

Activity worksheet

You can use a calculator to work out the answers to all parts of Question 1.

1. Use the key facts to answer these questions. Use the space to show your working.

a) If wages were stolen in 1904, and this practice continued until 1978, for how many years did it go on?

b) If the Queensland government paid 1342 people \$2000 in reparations, how much did this total?

c) If the Queensland government used all \$56.6 million to pay people the amount of \$4000, how many people would get paid?

d) The Queensland government's budget of \$56.6 million has to stretch over the past 74 years. How much per year have they budgeted to pay people reparations for stolen wages? Even if we imagine only 5,500 workers were affected by stolen wages, is this budget realistic?

e) If the maximum amount 1342 people received was \$2000, how many people received less than \$2000 in the Queensland government's first round of payments in 2007?

f) In the thirty-year period 1940-1970, a worker could expect to earn around \$600 per week (adjusted to reflect today's dollar value). If they worked for 50 weeks per year, how much would they have earned (with no wage rises) per year?

g) How much would the worker in the previous question have earned over three years, if their wages were being stolen at a rate of 50% per year?

h) If this claimant was robbed of half their wages for 30 years, and was one of the eligible claimants who received reparations from the \$5.8 million Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme, how much does this represent per year? Does this amount represent more than half of their average wage?

i) What percentage of their budget has been paid out under the government's \$21 million Stolen Wages Reparations Scheme?

You are not permitted to use a calculator to work out the answers to Questions 2 and 3 (all parts).

2. Imagine you had \$200 per week stolen from your regular wages of \$400 per week, and you worked for a full 52-week year. Answer these questions without a calculator:

a) How much money would you have been paid that year? _____

b) How much money would you be missing after one year? _____

c) If you had placed the missing money into a bank account which paid an interest rate of 5% per year, how much interest would the money have earned after one year? _____

3. Imagine you earn \$500 per week over a year, minus two weeks' unpaid holiday leave each year, but your employer withholds 75% of your weekly wage.

a) If your employer withheld 75% of your weekly wage of \$500, how much per week would you have?

Tip: Turn 75% into a fraction.

b) In the same scenario, how much would you have lost after two years?

c) If you had been able to save that lost money, with a compound interest rate of 10% paid annually, how much would you have after two years? *Tip: add the interest to the principal after the first year to calculate the total after the second year.*
