

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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

Wednesday, 15 May 2013

Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

With regard to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme WA, I ask:

1. Is the Minister aware of the plight of Ms Katie Anne Cox, a former resident of Beagle Bay Mission from 1963 (when she was five years old) to 1975 (when she was 17 years old) who has been assessed as ineligible for the Scheme because she was born a scant three months outside the eligibility period?
2. Is the Minister aware that Ms Cox has requested reconsideration of her application, arguing the current lack of discretion has resulted in harsh and unjust treatment, and that she has appealed for greater flexibility in the application of Scheme guidelines?
3. Is the Minister aware that Ms Cox has requested the Government undertake a review of the current arrangements in order to develop a better and fairer Scheme for all who had their wages stolen through no fault of their own?
4. If yes to any or all of the above questions, what steps have been taken to address the unfair situation that has been outlined and in which Ms Cox and many others find themselves?

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

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes.

(4) The Western Australian Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme closed for applications on 30 November 2012. Unsuccessful applicants are able to submit a request for review within 28 days of receipt of a notification letter advising ineligibility. An independent panel has been appointed to oversee the review process.



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs