

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

9655 MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): In relation to the Senate Inquiry in 2007 into State Governments withholding wages from indigenous workers, after which the Victorian Government assigned a person from Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) to search the archives to ascertain whether these practices occurred in Victoria:

- (1) When will this report, which according to staff in the Minister's office was completed several months ago, be publicly released.
- (2) Have Victorian Koories been interviewed to support whatever findings are contained in the report.


REPLY: The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs: I am advised that -

I have now received the Stolen Wages Report prepared in response to the Senate Inquiry of 2007 in to State Governments withholding wages from Indigenous workers.

The Report confirms that that there is no evidence of the systemic withholding of wages by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines and its successors from Indigenous people in Victoria.

Indigenous Victorians have not at this stage been interviewed to confirm the findings of the Report because the investigation was into the systemic withholding of wages. Evidence to support systemic withholding of wages is unlikely to be held outside Government.

I am awaiting further advice before making a decision on the next steps to be taken in regards to this matter.



Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

13/10/2009