1. In March 2008, the Government announced a second round of payments to eligible Indigenous claimants in the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme (IWSR) process.
2. About $19.5 million has already been paid to 5553 eligible claimants as part of the first reparation payment, and a second payment to those already found eligible is now underway, with priority given to elderly or seriously ill people.
3. After these payments, the unspent balance of the reparations funds was to be paid into the Indigenous Queenslanders Foundation (IQF) to provide scholarships to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
4. In May 2008, the Premier met with the Stolen Wages Working Group and undertook to seek advice concerning re-opening the process to claims from persons who did not submit a claim by the closing date of 31 January 2006 because they thought the original offer was inadequate and the possible use of affidavit or oral evidence in support of claims assessed as ineligible.
5. It is known that a small number of eligible applicants in the original process ultimately refused to accept the payment offered and that some people chose not to apply or missed the closing date.
6. It is proposed that the application process be re-opened to late claimants and to those who have not yet lodged a claim, with a closing date of 31 January 2009 for Australian claimants. The suggested closing date for Papua New Guinea claims is 30 April 2009 for logistical reasons.
7. Cabinet approved the extension of the Indigenous Wages and Savings Reparations Scheme to new claimants until 31 January 2009 for Australian claimants and until 30 April 2009 for new Papua New Guinea claimants in accordance with the eligibility and evidence requirements of the current scheme.
8. *Attachments*
* Nil.