Please attribute to Aboriginal Affairs Minister Peter Collier

How was the specific amount of \$2000 maximum for its stolen wages reparation scheme reached by the government?

The State Government's response to the issue of stolen wages was largely based on advice from the Stolen Wages Taskforce. The Taskforce consulted widely with Aboriginal people across the State and was assisted by a panel of six Aboriginal advisors. The Taskforce acknowledged that the lack of surviving records and the passage of time meant that was not possible for the WA government to identify and repay the actual amount of money that was 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 withholding wages did occur.

Why didn't the government proceed with the recommendation by Barton Consulting of a \$10 000 payout for stolen wages reparations?

The Stolen Wages Taskforce attempted to undertake actuarial modelling to build a database of payments in the review period. Due to the complexity of trust accounts in Western Australia, the significant lack of surviving records and the passage of time, the actuarial modelling, which was undertaken by Barton Consulting, could not estimate the true value or full impact of any compensation. It should be noted that recommendations made by Barton Consulting were made to the Taskforce, not directly to the State Government.

Why did it take the government four years to come up with its stolen wages reparation scheme, given the taskforce report was delivered in 2008?

Time was taken to assess the Report properly, its recommendations and its impact on other issues in Aboriginal Affairs.

Why was there no published list of Government Native Welfare Settlements for the stolen wages reparation scheme?

Government native welfare settlements were broadly defined as places where children and young people were taken into care. Each application was assessed by the Department on a case-by-case basis against all the published criteria, rather than solely on specific locations.

Why was the report of the Stolen Wages Taskforce taken offline?

DAA launched a new website in June 2015. Information on stolen wages has not been included on this website as the reparation scheme has closed. Information on stolen wages can be provided to interested parties via the Department at any time.

Why were pastoral workers excluded from the 2012 stolen wages reparation scheme, when their employment conditions were set and regulated by government?

The State Government's response to the issue of stolen wages was largely based on advice from the Stolen Wages Taskforce, which found no evidence of station workers having their wages controlled through trust accounts, unless they had been sent out to work from the Government pastoral station of Moola Bulla, hence this location was included as eligible.