

Solidarity With Indigenous Workers



Australia has an unbroken history of racism. The first victims were the Indigenous people who had their land stolen. Those who resisted were killed. The Indigenous people who were forced to work for the settlers had their wages stolen. Indigenous workers want their wages back - the Queensland government has admitted the theft but offered them only a tenth of the money owed. The Queensland government must pay back all stolen wages and pay compensation to claimants and descendants of deceased claimants.

Indigenous workers in the Northern Territory are working at least 16 hours a week under the

Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) scheme, but only being paid their Newstart allowance through Centrelink. In many cases, workers are subject to income management and have 50 per cent of these payments 'quarantined' onto a BasicsCard. (Some Indigenous workers who have been forced onto the BasicsCard are working as construction workers, school bus drivers and in aged care.) These policies must be reversed. The racist Northern Territory intervention must be stopped.

Aboriginal elder Mr Ward, 46, died from heatstroke in January 2008 after being transported from Laverton to Kalgoorlie in the back of a van in which the air conditioning was not working. He had been arrested for drunk driving. Most white drunk drivers are allowed to go after they have sobered up. A coronial inquest found Corrective Services, the two prison van drivers and their employer G4S were all partly responsible for his death but the West Australian government is not pursuing any charges. It was left to WorkSafe to lay charges that, at the most, can only lead to fines. Australia has one of the world's worst deaths in custody records: There were 398 officially documented Indigenous deaths in custody between 1980 and 2008. Aboriginal deaths in custody must end. Fight Racism.

Stop the NT Intervention! End Aboriginal Deaths in Custody! Pay Back All Stolen Wages!

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