



North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency

Media release

NAAJA appoints independent directors and Barkly director

The North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA) directors are pleased to announce the appointment of three new independent directors and the appointment of a new Barkly regional director to join its existing board of four Aboriginal member directors.

David Parsons SC, Karl Dyason and Dominic McCormack have been appointed as independent directors of NAAJA until the 2025 annual general meeting in November. All three are eligible to be reappointed.

David Parsons SC is a recently retired judge of the County Court of Victoria. In the 1970s he worked for three years as a solicitor with the Central Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in Alice Springs and later as senior solicitor with the Northern Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service in Darwin. He joined the Northern Territory Bar at the end of 1979 and remained there until September 1982, specialising in work with Aboriginal organisations, primarily the Northern Land Council, and in criminal matters. From 1996 he practised at the Victorian Bar but continued to work in the Northern Territory representing Aboriginal groups before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner. He is a member of the Law Council of Australia's Indigenous Affairs Committee and was a director of the Koorie Heritage Trust and the Stolen Generation's Board of Victoria. He was appointed as a judge of the County Court of Victoria in 2006. He was involved with the establishment and, later, the expansion of the County Koori Court in Victoria.

Karl Dyason has spent 11 years working and living in remote communities in the Northern Territory including Papunya, Ali Curung, Groote Eylandt, Yirrkala and Maningrida and was the CEO of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation in Maningrida for a number of years. He is a qualified accountant and for five years was the chief financial officer for the Department of the Chief Minister. Karl is currently an independent director of the Bunurong Aboriginal Land Council Aboriginal Corporation in Victoria and until recently was an independent director of Bawinanga Aboriginal Corporation.

Dominic McCormack has practised as a lawyer in the Northern Territory for over 20 years, including as a partner of private legal firms for 16 years. He spent his primary school years in Wadeye and is a NAATI accredited interpreter in Murrinh-patha. Dominic has for many years worked closely with Aboriginal organisations advising on corporate governance. He is an independent director of Yipirinya School Council Inc. in Alice Springs.

1800 898 251

reception@naaja.org.au
www.naaja.org.au
North Australian Aboriginal
Justice Agency Limited
ABN: 63 118 017 842

Darwin

61 Smith Street
Darwin NT 0801
Tel: 08 8982 5100
Free: 1800 898 251

Katherine

10 Third Street
Katherine NT 0850
Tel: 08 8972 5000
Free: 1800 897 728

Alice Springs

Level 2, 16 Hartley Street
Alice Springs NT 0870
Tel: 08 8950 9300
Free: 1800 636 097

Tennant Creek

61 Paterson Street
Tennant Creek NT 0860
Tel: 08 8962 1332
Free: 1800 636 097

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The appointment of the independent directors follows other governance reforms completed by NAAJA in 2024, including a new constitution and the election of member directors.

Joey (George) Carter from Tennant Creek was last week appointed as a member director for the Barkly Region to fill a casual vacancy and brings to NAAJA many years of public sector and Aboriginal community control experience.

'NAAJA has grown into a major Aboriginal community-controlled company and is essential in providing the best quality legal and support services to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory', said NAAJA chairperson, Theresa Roe. 'We experienced some widely reported governance issues in the last two years but the appointment of the independent directors marks a new chapter in the governance of NAAJA. We welcome Joey, David, Karl and Dominic to the board and look forward to working with them as part of this new chapter.'

Media contact

Comments in this media release other than direct quotes can be attributed to a NAAJA spokesperson.

Anthony Beven,
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