

# CLOSING THE GAP

## Northern Territory Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs

12 June 2025, Communique

The Northern Territory Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (NTECAA) met in Darwin, on Garamilla Country, and were generously welcomed by local Larrakia woman, Ms Nicole Brown. NTECAA Co-Chairs, The Hon Steve Edgington MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Dr. John Paterson, Chairperson of the Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) also acknowledged local Traditional Owners and paid respect to Elders past and present and emerging leaders.

The NT Government discussed the development of an Aboriginal Affairs Framework and previewed key concepts and priorities that could be included. Further discussions about the framework will be held at future meetings.

Co-Chairs both acknowledged the recent tragic deaths of two Aboriginal people while in police custody, and the impacts their deaths have on their families, communities and the NT more broadly.

The NTECAA agreed to establishing an interim group to progress an NT Aboriginal Economic Development Policy Partnership and also discussed progress on the National Data Policy Partnership, which will provide guidance and a coordinated approach for all jurisdictions around Indigenous Data Sovereignty and various data issues.

Aboriginal Housing NT shared a report authored by Mr Liam Grealy, Senior Researcher for the Menzies School of Health Research, titled '*Aboriginal-controlled governance for the remote housing sector in the Northern Territory*'.

NTECAA had strategic discussions on youth justice and out-of-home care, including consideration of statistics, policy context and challenges and limitations, and how members can work together to improve outcomes. These were important discussions leading into the next Joint Council meeting, with both of these issues on the national agenda. Joint Council was held in Darwin on Friday 20 June, and brought together Ministers from the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, representatives from the local government sector and the Coalition of Peaks.

The next NTECAA meeting will take place in September, on the Tiwi Islands.

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## *NTECAA Members Attending*

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
The Hon Steve Edgington MLA (Co-Chair)	Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Dr John Paterson (Co-Chair)	Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT)
Mr Anthony Beven	National Aboriginal Australian Justice Agency
Ms Naomi Anstess	NT Indigenous Business Network
Ms Leeanne Caton	Aboriginal Housing Network NT
Mr David Astalosh (proxy)	Northern Land Council
Mr Brenton Toy (proxy)	Tiwi Land Council
Dr Josie Douglas	Central Land Council
Ms Mary Watson (proxy)	CEO Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
Ms Bridgette Bellenger	National Indigenous Australians Agency
Ms Amelia Vellar	A/CEO Housing, Local Government and Community Development NT Government (NT Government)
Ms Dorrelle Anderson (proxy)	Deputy CEO Housing, Local Government and Community Development NT Government (NT Government)
Mr Tom Leeming	Dep CEO Chief Minister and Cabinet (NT Government)