

REDRESS WA

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.50 pm]: I take the opportunity to highlight to Parliament the ongoing concerns that have been raised with me by local constituents about the Redress WA scheme. It is important that this Liberal–National government understands that real concerns remain for Redress applicants about the scheme and the communication processes with applicants. I have a number of Mandurah constituents who have been waiting two years for their applications to be processed and compensation received. Members of this Parliament must understand that the Redress scheme was established by the previous Labor government to right a great wrong. The Barnett Liberal government, after coming into power, immediately halved the amount of money that could be received by applicants—that is, they halved the capped limit. This was a devastating and heartless act by a government that has a huge budget surplus. The Barnett government has since presided over a process that requires applicants to revisit their traumas of the past, and now, some two years later, a vast number of people still wait to see if they will get any money at all. People in my electorate such as Trena and Gloria feel let down by the Barnett government. They have had to endure the revisiting of their trauma, and still they wait for justice from this government. On behalf of Trena, Gloria, and many, many others, I ask why it has taken so long for these people to receive their compensation. This issue should be a priority for this government, and people such as Trena and Gloria should be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.