



## First meeting of the Stolen Wages Taskforce - Cairns

The Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce has started work on implementing the Queensland Government's promise to distribute \$21 million to make reparation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Queenslanders whose wages and savings were controlled by past Queensland Governments under the Protection Acts.

The twelve-member Taskforce recently got together in Cairns for their first meeting on Thursday 24 September. After each of the members told their story and introduced themselves, Taskforce Chair, Mick Gooda acknowledged the challenges ahead as they began their deliberations.

"We've got some pretty tough issues to deal with. How do we give people closure? Let's have some humanity about this." Mr Gooda said.

The Taskforce will be out and about talking with people over the next few months and then make recommendations to government about the scheme's eligibility criteria and how applications will be assessed. Taskforce members resolved to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in consultations.

The Taskforce has been appointed for three years. Once the Reparations Scheme starts later this year, the Taskforce will continue to provide advice to government to address any implementation issues.

## Get to know your local Taskforce members

The Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce is chaired by Mr Mick Gooda, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission. Mr Gooda is supported by 11 other Taskforce members from across Queensland.

### The Taskforce Members are:

Mr Mick Gooda (Chair)

Ms Pauline Ah Wang - Thursday Island

Mr John Anderson – Brisbane

Ms Gail Barry – Townsville

Ms Rosaline Bourne – Mackay

Mr Morris Cloudy – Townsville

Ms Pamela Hegarty – Rockhampton

Mr Raymond Sambo – Cairns

Mr Marshall Saunders – Brisbane

Ms Vivienne Schwartz – Rockhampton

Mr Thomas Sebasio – Brisbane

Ms Viola Sheridan – Brisbane.

Taskforce members will travel across the state to provide as many people as possible with the opportunity to have their say about the new Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme. Keep an eye out on our website for Taskforce member profiles and more information about their travels at website at [www.qld.gov.au/reparations](http://www.qld.gov.au/reparations)

## Have your say

In addition to face-to-face consultations, the Taskforce will be taking written submissions.

People affected by stolen wages and savings are invited to put forward their ideas about:

- What the eligibility criteria should be for the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme?
- How applications to the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme should be assessed?

As part of this process the Taskforce is examining whether the criteria from the last process should be changed. The previous criteria included people who had their wages or savings controlled under a 'Protection Act' and

- were alive on 9 May 2002
- born on or before 31 December 1951
- born on or between 1 January 1952 and on or before 31 December 1956

### **NO CRITERIA HAS YET BEEN DECIDED FOR THE NEW SCHEME**

All written submission should be sent to the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce, PO Box 15397, City East, Brisbane, QLD, 4002 or lodged via email – [reparations@datsip.qld.gov.au](mailto:reparations@datsip.qld.gov.au)

Submissions close 30 October 2015.

### For more information...

Visit [www.qld.gov.au/reparations](http://www.qld.gov.au/reparations) or call our national free call number - 1800 619 505 (landlines only).

Alternatively you can contact your local Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) office. To find your local DATSIP office go to <https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au>

**Stolen Wages Reparations**

**Freecall:** 1800 619 505

**Email:** [reparations@datsip.qld.gov.au](mailto:reparations@datsip.qld.gov.au)

**Web:** [www.qld.gov.au/reparations](http://www.qld.gov.au/reparations)