



News and updates

Northern Territory Women Lawyers Association (NTWLA)

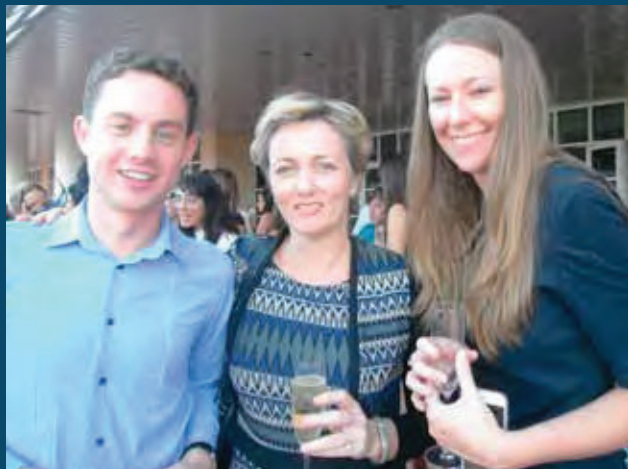
Rosslyn Chenoweth
President
NTWLA

Again this year the NTWLA held patron's drinks in both Alice Springs and Darwin. Both events attracted many members of the profession to network, be challenged and informed about new ideas and to simply enjoy our Territory sunset.

This year the Darwin event was held on 4 August and once again at the best venue in town—the Judges' balcony of the Supreme Court. It was a perfect dry season night which was finished off with our own fireworks! While our Patron, the Hon Justice Blokland, suggested she had especially arranged them for the night, I suspect it was actually

a coincidence! Nevertheless, it was a wonderful way to finish night and I would like to thank Her Honour for her continuing support and again hosting the event.

Our guest speaker this year was Priscilla Collins who spoke, not in her role of CEO of NAAJA, but as a member of the steering committee for the Aboriginal Justice Agreement which is currently being developed in consultation with the community. This will be a partnership between the NT Government and the Aboriginal community established to achieve improved justice outcomes for Aboriginal people in the NT.





As we all know, the incarceration rates for Aboriginal people in the NT are appalling. Rates of offending and recidivism are high. The level of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in the NT, indeed across Australia, are unacceptable. There is no denying that the complex problems faced by many Aboriginal Territorians contribute to such poor justice outcomes. Despite many years of trying, the current and previous approaches have not improved the situation. The Aboriginal Justice Agreement represents a new and holistic approach.

Consultation with the whole community is currently underway to help develop the Agreement and the steering committee is seeking input from the legal profession as part of this consultation process. NTWLA is committed to addressing disadvantage and discrimination across the justice system, and many of our members are well-positioned to offer input. NTWLA will be offering members an opportunity to do this at a consultation session for members later in the year or early next year. I look forward to seeing you there.

