

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

C203

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

Tuesday, 18 June 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 claim for stolen wages submitted by Ms Ivy Bindai, a former resident and employee of several Kimberley cattle stations including Alice Downs, Turner River, Ord River, Mistake Creek and Nicholson, who was supplied with 'rations' but never paid for work?
2. Is the Minister aware that Ms Bindai's application was unsuccessful and that she is appealing the decision that has excluded her from the scheme on the grounds that the WA Government at the time in question was responsible for the protection, and therefore the discriminatory treatment, of Aboriginal people throughout the state, regardless of where they lived?
3. Is the Minister aware that Ms Bindai and other former station workers had a reasonable expectation that the stolen wages scheme was the WA Government's approach to making amends for discriminatory treatment, including unpaid station wages, and that not to do so would be considered yet another form of discrimination?
4. Is the Minister aware that Ms Bindai has written to the Government requesting a review of the scheme, its terms of reference and criteria for inclusion via a consultative process that fully involves Aboriginal people?
5. If yes to 4, how does the Government intend responding to the request?

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

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No. The guidelines for eligibility for the Stolen Wages Scheme are clearly stated in all relevant communications.

4. Yes.

5. There are no plans to reopen the Stolen Wages Scheme or expand the criteria.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Gillies".

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs