New Chair Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council appointed

Minister for Indigenous Development, Malarndirri McCarthy, today announced Mrs Pat Brahim as the new Chair of the Indigenous Affairs Advisory Council (IAAC).

“It’s with great pleasure that I announce Pat Brahim as the Chair of the IAAC for a two-year term until the end of 2013,” said Minister McCarthy.

“Pat’s appointment is timely given today is the fourth anniversary of the national apology by the Prime Minister, and next week the Stronger Futures Senate Inquiry will be sitting in the Northern Territory.

“Pat comes with over 30 years experience as a strong and passionate advocate for Indigenous Affairs in the Territory, working in the private and public sectors including Centrelink, as well as on several boards, committees and councils.

“Pat is a highly respected Indigenous leader in her community of Tennant Creek, where she works as the General Manager of Julalikari Council Aboriginal Corporation,” said the Minister.

“Her extensive expertise in Indigenous business development, housing, land agreements, native title, health and community services, and community development, makes her an invaluable member of the council.

“Pat has been a member of IAAC since it was established in 2009, and in that year was also appointed the Chair of the Aboriginals Benefit Account Advisory Committee (ABAAC).

“I would also like to thank Mark Motlop for his work acting as the Chair over the last two months, and I am very much looking forward to working closely with Pat, Mark and the other Council members over the next two years.”

Mrs Brahim said IAAC will continue to give frank and fearless advice to the Territory Government regarding the implementation and further development of the Closing the Gap and Working Future agendas. The Council will also make a submission to the Stronger Futures Senate Inquiry.

“IAAC have developed a draft position on the Senate Community Affairs Committee Inquiry into Stronger Futures legislation, and we intend to provide oral evidence later this month,” Mrs Brahim said.

“IAAC is also about Aboriginal people and communities and making them strong, and this is what I want to focus . We all need to think about what our legacy will be to the Aboriginal people coming behind us.”

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