

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE (Of which some notice has been given)

Tuesday, 27 November 2012

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs.

With regard to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme, which is due to close on Friday 30th November 2012, in spite of numerous requests for an extension from various community legal organisations, Indigenous associations and human rights groups, I ask:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that an estimated one thousand (1000) people will miss out on applying for the scheme if it closes on the 30th November?
- (2) Does the Minister consider this to be an acceptable resolution to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme?
- (3) Will the Minister consider a request from the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia for the scheme to be extended to March 2017, bringing it in line with similar schemes in Queensland and New South Wales?

I thank the Hon. Member for some notice of this question.

(1) – (2) The number of expected applications (approximately 1500) was based on information from the Redress program. By 30 November 2012, the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme (the Scheme) is likely to have received more than the estimated number of applications, being around 1850.

With the number and Australia-wide coverage of applications already received, the State Government is of the view that all potential eligible applicants will have had the opportunity to submit an application by the 30 November 2012 close date.

(3) No. The close date of the Scheme has already been extended once to address these types of concerns. The Scheme's application process was intentionally designed to be as simple as possible and is the reason why the Scheme can run over a shorter period of time in comparison with other states.



Minister for Indigenous Affairs