

## Trustees on Trial

### Recovering the stolen wages

Rosalind Kidd

Foreword by Geoffery Robertson , QC

#### ENDORSEMENT

*And where were the lawyers? In the 1960s, when trust money was disappearing, there was still no one prepared to take the government to court to force it to obey its own laws, or at least to ensure that the wages were returned to those who had earned them...A signal virtue of this book is its explanation of how Australian jurisprudence lags behind that of Canada and the US...plainly, governments have moral obligations to protect vulnerable citizens and legal obligations to compensate them for loss caused by mismanagement or malfeasance.*

Geoffery Robertson, QC

#### DESCRIPTION

*Trustees on Trial* is the first book to detail the Queensland government's financial stranglehold on Aboriginal people's lives and money, and to question its management.

For much of the twentieth century the Queensland government controlled the wages, endowments, pensions, workers compensation, soldiers' pay and inheritances of the state's Aboriginal people. Money it has never accounted for.

In 2002 the government conditionally offered a maximum payment of \$4000 for those affected. For some, that represents \$4000 for a lifetime's work. However, most people have no idea what they're owed.

*Trustees on Trial* explores the extensive primary evidence of financial (mis)management in terms of national and international case law. It demonstrates there is ample precedence for our courts to declare Queensland has a duty to account. This would reverse the onus of proof from the individual to the State.

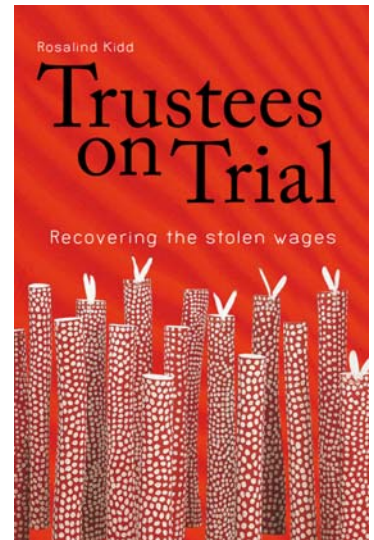
All the other state and territory governments are now on notice.

#### AUTHOR

Ros Kidd PhD in 1994 was compiled primarily from evidence on government files: information other researchers now don't have access to. Her evidence to the 1996 HREOC Inquiry into under-paid wages resulted in a massive compensation offer. An adjunct Research Fellow at Griffith University, she is a Member-at-Large for National ANTaR. Kidd is a passionate, fearless and articulate spokesperson for justice for the Stolen Wages.

#### SELLING POINTS

- Refutes Beattie government's claim it would win legal action on stolen wages.
- Articulate activist author who has had unprecedented access to govt records.
- Only book to analyse the development of relevant international jurisprudence.
- Sends a salutary warning to all State & Territory governments that they may be held accountable and forced to negotiate fair reparations (NSW govt has alluded to Qld in considering its reparation scheme).



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