

Question on Notice
No. 599
Asked on 11 May 2023

Mr S Andrew asked Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Premier's comments today regarding bringing back Australian tribal artefacts from British Museums—

Will the Premier also commit to bringing back the Australian South Sea Islander (ASSI) body parts, human remains and other ASSI artefacts that are being held in these museums' collections?

ANSWER:

I acknowledge the advocacy of the Member for Mirani on issues affecting the Australian South Sea Islander community, and I acknowledge the harsh treatment, injustice, prejudice and disadvantage experienced by Australian South Sea Islanders.

I have requested that the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs; and the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts continue to work with the Queensland United Australian South Sea Islander Council, and other leaders from Queensland's Australian South Sea Islander community to determine the community's views on this matter.

Any further commitment to repatriation of ASSI artifacts will be contingent upon the views of the ASSI community, the nature and extent of any holdings outside Queensland, and the avenues open to pursue repatriation of artifacts from overseas.