

Question on Notice

No. 789

Asked on 17 August 2004

MR MCNAMARA asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (MS CLARK)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the announcement in December 2003 by the State Government that Aboriginal Welfare Fund would be wound up—

What is the progress being made to establish a foundation to manage the fund?

ANSWER:

The resolution of outstanding issues relating to the historical control of Indigenous wages, labour and savings is a major focus for this government. The compensation process for the non-payment of award wages, the resolution of issues relating to the Aborigines Welfare Fund and the offer of a reparation package for historical government management of the wages and savings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are components of the overall effort to address past injustices and promote reconciliation.

On 1 December 2003, Cabinet approved a proposal for dealing with the approximately \$9 million currently held in the Aborigines Welfare Fund.

Implementation of this decision will require legislative changes to the *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984* to wind-up the Aborigines Welfare Fund and to establish a foundation for the benefit of the Aboriginal people of Queensland.

Work is being undertaken on investigating options for possible models for this foundation and the governance arrangements required to ensure that the funds are disbursed to advance the development of skills and prosperity for Queensland Aboriginal people and communities.