



**NATSILS**  
National Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Legal Services  
*TRUE JUSTICE FOR OUR PEOPLE*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**24 February 2020**

**NATSILS MEDIA RELEASE: NATSILS Appoints New Co-Chair, NAAJA CEO Priscilla Atkins**

NATSILS is pleased to announce the appointment of new Chairperson, Priscilla Atkins. Priscilla is an Eastern Arrernte woman from Central Australia, and is the CEO of the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA), the largest legal service in the Northern Territory; a position she has held since 2007.

Priscilla is fully engaged in pursuing the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through law and policy reform, and has strong expertise across justice issues. Priscilla played an active role during the The Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory (2016-2018), including ongoing work to continue to advocate for the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

Amongst other achievements in the justice space, Priscilla is also a founder and previous Chair of the Northern Territory Legal Assistance Forum, an involved committee member of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement Reference Committee, the Deputy Chief Minister's Advisory Committee, the Justice Reform Committee and the Northern Territory Child Deaths Review and Prevention Committee.

*"NATSILS has achieved significant progress across a range of issues, and I am honoured to join as Chairperson and look forward to working alongside the team in continuing to advocate at a national and international level to ensure our people have equitable access to justice. This year it has been 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, yet countless families continue to endure tragedy. We stand in solidarity with all families whose loved ones have died in custody in their calls for change, justice and accountability; and strongly support the call of [15 families who have urged the Prime Minister to meet with them this June](#)." - Priscilla Atkins, NATSILS Co-Chair.*

Looking to the year ahead, Priscilla is excited to lead the NATSILS team in their support for the ongoing policy priorities of members, Closing the Gap, growing the NATSILS team and continue to lead NATSILS as the pre-eminent voice on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues.

Priscilla takes over the position from Cheryl Axleby and Nerita Waight, who held the positions of Co-Chair from 2016 and 2019, respectively. Another co-chair will be appointed this year.

NATSILS acknowledges the significant contribution previous Co-Chairs Cheryl Axleby and Nerita Waight made to the organisation throughout their tenures, and for their tireless work in advocating for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women and children in the civil and criminal justice systems.

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