

**Submission to the Legal and Constitutional References (Senate)
Committee: Inquiry into Indigenous Workers Whose Paid Labour Was
Controlled by Government (Stolen Wages)**

Date: 31 July 2006

Name: Joseph Roderick Button

Address: MURGON QLD

Contact Details: Mobile:

My Submission:

I Joseph Roderick Button hereby state that I lived and worked under the Aboriginal Act. I am an 82 years old Aboriginal man who worked in various jobs on the mission such as Police Officer, Aboriginal Court Judge, Carpenter for 17 years, Hygiene Health Worker. I have also been droving bullocks and horses, which included farm work to cemetery caretaker.

I married in 1937 and had a family of 14 children, plus looked after other extended family members. This was a big financial struggle for my wife and I to raise our children on meagre rations and a small wage. This then led me to getting work outside the community on the railway for better pay in order for my family to survive.

I cannot recall getting any holiday pay, long service leave, superannuation or any other work entitlements when I worked under the act.

I didn't even receive monies that was paid out to workers under the Community Service Act of \$7,000. The only money I have received to date is the recent \$4,000 from the Queensland Government. Even my wife's child endowment and maternity allowance was controlled by the government. We did not receive any cash in hand, she was just given an order for clothes and food to that value.

Therefore, I feel that I am a victim of the stolen wages era where my wages was controlled by the government and believe that there would be still monies owing to me. Reconciliation will never happen between the government and aboriginal people, until justice prevails.

Signature: Joseph Roderick Button (s.m.)

This is to certify that this is a true copy of the original document, which I have sighted.

Joseph Roderick Button Date 21.7.2006
JOSEPH RODERICK BUTTON
JPO No 15083. 

