

CLOSING THE GAP

Northern Territory Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs

10 April 2025, Communique

The Northern Territory Executive Council on Aboriginal Affairs (NTECAA) met at Alice Springs on Arrernte country and were generously welcomed by Aunty Rosie Kumalie Riley. NTECAA Co-Chairs, The Hon Steve Edgington MLA, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and Dr. John Paterson, Aboriginal Peak Organisations Northern Territory (APO NT) also acknowledged local Traditional Owners and paid respect to Elders past and present and emerging leaders.

Rayleen Brown, from Kungkas Can Cook, attended to share her journey of building a successful small business and bushfoods industry, supporting a range of community programs and passion supporting young people with mentoring and employment pathways.

Minister Edgington acknowledged members attendance and recognised the Aboriginal Interpreter Service, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Dr Paterson provided an update on the Indigenous-led Review Assembly held in Canberra recently, which was also attended by representatives from the Maningrida place based partnership.

Discussion was held on each parties commitment to Closing the Gap and how this looks going forward as part of the Aboriginal affairs agenda in the NT, with Minister Edgington reiterating the NT Government's commitment to the outcomes of Closing the Gap.

The NTECAA members agreed to accelerate the establishment of the Economic Development Policy Partnership to drive innovation and achieve the Government's priorities to rebuild the NT economy and restore the NT lifestyle.

The NTECAA noted that data shows a reduction in youth crime in Alice Springs, but inaccurate rhetoric often reflects otherwise. We all have a role to play in addressing this and sharing positive and accurate information.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Community Development provided a briefing on the work under the Local Decision Making policy and transition to a new community development model, and the ongoing local government reforms.

Important updates were provided on the regional strategies being undertaken by the National Indigenous Australians Agency in the NT and the NTECAA noted the on the ground delivery of Closing the Gap outcomes by the MacDonnell Regional Council.

The NTECAA will next meet in June, prior to the Joint Council meeting scheduled in Darwin.

NTECAA Members Attending

MEMBER	REPRESENTING
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	APO NT (National Aboriginal Australian Justice Agency)
Ms Naomi Anstess	APO NT (NT Indigenous Business Network)
Ms Leeanne Caton	APO NT (Aboriginal Housing Network NT)
Mr Luccio Cercarelli	Chief Minister and Cabinet NT Government
Ms Dorrelle Anderson	Housing, Local Government and Community Development NT Government
Ms Margaret Close	Chief Minister and Cabinet NT Government
Ms Shaneen Tilmouth	Chief Minister and Cabinet NT Government
Ms Mary Watson (Proxy)	Local Government Association of the Northern Territory
Mr Tom Dyer (Proxy)	National Indigenous Australians Agency