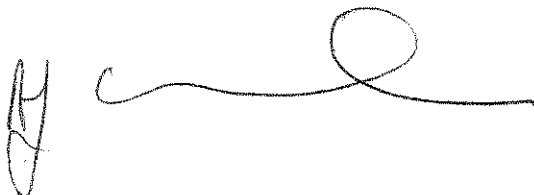
Recommendation 4 (a)

As indicated above, the Western Australian Government has made a commitment to examine the issue of Stolen Wages and determine its policy position by 30 June 2008. As part of its review, the Western Australian Government will consult extensively with Indigenous people and organisations. Reparations schemes will be considered as part of this review.

Recommendation 4 (b)

The Commonwealth is encouraged to consider the implementation of this recommendation as it may be of assistance to the Western Australian Government in its examination of stolen wages.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long horizontal line that loops back to the right.

Alan Carpenter MLA
PREMIER

28 AUG 2007