

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**Question on notice**

**Tuesday, 17 June 2014**

1281. Hon Robin Chapple to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

With regard to the amount paid to recipients of the Stolen Wages Reparation Scheme Western Australia, I ask:

- (a) on what basis did the Minister determine that \$2,000 should be the total sum of an *ex gratia* payment made to an eligible applicant;
- (b) were there any other sums of money considered or discussed as suitable *ex gratia* payments:
  - (i) if yes to (b), what were they; and
- (c) did the Stolen Wages Taskforce recommend the amount to be paid:
  - (i) if yes to (c), where was this recommendation recorded;
  - (ii) will the Minister table the relevant documents;
  - (iii) if no to (c)(ii), why not; and
  - (iv) if no to (c), who did make the recommendation and on whose authority?

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(a) The State Government's response to the issue of stolen wages was largely based on advice from the Stolen Wages Taskforce which acknowledged that the lack of surviving records and the passage of time meant that it was not possible for the Western Australian Government to identify and repay the actual amount of monies that were withheld. The \$2,000 *ex-gratia* payment offered was not an attempt to repay wages that were withheld, but rather an acknowledgement that the practice of stolen wages did occur.

(b) Cabinet deliberations are confidential.

(c) No.

(i) - (iii) Not applicable.

(iv) Cabinet approved the amount of the *ex-gratia* payment on 12 December 2011.



**Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**