



Hon Kerry Shine MP
Member for Toowoomba North

In reply please quote: 515242/1, J/08/08793

17 DEC 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie



Thank you for your letter of 13 November 2008 concerning petition number 1152-08, lodged by Mr Sam Watson.

With respect to the request to hold a commission of inquiry into the death of Mr Mulrunjie Doomadgee it is my understanding that there have been numerous commissions and tribunals that have investigated the issues surrounding the death of Indigenous persons in custody, in particular the 1990 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. There have been numerous recommendations made by the various bodies to address the issues surrounding the over-representation of Indigenous persons in our legal system and I do not consider that a further inquiry would be beneficial at this time. This government is committed to addressing these issues and has implemented a range of measures such as the Alcohol Management Plan, Community Justice Groups and the Murri Court.

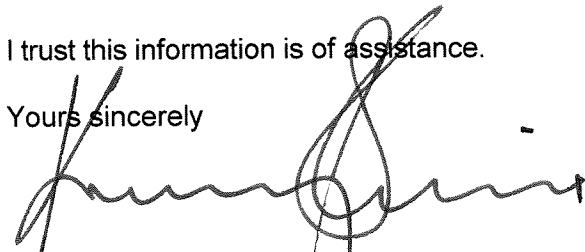
In relation to the part of the petition about public funding for an appeal, Legal aid funding is available to appeal a conviction or sentence where a person meets Legal Aid Queensland's (LAQ) means test and merit test. A person seeking legal aid needs to submit a completed application form to LAQ. Legal aid funding is not available to assist or represent a person seeking a pardon.

In order for any person convicted of an offence to be pardoned, they must petition the Governor. A pardon petition does not have to be legally drafted. A clear recitation of the facts and supporting evidence is perfectly adequate. Should those convicted of offences relating to the Palm Island riots wish to petition the Governor for a pardon, Her Excellency's contact details are:

Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AO
Governor of Queensland
GPO Box 434
BRISBANE QLD 4001

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



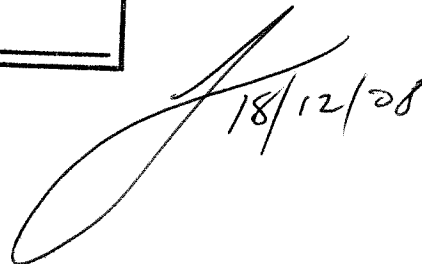
Hon Kerry Shine MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier in Western Queensland



Queensland
Government

LAI		UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE	
No.:		5208T 4938	
18 DEC 2008		MP: _____	
Clerk's Signature: _____			

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
and Minister Assisting the Premier
in Western Queensland



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