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Barnett Government Delivers on Redress Ex-Gratia Payments

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said more than 100 eligible applicants today received offers of ex-gratia payments as part of the Redress WA scheme”

The ex-gratia payment offers for eligible applicants would range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$45,000.

“The ex-gratia payments are in acknowledgement of the abuse or neglect an applicant suffered while in State care and is not compensation for the impact these terrible experiences had on an applicant’s life,” Dr Nahan said.

“Redress WA anticipates that applicants involved in the initial round of offers will have money deposited in their accounts in the coming weeks.”

Unlike the previous government, Dr Nahan said applicants would not be required to waive their rights to seek further legal redress when accepting an ex-gratia payment saying this was unique to the Western Australian scheme, as compared to existing schemes in Queensland and Tasmania.

“We are also making sure that people with a life threatening illness or condition, who have already received an interim payment, will be the first to receive an ex-gratia payment offer,” Dr Nahan said.

“\$114million has been allocated for the Redress WA scheme of which \$90.2million has been set aside for ex-gratia payments alone.”

The ex-gratia payment offers would be based on information provided by applicants - including their records of time in care - and is assessed against set criteria established for the scheme.

Redress WA expects to make all ex-gratia payment offers to eligible applicants by mid-2011. Approximately 100 applications would be randomly selected at a time for assessment.

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