

North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 3rd February, 2009

New NAAJA Board elected

In line with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) Constitution, new Directors were today elected to the organisation's Board.

The NAAJA Chair is Mr Norman George from Katherine and joining him as Deputy is Mr Vernon Patullo from Nhulunbuy.

"We warmly welcome the new Directors and Executive to the NAAJA Board," NAAJA CEO, Priscilla Collins, said.

"Between them they have many years experience dealing with justice and legal issues for their people - from the practical through to the policy frameworks needed to improve justice for Aboriginal Territorians. This knowledge and expertise is invaluable in setting NAAJA's future directions."

Some of the major issues facing the new NAAJA Board include the need to secure adequate accommodation for Darwin offices and long-term funding for Aboriginal legal aid services in the Territory, recent changes to NT legislation and ongoing problems arising from the NT Emergency Intervention and associated income quarantining.

"We know we have a big task ahead of us," Chair Norman George said. "But we are also fortunate to have dedicated and talented staff who share our passion to improve the legal system and fight for the rights of our people."

Members from NAAJA's three Regions - Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin – elect four Directors each to the Board for a term of three years. In turn, these representatives choose who is to hold executive positions from amongst themselves.

The Full NAAJA Board consists of:

Darwin Region

Colleen Rosas
Joel McLennan
Dorothy Fox
Hannah Roe

Katherine Region

Norman George (Chair)
Natalie Ellis
Ruby Walker
Fiona Hayes

Miwatj Region

Vernon Patullo (Deputy Chair)
Vicki Darr
Yikaki Maymuru
Tony Wurramarba

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