

Question on Notice

No. 945

Asked on 26 May 2006

MR MESSENGER asked the Minister for Energy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy (MR MICKEL)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the fund established by the government to make reparations to the Indigenous people who had their wages withheld—

How many claims have been received and processed since the reparations scheme was introduced for each subsequent financial year and current year to date (reported separately) and what has been the total cost of these reparations and what is the average reparation payment provided?

ANSWER:

Queensland was the first jurisdiction in Australia to make a reparations offer to Indigenous Queenslanders whose wages were controlled by State Governments from 1897 until the 1980s. \$17.916 million has been paid to eligible claimants.

Eligible claimants born on or before 31 December 1951 receive \$4000 and eligible claimants born between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1956 receive \$2000.

A breakdown of claims received and processed in each financial year since the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations process began in February 2003 is provided below.

Between 1 February 2003 and 30 June 2003, 4381 claims were received, 869 were assessed with 635 determined to be eligible, and nine claims were paid.

Between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2004, 2393 claims were received, 3408 claims were assessed with 2449 determined to be eligible, and 2620 claims were paid.

Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005, 1041 claims were received, 2691 claims were assessed with 1614 determined to be eligible, and 1545 claims were paid.

Between 1 July 2005 and 29 May 2006, 949 claims were received, 1746 claims were assessed with 815 claims determined to be eligible, and 875 claims were paid.