# JUSTINE DAVIS

## INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR JOHNSTON

integrity | action | community

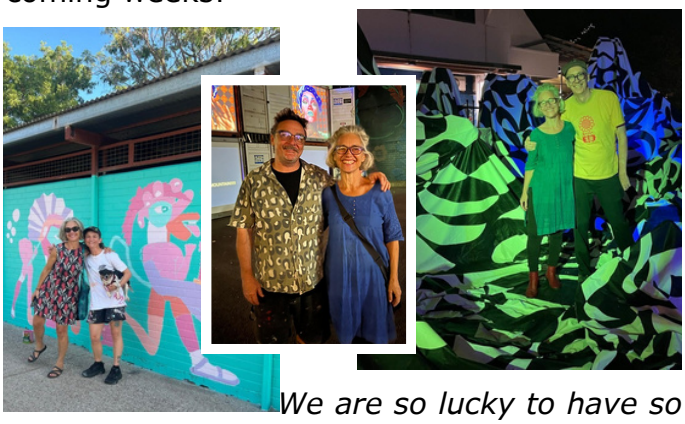
*A message from your local representative in NT Parliament*

**Welcome to the July edition of our community newsletter!**

Dinidjanggama, the cool, dewy season is well and truly here – and with it the busiest time of year in the Top End. From school holidays to festivals, events, lots of visitors and dry season gatherings, there's so much happening across our electorate.

It's been wonderful connecting with so many of you these past few months, whether you've dropped into the office for a cup of tea, used our community room, stopped for a chat at the shops or markets, or shared your thoughts and ideas. Thank you for staying engaged and helping to shape our community.

While there's so much exciting activity happening across the electorate, the work of Parliament and its committees continues in full swing – new laws are being debated and passed, Estimates has just wrapped up, and important committee inquiries are underway. Read on for more updates about what's happening both locally and in Parliament. I hope you enjoy this update, and I look forward to seeing you out and about over the coming weeks!



*We are so lucky to have so many incredible artists in our community! Great to catch up with Tarzan on site painting the new mural at Alawa Oval, and Dave Collins and Kris Keogh at the opening of the Street Art Festival.*

## Parliament Update - May Sitting

The May sittings of Parliament were as busy as ever. The budget was introduced, to which I called for a people-centred, rather than prison-centred budget. Parliament debated and voted on many bills, including the Government rejecting proposed **portable long service leave** for community sector workers (mainly women providing essential services), which would have boosted our population and economy.

The Government pushed ahead with the **Aboriginal Sacred Sites Amendment Bill** without proper consultation, especially with Aboriginal communities. The Member for Mulka's **anti-racism motion** was amended by the CLP, who then refused to vote on it. Shamefully, debate included references to Hitler's General Goebbels and survival-of-the-fittest ideologies from Minister Charls, neither of which have any place in Parliament or society. I'm pleased my motion to restore **Voluntary Assisted Dying** (VAD) in the NT was supported and referred to the LCAC committee for consultation. This is real progress on an issue important to so many. I also moved to investigate the alleged theft of 60 million from the Indigenous Employment Provisional Sum, now referred to the Public Accounts Committee.

Other bills passed included the **Aboriginal Water Reserves Bill**, criticised for rushed consultation and potential impacts on land rights, and a **Domestic Violence Bill** reintroducing mandatory sentencing, despite warnings and evidence it puts victims at risk. A major disappointment was the defunding of the **Aboriginal Rangers Program**, breaking promises to support jobs, community safety, and environmental protection.

*Enjoying a beautiful dry season moment outside the office on our new al fresco seating - come and have a coffee with us!*

www.justinedavis.com.au
@justine4johnston

08 8999 6620
electorate.johnston@nt.gov.au

Millner Village Plaza, Cnr of Fitzgerald St and Bagot Rd, Millner NT 0810

## Parliament Update - Estimates

Between May and July there is a break in regular Parliament sittings to make room for Estimates, an annual committee hearing lasting two weeks focused on the NT Budget. So in June I participated in every hour of the 60-hour Estimates process.

Estimates is Parliament's key opportunity each year to ask detailed questions about how public money is being spent. I want to thank the hardworking DLA staff, the public servants who prepared so thoroughly, and my fellow committee members for their work. Despite limited time and some frustrating delays, we uncovered serious concerns – about overcrowded prisons, youth justice, misuse of watch houses, cuts to vital services, and a worrying lack of transparency in decision-making (if you'd like to see my daily updates - check out my Instagram or Facebook page). I've now submitted over 50 pages of written questions to follow up what wasn't answered in the room during the allocated time. Territorians deserve accountability, not spin, and I'll keep asking the questions that matter.

*Do you have questions about how our Government spends our money? Scan this QR code or email the office to send me a question!*

**Parliament 2025 Ordinary Sitting Dates**

| | |
|---|---|
| ~~11-13 February~~ | 2-4 September |
| ~~18-20, 25-27 March~~ | 14-16, 21-23 October |
| ~~13-15, 20-22 May~~ | 25-27 November |
| 29-31 July | |

*Great to have Millner and Jingili Primary Schools visit Parliament last month!*

*My hope is that people of all ages feel they have a place in our democratic processes.*

## Community (un)safety

Since May, we have seen the Government continue to pursue a punitive agenda, celebrating record prison numbers and overcrowded watchhouses while defunding effective alternatives like youth diversion. Meanwhile, it proposes harsher bail laws, mandatory sentencing, arming public housing and transport officers with guns, and the public with pepper spray, despite opposition from police, frontline staff, and health professionals.

We've seen the tragic death of Kumanjayi White in custody, with calls for an independent investigation dismissed, and the Coroner finding Kumanjayi Walker's death was avoidable, driven by systemic racism in the police force. Now's our chance to face this, act, talk about the issues, and demand justice for all.

## Out and About

*Left to right: A wonderful night at the Nepalese Festival; Catching up with Kezia Purick at Fred's Market; time with Leo from the Sabine Rd Shops; the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association co-hosted a thank you to musical volunteers at Government House, organised by fellow MLA Tanzil Rahman*

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## Johnston Microgrants Program

Do you have a community initiative or fundraising effort that needs a boost of support? The Johnston electorate has an annual pool of funds allocated to offer small-scale funding for community-led needs and ideas. Whether it's a neighbourhood garden, art project, or local event, we want to help bring ideas to life to promote community-building across the electorate. Contact the office today for more info about how you can apply.

*Above: We recently supported the 7th Meaningful Maths Enrichment Day at Alawa Primary in May*

## Voluntary Assisted Dying Consultation

We are one step closer to VAD in the Territory, with the new consultation process underway. The inquiry is open for submissions from now until August 15, and submissions can be made verbally by phone to the VAD Hotline on 8946 1442, or in writing by email to LA.VAD@nt.gov.au. Scan this QR code or search 'VAD in the NT Consultation Paper' for more details about how to have your say.

*Great to catch up with old friends and make some new ones at the annual Disability Expo in June.*

How wonderful it is to see the community come together to celebrate culture, music, dance, food and community - the Kindness Festival has it all. Thank you Shushan and the team for putting on this amazing event again this year!

## COMMUNITY ORGANISER KIT

*Do you have a public event to organise need some equipment? We now have an events kit available for use, including a mobile PA system, high vis vests, sign writing materials and a big yapa mat. Please get in touch the office if you would like to borrow it.*

## Johnston Community Cookbook

We're cooking up something special in Johnston — a community recipe book celebrating our amazing local produce and favourite foods! *Got a go-to recipe using local ingredients? We'd love to include it!* Together with the incredible Tisha Tejaya we have been hosting tropical still life drawing workshops to begin this process of bringing Johnston together through recipes, art, stories & community. It's all about food, culture, and connection. Want to be a part of it all? Contact the office to find out more.

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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:

| Alawa | Jingili | Millner | Moil |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 Aug | 19 Aug | 5 Aug | 22 July |
| 23 Sept | 30 Sept | 9 Sept | 26 Aug |

*Talking all things community and politics at the mobile office with Aunty Barb and Aunty Valerie, Anthony at the Alawa Fish n Chip Shop and with Chris and Nick*

## What's On in Johnston

There is always lots going on here at the office and out in the community. Scan the QR codes below for more details

Regular Events at the Electorate Office

Seniors Painting Group - Tuesdays 9.30-11am
Grow Group - Tuesdays 1.30-4pm
Seniors Coffee Catch Up - Thursdays 11.30am
Third Thursday Poetry Group - 10-11.30am

Check out the Darwin City Council Website for information on free and ticketed events coming up

Off The Leash is another great place to find out about events, arts and culture here in the NT

NT Tourism is a great place to find out about special events coming up in Darwin from sports to music and everything in between

## Having fun (and recycling) at School

It was a busy term 2 across the electorate with many events happening before the mid-year holidays.

It has been especially great to be able to repurpose corflutes with schools in the electorate by painting over them to use for school sports signs - much better than going to landfill! We still have plenty left at the office, so please get in touch if you have any use for I them!

Hoping everyone had a wonderful break and are ready for a great term 3!

*Above and left: school activities - colour runs, discos, and sports days!*

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