

JUSTINE DAVIS

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR JOHNSTON

integrity | action | community



A message from your local representative in NT Parliament

Welcome to Gurrulwa guligi (big wind season) as we head into Dalirrgang (the build up). So much has happened over the last couple of months, both in our wonderful community and in our NT parliament.

Here in Johnston there are so many ways people in our electorate come together: whether it's schools celebrating Book Week, Father's Day events and hosting dances, drawing classes at Rapid Creek markets creating art for our community cookbook, celebrating our inspirational seniors, or joining in the first meeting to help shape our Future Generations Bill. These moments remind me of the care and creativity that define Johnston.

But in Parliament, we've just marked one year under the CLP Government - a year that has brought harsher laws, more division, and less scrutiny of decisions that affect us all. Instead of investing in prevention, fairness, and safety, too many laws have been rushed through without evidence or consultation. That's why I've launched our Community Scrutiny Forum: so your voices can be heard when government tries to shut them out.

This newsletter is about both - celebrating the strengths of our community, and working together for a Territory that puts people over punishment and listens to those most affected. I hope you enjoy the updates inside, and as always, I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Pathways to Politics at CDU

It was an honour to meet and talk with so many amazing women leaders from across the Northern Territory at the Charles Darwin



University Pathways to Politics program. Thanks to all who took part for your passion, commitment and insightful questions!

Seniors Month

August was jam packed for many reasons, not least of all with a wonderful calendar of events for Seniors Month, and it was great to attend a number of events from their program.



I was proud to nominate Johnston local Cynthia Last for a Seniors of Excellence Award for her decades of work in community building, and most recently for her leading role in Friends of Bagot Park, which has been working to make this public space welcoming to all members of the community. It was wonderful to celebrate with Cynthia and two other inspirational Johnston residents Pauline Taushcke, and Nikki Charlesworth Canning for their achievements.

Jingili Water Gardens Footbridge

Great news that the Jingili water gardens bridge is due to reopen in October! It has been a long wait since December, and no doubt all of you - like me - can't wait to be able to walk back across Rapid Creek into our beautiful water gardens!





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Doing politics differently

In the Community

A shout out to our local schools

We have incredible schools in Johnston and it has been a huge third term of all of them with science fairs, dances, Father's Day breakfasts, Book Week, school camps and so much more. Thank you to all the school staff for your amazing work and I wish everyone a wonderful school holiday break.



Fun at the Jingili Primary Fathers Day Breakfast and Moil Primary Book Week!

Community Safety

Over the past month, I've met with the Superintendent of Casuarina Police Station, Neighbourhood Watch, and Victims of Crime NT to discuss local community safety. These organisations are here to support you - please get in touch if you'd like more information or need assistance.



Superintendent Kirsten Engels

Future Generations Bill

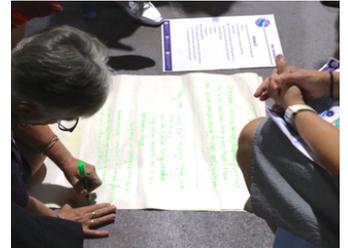
Creating a bill to protect all of our futures

Over the next 3 years we'll work with community members through a series of meetings to write a Community Member's Bill. Together we'll create a law requiring the Northern Territory Government to consider the health and wellbeing of current and future generations when making decisions.

In September we held the first community meeting in Millner to begin this process of creating a Future Generations Bill. It was a great start, with people from across the electorate sharing hopes for the future and ideas of how to get there.

Thanks to all who attended the meeting, and for all the great input that got this project off the ground!

Community voices should be at the heart of decision making - that's what this work is all about. Want to get involved? Scan the QR code or visit my website to take the survey and share your views!

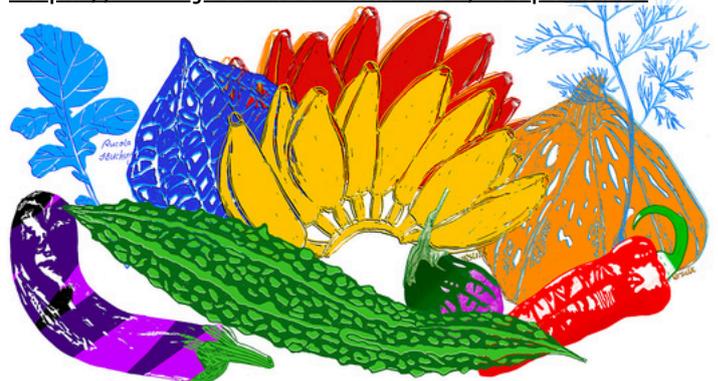


Johnston Community Fund Project

Earlier this year, we teamed up with Tisha Tejaya to run still life drawing workshops at the Rapid Creek markets, with the hope of bringing together local stories, treasured family recipes, fresh market produce, and creativity to **create a Johnston Community Cookbook**.

Well, the project has taken on a life of its own, thanks to Tisha, Pushpinder at Sustain Textiles, and the incredible artistry of our community (as seen here on the right!). **Stay tuned for screen printing workshops and locally made goodies to purchase in time for the festive season** - with all proceeds going

towards charitable causes within the electorate. Do you have a recipe or story to share or want to get involved? Contact the office or head to https://www.justinedavis.com.au/recipe_book



Parliament Update

A year under CLP government

The September sittings marked one year of the CLP in government, a chance to reflect on a year of law-making that has increased division, concentrated power, and caused harm. Laws which the CLP proudly say are not based on evidence or consultation.

These laws include lowering the age of criminal responsibility to 10, removing youth diversion programs, scrapping detention as a last resort for children, introducing the nation's harshest bail laws, reintroducing spit hoods in children's prisons, punishing families instead of helping, giving public transit and housing safety officers guns without proper safeguards, and appointing a Territory Coordinator with sweeping powers to override 32+ laws. Almost all of these laws have been pushed through without proper consultation or evidence, and by misusing parliamentary urgency powers specifically designed for use during times of war or natural disaster.

The results of these harsh policies are clear: the NT now has the second-highest prison population per capita in the world, overcrowded watch houses, rising community distress, and deeper division - while real calls for justice and support continue to go ignored.

Instead of feeling safer, many of you are telling me you feel less safe than ever. As your representative, I believe we must choose a different path: one that focuses on prevention, respect, and listening to those most affected.



Standing with the crossbench and the opposition against harmful policies

Our Territory's future depends on leadership that values people over punishment, and which builds healing and unity for all. I'd love to know what you think - feel free to get in touch any time, at my office, through my social media channels, or at my mobile office on Sunday at the markets or Tuesday outside local shops.

Changes to the Anti-Discrimination Act

The CLP has proposed amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act despite clear advice from the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner that these changes are both unnecessary and potentially harmful. The proposed changes weaken vilification provisions: now, to be protected by this law, someone will have to prove that the person discriminating against them has incited hatred. The changes also allow religious schools to discriminate on the basis of religion for any staff member.

Community Scrutiny Forum

HAVE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Law-making in parliament is also done through committees, including the Legislative Scrutiny Committee, whose role is to examine proposed laws, invite community input, and make recommendations about proposed bills. It's a vital part of our democratic system and especially important here in the Northern Territory, where we have a unicameral parliament, meaning there is only one house (the lower house) with no Senate (upper house) to act as a check on government power. When one party holds the majority in the house, scrutiny becomes even more essential.

The CLP reintroduced this committee - but then changed the rules so that only a Minister can refer a bill to it. This means most laws now bypass proper scrutiny. The Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill is a clear example of the government's avoidance of scrutiny.

Well, **if the government won't invite scrutiny, I will.** I've set up a Community Scrutiny Forum where you can read proposed bills, use the submission guide, and send in your views. I'll make sure your voice is heard by presenting submissions directly to the Minister and the Parliament. Find out more by scanning the QR code or head to my website to read about the proposed changes to the Bill.



Last Parliament Sitting Dates for 2025:
14-16, 21-23 October & 25-27 November





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Justine in Johnston: Mobile Office



One of the ways I make myself available outside Parliament and office hours is by setting up at Rapid Creek Markets every Sunday morning, and outside one of our local shops each Tuesday from 5-6pm. Find me here on the following dates:

<u>Alawa</u>	<u>Jingili</u>	<u>Millner</u>	<u>Moil</u>
28 Oct	29 Sept	7 Oct	11 Nov
2 Dec	4 Nov	18 Nov	9 Dec

Top End Gran Fondo

Fundraising for Dawn House



In July I joined hundreds of riders to participate in the Top End Gran Fondo, one of Darwin's biggest annual bike riding and fundraising events. When we were alerted to the fact that the CLP government hadn't provided promised funding for domestic violence shelter Dawn House's urgently needed infrastructure, Kat McNamara, Member for Nightcliff and I decided to take action, and added to Darwin Family Law's generous donation to do a callout of our own. We pedalled nearly 50km, and thanks to the amazing generosity of our community, raised over **\$5000!** Thanks to everyone who donated, and shout out to Phil at Bicycle Fix Darwin for making sure my wheels were ready to go!

Our refuges are turning away up to 200 women and children per month. If you would like to support Dawn House (or Katherine Women's Crisis Centre who also missed out on promised funding) please let me know.

Out and About

The Dry is always a busy time of year with lots of cultural and arts events, as well as welcoming lots of visitors to town for the beautiful weather and to enjoy our incredible natural environment.

In amongst all of that, it's been wonderful to meet with so many individuals and groups in this community - both old acquaintances and new!

Celebrating Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Day, meeting with Youth Parliamentarians, Zainab from the UN Peace Cup Association, early childhood educators, fun with the Mindil Aces and at Darwin Chorale, and meeting one of my all-time heroes Evonne Goolagong - just to name a few!

