

Queensland Government response

to the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce report, *Reconciling Past Injustice*

May 2016

Department of Aborginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships



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Contents

Foreword	1
Executive summary	2
Introduction	3
Action to date	4
Background	5
2015 Reparations Scheme—stolen wages and savings	6
Eligibility	6
Payments	6
Assessment	6
Review	6
Deed of agreement	7
Advertising: 'Acknowledging the past'	7
Progress snapshot	9
Legacy issues	10
Welfare Fund	10
Acknowledging the use of stolen wages to help build Queensland	11
Government housing	11
Documenting history	11
Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation	11
Response to specific recommendations	12

Foreword

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders endured decades of government controls exercised over their lives by previous administrations under a series of Acts known as the 'Protection Acts'. The Queensland Government acknowledges the pain and suffering experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who were subject to these controls including control over their employment, wages and savings.

In 2002, Queensland became the first Australian state or territory to offer reparations to people directly affected by previous government controls over their wages and savings. This government is committed to continuing efforts to reach a resolution of these long-standing issues. The state government acknowledges there was ongoing dissatisfaction following the closure of the previous reparations process and announced a dedicated fund of \$21 million for reparations payments. Roll-out of the Reparations Scheme—Stolen Wages and Savings followed a commitment made during the 2015 state election.

This new scheme has included some significant and important changes. The first was the establishment of a Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce, comprised of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people, to assist with establishment of the scheme. The taskforce, led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, Mr Mick Gooda, has more than met the responsibilities given to them. The taskforce asked this government to consider broader issues than the monetary reparations process originally offered.

In addition to the taskforce, the scheme will have a Reparations Review Panel. The Queensland Government is aware that relevant records may be incomplete for particular time periods and locations. It acknowledges that for some people who were subject to controls over their wages and savings, written records may not be available. This panel will help bridge the gap and provide an opportunity for those people without records to verify their claims, by other means such as statutory declarations and face-to-face presentation of their stories.

This scheme included advertising but has not been the standard practice for applications. Instead, the advertising aimed to educate the broader community about the impact of the past controls as much as it has been about offering reparations to those affected. The scheme's advertising campaign promotes the individual stories and experiences of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. The 'Acknowledging the past' campaign enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to put their stories on record and ensures all Queenslanders learn more about Queensland's history.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people who took part in the taskforce consultations around the state and who gave their time and effort to either attend meetings or put in submissions. The government acknowledges the emotional turmoil that this may have caused. The Queensland Government sincerely thanks everyone for their input and notes that consideration of the issues reflected in the taskforce recommendations have been undertaken with regard to those efforts.

The Queensland Government recognises the difficulty of the assignment set before the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce and sincerely thanks all taskforce members for their commitment, hard work and their frank and fearless advice.

The Honourable Curtis Pitt

Treasurer Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister for Sport



Executive summary

Queensland was the first jurisdiction in Australia to make an offer of reparations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who were directly affected by previous government controls over their wages and savings.

In 2002, a \$55.4 million fund was established with the aim of easing the lasting pain caused by the policies and controls of previous governments under a series of legislative provisions controlling the wages and savings of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people.

The offer was made following a community consultation process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland by the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. Up to the closing of the initial offer in January 2006, the Queensland Government had received 8761 claims, of which 63 per cent were deemed eligible for payment. A further process took place from 2008 to 2010 with a final total of 5779 applicants found eligible.

The current offer of \$21 million follows a commitment that was made during the 2015 Queensland election. This commitment responds to ongoing community dissatisfaction and concern following closure of the previous process.

In establishing the Reparations Scheme —Stolen Wages and Savings (the scheme), the Queensland Government has incorporated strategies that address those concerns from the previous reparations process and draws on the lessons learned. This included establishing a Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce to assist government in the development of the new process.

The Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce, comprised of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders from across the state, was established in August 2015. It was initially tasked with making recommendations to government about the eligibility criteria and assessment process for the new scheme. In response to additional community concern about ageing claimants and the need to deliver justice promptly, government urged the taskforce to provide advice as quickly as possible. Following broad community consultation by taskforce members to inform their advice, the taskforce made interim recommendations to government in December 2015.

With minimal change to the eligibility criteria and assessment process recommended by the taskforce, the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Sport, the Honourable Curtis Pitt, officially launched the scheme on 18 December 2015 in Cairns, accompanied by a group of past claimants. In launching the new scheme, the Treasurer committed to the scheme remaining open until funds have been exhausted.

Separate to the operational advice, the taskforce made additional recommendations to government to further address Queensland's legacy issues and in its full report, provided government with actions to progress those proposals.

The Queensland Government has agreed that more work is required to address these other legacy issues including proper acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples' contribution to the wealth and development of Queensland, resolution of past government home ownership programs and development of a new relationship between Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and the Queensland Government.

Introduction

Since 1999, the Queensland Government has undertaken a number of compensation and reparation processes for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people who suffered direct disadvantage, as a result of racially discriminatory government practices, such as 'stolen wages'.

In addition to the 2002 reparations offer, the Queensland Government has endeavoured to address other long-standing issues arising from past injustices, including over \$40 million of payments under the related but separate Compensation for Non-Payment of Award Wages (1975–1986) Scheme. This resulted in 5729 claimants receiving compensation payments of \$7000 between 1999 and 2003.

The Queensland Government remains committed to reconciliation with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and reaffirmed this commitment through announcement of a new Reparations offer of \$21 million in 2015. The scheme opened on 18 December 2015 and offers payments of up to \$9200 for new claims or for previously ineligible claimants who are positively reassessed. Past successful claimants are included in the new process and have been offered top-up payments of \$1100 and \$2200 depending on when they were born.

The first reparations process included in-built appeal and review mechanisms which, coupled with independent legal advice, were designed to optimise the integrity of the process. Even so, feedback from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities highlighted the need for change. Strategies to address the government learnings and concerns raised by community about the first process have been incorporated into the new scheme. With a view to righting past wrongs, the Queensland Government established the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce to assist with development of the new scheme and to provide recommendations to government about the eligibility criteria, assessment process and ongoing oversight of the scheme's implementation.

The Queensland Government has agreed that more work is required to further address stolen wages and other legacy issues identified by the taskforce. This report outlines government's response to those further recommendations provided by the taskforce.



Action to date

Queensland Government has undertaken a number of compensation and reparations processes that acknowledge the discriminatory actions against Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people by past governments and the disadvantage caused as a result.

The Under Award Wages Compensation Scheme **1999–2002**

Payment of \$7000 for each person who:

→ worked for the departments responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs between 1 October 1975 and 29 October 1986

→ who were not paid award wages for work they performed

> → were alive on 31 May 1999.

Total compensation: **\$40.1 million**

Mission Workers **2006–2012**

Payments of \$3500 - \$85,000 (average of \$6923) paid to people who:

→ worked for the churches on Aurukun, Hope Vale, Wujal Wujal, Doomadgee and Mornington Island

→ between 1 October 1975 and various dates (depending upon transition dates from church control)

→ were not paid award wages for work they performed

> → were alive on 31 May 1999.

Total compensation: **\$5.9 million**

Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations 2002–2010

Payment of \$7000 to eligible claimants born on or before 31 December 1951

Payment of \$3500 to eligible claimants born on or between 1 January 1952 and on or before 31 December 1956 who:

→ had their wages or savings controlled by government under the 'Protection Acts'

→ were alive on9 May 2002.

Total allocation: **\$55.4 million**

Total distribution: \$35.5 million

Background

From 1897 to 1984 Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland were subject to legislation that resulted in government controls being exercised over their lives, living conditions, employment and financial affairs. This legislation was generally referred to as the 'Protection Acts' and included the *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897*, the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939*, the *Torres Strait Islanders Act 1939*, the *Aborigines' and Torres Strait Islanders' Affairs Act 1965*, *Aborigines Act 1971*, *Torres Strait Islanders Act 1971*, *Community Services (Aborigines) Act 1984* and *Community Services (Torres Strait Islanders) Act 1984*.

In 1990 the then Queensland Government commissioned an independent report into the operations of the historical systems of control over the wages and savings of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. Since this time the Queensland Government has endeavoured to address and rectify long-standing issues arising from these past controls. The report and extensive consultations with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people helped inform the Queensland Government's Reparations Offer of May 2002.

The offer specified that distribution of the Aborigines Welfare Fund would be decided separately from decisions relating to the reparations offer.

In making the offer, the Queensland Government wished to publicly acknowledge the history of poor treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders by successive governments through the controls exercised over their wages and savings. The government also wished to recognise past injustices perpetrated through these control systems. The offer was extended as a package of initiatives; reparations to individuals being one component of this package. The other components included an apology to each successful reparations claimant, a commitment to acknowledge traditional owners of the land at the commencement of official government business and a parliamentary apology. Individual reparations payments were not intended to provide replacement amounts for money which people may have believed they were owed. The individual payments and the package as a whole, were offered in the spirit of reconciliation.

At the end of the process, funds remaining from the \$55.4 million offer, along with the majority of monies remaining in the Aborigines Welfare Fund, were used to establish an education foundation for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) was established with a governing board of eminent persons to manage the assets of the foundation with funds held in trust.



2015 Reparations Scheme—stolen wages and savings

The Reparations Unit, within the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) is responsible for administration of the scheme. The Reparations Unit is supported by DATSIP regional offices and staff across the state.

In addition, the Minister obtained support from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander council mayors who provided contact details for local people who would assist with distribution of information about the scheme in their communities.

After consideration of the taskforce recommendations, the Queensland Government decided to implement the following.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a person's wages or savings must have been subject to government control under the 'Protection Acts'; they had to have been born on or before 31 December 1959 and been alive on 9 May 2002.

Payments

The scheme includes payments for new eligible applicants as well as 'top-up' payments for people found eligible under the previous reparations process.

The payment offers include the following:

- **new applicants** (or successfully reassessed applicants)
 - \$9200 for people born on or before
 31 December 1951
 - \$4600 for people born between1 January 1952 to 31 December 1959 inclusive.
- **top-up payments** for previously successful claimants including
 - \$2200 for people born on or before 31 December 1951
 - \$1100 for people born between
 1 January 1952 to 31 December 1956 inclusive.

Including amounts paid under the previous reparations process, these 'top-up' payments will ensure previous claimants have received cumulative payments of \$9200 or \$4600. The Queensland Government notes these payment amounts differ to those recommended by the taskforce. They were chosen to provide the best opportunity for as many people as possible to access reparation for past injustices within the \$21 million fund.

Assessment

There is no requirement for applicants to provide evidence in support of their claims. As part of the assessment process, the Reparations Unit searches government records to see whether there is evidence of government control. Just one record may be sufficient rather than attempting to reconstruct whole work or savings histories to establish eligibility for a reparations payment.

Review

The Queensland Government is aware that relevant records may be incomplete for particular time periods and locations. The government acknowledges that for some people who were subject to controls over their wages and savings, records may not be available.

The previous reparations process included limited provision for affidavit evidence and an internal appeal process for unsuccessful claims.

The Queensland Government supports the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce finding that more is required to support applicants who may not have sufficient records of evidence. Government has agreed to the establishment of a Reparations Review Panel (the panel) which will be able to consider proof outside the traditional evidentiary basis.

The panel will be able to consider oral histories, affidavits and other information that may be sourced outside the range of government records.

In addition, the panel will be able to seek expert advice to help provide context and/or interpret the information provided for their consideration.

The Reparations Unit will firstly assess new claims and re-assess relevant applications previously found ineligible under the last reparations process (Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations). Any claims where departmental records are inconclusive or do not provide sufficient evidence to prove or disprove whether a person's wages or savings were controlled by government, may be forwarded to the panel for consideration.

Deed of agreement

The payment of reparations is subject to each person signing an agreement. The agreement indemnifies the Queensland Government against any common law, or other legal actions regarding the controls exercised by previous state governments, under the 'Protection Acts', over the wages and savings of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the taskforce's concern and objection to this requirement. However, the government believes it is a necessary requirement and appropriate, particularly given that each past successful claimant was also required to sign a Deed of Agreement on acceptance of their reparations offer.

The Queensland Government has provided successful applicants with access to free independent legal advice to ensure each person is informed about this requirement as part of their consideration of whether to accept a reparations offer of payment. This was also made available to past claimants under the previous reparations process.

Advertising: 'Acknowledging the past'

In March 2016, the Queensland Government launched the 'Acknowledging the past' campaign to advertise the scheme and encourage applications.

The campaign was also seen as an opportunity to create awareness and understanding among Queenslanders of the scheme's underlying history of government control over the lives of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. The campaign provided a platform for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to share their personal experiences of that control, particularly in regard to their wages and savings.

In addition to advertising in print media, the campaign includes radio announcements. It also provides an opportunity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people affected by past government control of their wages and savings, to share their story via the Queensland Government website.

The Queensland Government appreciates the taskforce's endorsement of this campaign and even more so, appreciates the generosity of taskforce members who have participated by offering to share their stories and providing input to the campaign's operations.



Online/social media example featuring (from left to right): Uncle Cecil, Aunty Florrianna, Father John.



66 Aunty Marie's story is not uncommon.

Aunty Marie, a Palm Island woman, was only 15 when she started training as a domestic servant. After ending her training, she was sent to Townsville to work on a cattle station, taking orders from the station manager and his wife. Aunty Marie ate her meals outside on logs and was only given permission to eat inside the chook house when it was raining. Aunty Marie's wage of five shillings per fortnight was sent back to Palm Island and not given to her.

Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme

Acknowledging the past

From the late 19th century, the lives of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders were controlled by 'Protection Acts'—including taking and controlling their wages and savings.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the past injustices and pain that these 'Protection Acts' have caused Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

In the spirit of reconciliation, a Reparations Scheme was opened in 2015 with a commitment to distribute \$21 million in reparations payments to people whose wages or savings were taken and controlled.

If you have a similar story, you may be eligible for reparations payment.

Visit: qld.gov.au/reparations Call: 1800 619 505

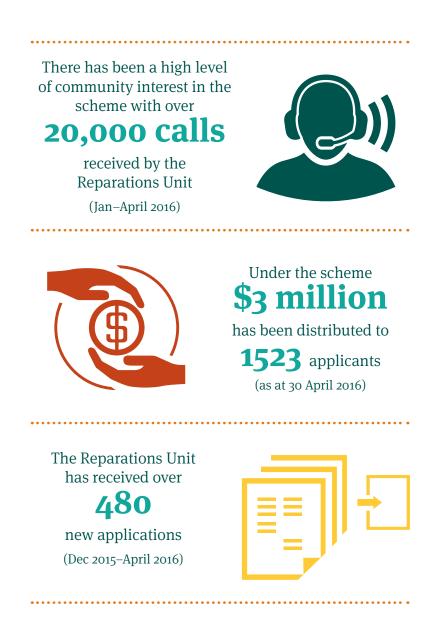


Advertisment example featuring Aunty Marie.

Progress snapshot

Summary of Activity (December 2015–April 2016)

There has been an extremely high level of community interest in the scheme, with 20,398 calls to the Reparations free call number in January–April 2016. As of 30 April 2016, \$3 million has been distributed under the scheme to 1523 applicants. Payments to date have primarily been to top-up claimants whose eligibility under the scheme does not need to be re-established.





Legacy issues

The Queensland Government is committed to achieving resolution of these longstanding issues and is aware that monetary reparations alone is not enough.

Sadly, many Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people who endured the past government controls have passed away without recognition of their suffering or obtaining justice.

The Queensland Government offers the following package of actions to provide some closure and as an ongoing reminder of the past and that such practices should never be repeated. The government looks forward to creating a new relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders that may in the future, be remembered more positively.

Welfare Fund

Established in 1943 for the general benefit of Aboriginal people under the provisions of the *Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act 1939*, the Aborigines Welfare Fund (the fund or AWF) comprised income from a range of sources including child endowment benefits paid for children in mission dormitories, unclaimed estates of deceased or missing Aboriginal people, compulsory deductions from Aboriginal people's wages and income earned from grazing and agricultural enterprises.

In 1993, the fund was frozen in response to growing public awareness of issues relating to the government controls exercised over Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples' wages and savings during the protection era, pressure from Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to address these issues and a government decision to divest trading enterprises. After 1993, the only transactions on the account were the addition of interest payments.

The original reparations offer in 2002 specified that distribution of the Aborigines Welfare Fund would be decided separately from decisions relating to the Reparations fund of \$55.4 million.

The Queensland Government undertook community consultation about distribution of the Aborigines Welfare Fund. It then established the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation in 2008 with \$10.8 million from the Aborigines Welfare Fund and unspent funds from the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme. The remaining AWF funds were quarantined to settle outstanding deceased estates.

The Queensland Government repealed legislation establishing the Aborigines Welfare Fund in 2008. However, the account and name had been retained to maintain clear and separate identification of the funds quarantined for reassessment of deceased estates included in the fund and distribution of those where it is found warranted.

The Queensland Government acknowledges the taskforce's recommendations and concern about the Aborigines Welfare Fund and agrees to close the account. The quarantined funds have been set aside in a new account, to maintain clear separation from government's general revenue.

The Queensland Government will ensure that reassessment of the deceased estates and relevant distribution of funds will be progressed as a matter of priority and finalised by the end of 2018.

Acknowledging the use of stolen wages to help build Queensland

The Queensland Government supports the taskforce recommendation that there be monuments, plaques or other lasting forms of public acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples' financial contribution to the development of Queensland's infrastructure, including the establishment and expansion of many hospitals across the state.

Relevant departments will work in partnership with local communities and Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to establish an appropriately respectful reflection of their contributions to the growth of Queensland.

Government housing

The Queensland Government recognises that having safe and stable housing is fundamental to people's health and wellbeing. The government is also aware that there are historical Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing issues that require resolution.

The Queensland Government is committed to reaching resolution of the 'Katter leases', which relate to historical housing on several discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Some leases have already been resolved and those leaseholders have been provided with long term tenure. However, more work is required to finalise this complex issue, which includes ensuring the housing that is handed over is sound and safe. The Queensland Government expects to finalise all 'Katter leases' over the next five years.

The Queensland Government will also analyse other historical government commitments relating to housing identified by the taskforce and opportunities to further increase home ownership.

Documenting history

The Queensland Government believes it is important that the voices and views of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people are heard and that their absence, for the most part, from the documented history of Queensland, is unacceptable.

The Queensland Government fully endorses the taskforce's recommendation that support be provided to an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Islander person to document Indigenous experiences and perspectives of past Queensland Government control of their wages and savings under the 'Protection Acts'.

A process to progress this initiative will be announced by the end of 2016.



Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation

The Queensland Government established the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) after the previous reparations processes, to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with support to complete their high school education.

The Queensland Government welcomes the taskforce's support of QATSIF. Queensland Government agrees to review secretariat funding with a view to ensuring recurrent funding is available to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are able to access the full benefit of the trust fund established with monies earned by their forebears. This recurrent funding will not come out of the former Aborigines Welfare Fund or any monies that may be remaining at the end of the current reparations scheme.



Response to specific recommendations

Recommendation

1

- In relation to the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme, the taskforce recommends* the following:
- 1. Continuation of the condition that, to access the scheme, people had to be living as at 9 May 2002.
- 2. The age eligibility criteria continued the two tier of payments for:
 - i. people born on or before 31 December 1951
 - ii. between 1 January 1952 and 31 December 1959 (this extended the previous end date of 31 December 1956 by three years).
- 3. Priority payments to the elderly and critically ill.
- 4. The following payments for new eligible applicants:
 - i. \$9200 for people born on or before 31 December 1951
 - ii. \$4600 for people born between 1 January 1952 to 31 December 1959 inclusive.

Together with the amounts paid under the previous reparations process, 'top-up' payments will ensure previous claimants have received cumulative payments of \$9200 or \$4600 respectively.

- 5. Top-up payments for previously successful claimants will include:
 - i. \$2200 for people born on or before 31 December 1951 or
 - ii. \$1100 for people born between 1 January 1952 to 31 December 1956 inclusive.
- 6. Applications to close 16 December 2016.

*This report recommends the continuation of the scheme as commenced at 18 December 2015. In making this recommendation, the taskforce indicates acceptance of the government's decisions on the quantum of top-up amounts and the closing date for applications, while noting these decisions vary from its interim recommendations.

2	Government remove the requirement that people sign a Deed of Agreement to access payment from the scheme and void the deeds signed by previous claimants.	Not accepted
3	Government establish a Reparations Review Panel by the end of April 2016 to enable prompt consideration of relevant ineligible applications from the previous IWSR process and the current scheme to ensure as many Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people as possible have access to the scheme to seek justice for past wrongs.	Accepted The Queensland Government will establish a Reparations Review Panel by the end of April 2016.
ł	The Reparations Review Panel be implemented in accordance with the Reparations Review Panel Guidelines (see Appendix 4).	Accepted The Reparations Review Panel will operate in accordance to the Guidelines drafted by the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce.

Response

Accepted

Government to continue current application of the Reparations Scheme.

	Recommendation	Response
5	 That the Aborigines Welfare Fund be closed and that: remaining monies be committed to implementation of Recommendations 6, 10 and 11 that the department be appropriately resourced to finalise the outstanding deceased estates by the end of the Reparations Scheme in 2018. 	Accepted The Queensland Government will close the Aborigines Welfare Fund. Remaining Welfare Fund monies will be used to finalise the outstanding deceased estates and to support other legacy issues identified by the Stolen Wages Reparations Taskforce.
6	 Negotiation between DATSIP and the Department of Health (and other relevant agencies) to develop a strategy to formally acknowledge the financial contribution and labour of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to the growth of Queensland. The strategy should include: 1. formal announcement of the statewide project 2. development of a plaque or other monument at each location in consultation with local Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander people 3. local events to provide public recognition, led by local Aboriginal people and/or Torres Strait Islander people. 	Accepted The Queensland Government agrees that there should be formal acknowledgement of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples' historical contributions to the growth of Queensland. Relevant government agencies will work with local Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to ensure there is establishment of plaques or other monuments to provide lasting recognition and information for future generations to see.
7	 Negotiation of a document that reframes the relationship between Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and the Queensland Government, with actions including: Government convene a meeting of peak Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations (including taskforce representation) to begin discussions Government convene further discussions at the local level with Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people to identify local solutions. 	Accepted The Queensland Government supports and welcomes the opportunity to develop a new and just relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. The Queensland Government will work with community to develop a state-wide partnership framework to drive government and community action to significantly improve life outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.
8	Government prioritise resolution of the 'Katter leases' to ensure affected families are justly and appropriately provided the land	Accepted The Queensland Government

affected families are justly and appropriately provided the land and housing they are entitled to.

The Queensland Government recognises its responsibility to provide resolution of past government housing policies and programs that remain unfinished business.

The Queensland Government is committed to resolving the 'Katter leases'. Work is underway and will be completed over the next five years.



#	Recommendation	Response
9	Government prioritise divestment of government land and housing to families who have tenancy in houses provided under the Queensland Government Aboriginal Housing Program from the 1970s.	Accepted The Queensland Government will analyse any commitments made under the former Queensland Government Aboriginal Housing Program and opportunities to increase home ownership. This recommendation will be considered as part of the analysis.
10	Government provide a scholarship for an Aboriginal person to document Aboriginal peoples' experiences and perspectives of government control of wages and savings under the 'Protection Acts'.	Accepted The Queensland Government agrees that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives are too often left out of historical
11	Government provide a scholarship for a Torres Strait Islander person to document Torres Strait Islander peoples' experiences and perspectives of government control of wages and savings under the 'Protection Acts'.	commentaries. The Queensland Government will fund an Aboriginal person and a Torres Strait Islander person to document the history of stolen wages in Queensland to enable both cultural perspectives and experiences to be shared with all Queenslanders.
12	Government ensure QATSIF secretariat is appropriately and recurrently resourced to maintain its operation and ability to continue supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people with their secondary education.	Accepted The Queensland Government will review QATSIF secretariat funding with a view to ensuring recurrent funding is available to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are able to enjoy the same educational experiences and outcomes as other young Queenslanders.
13	 In relation to taskforce oversight of the implementation of the scheme, the taskforce recommends: surveying a sample set of applicants targeted community consultation led by a small Taskforce working group to seek community views on the Reparations Scheme. 	Accepted The Queensland Government supports this recommendation.

For further information on the Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme visit **www.qld.gov.au/reparations**