

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Question on notice

Thursday, 13 March 2014

884. Hon Robin Chappie to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Regarding the application by Trixie Lirning of Kununurra to the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme WA, I ask:

- (a) does the Minister recall his decision to refuse Ms Lirning's application for stolen wages for the time she worked without pay or other benefits on Nicholson Station, and is the Minister satisfied that his ruling was fair and just:
- (i) if no to (a), why not and will he re-consider his decision; and
- (ii) if yes to (a), can the Minister please explain how it is fair and just; and
- (b) will the Minister now apologise, on behalf of the Government of the day, to Ms Lirning and other Aboriginal people who worked on stations without wages or benefits:
- (i) if no to (b), why not?

(a) Yes.

(i) The decision will not be reconsidered.

(ii) The eligibility criteria for the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme (the Scheme) were reasonable and clear and were applied consistently in assessing each application.

(b) No.

(i) The State Government's response to the issue of stolen wages was largely based on advice from the Stolen Wages Taskforce. It should be noted the State Government invests heavily in measures to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people. These investments are to a large degree, based on recognition that the disadvantage experienced by many Aboriginal people is a result of discriminatory legislation and policy that existed during the period 1905–1972.



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs