

JUSTINE DAVIS MLA

INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR JOHNSTON

integrity | action | community



A message from your local representative in NT Parliament

Welcome to Mayilema (“knock ‘em down” season), where big winds come to knock down all of the long grass and dry out the country!

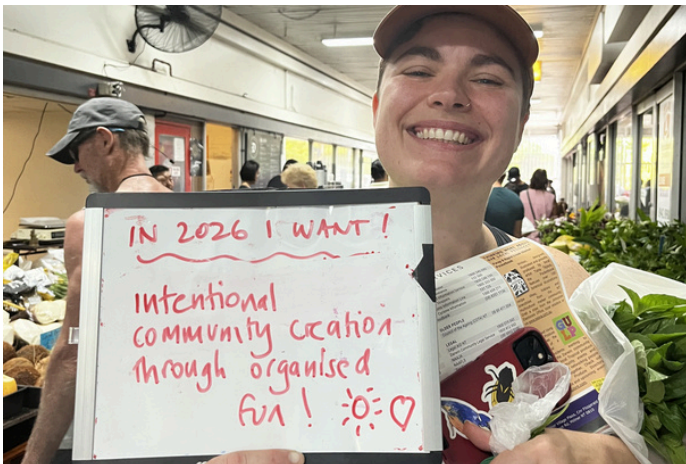
2026 Hopes and Dreams for Johnston

Since the start of the year I have been asking you what your hopes and dreams are for 2026. There was a recurring theme in your answers which is a clear sign that the people of Johnston value community, connection and kindness.

Here are some of your responses:

- Community drop-in activities centred around connection
- Kindness to children
- A Budget that reflects the needs of everyone in the Northern Territory
- Intentional community creation through organised fun
- Skill-sharing for community building
- More knowledge about how lawmaking works in Parliament
- World peace

I am excited to let you know that this year, we have lots of exciting community events, advocacy and policy work coming up - and while I can't guarantee world peace, I can guarantee that your voices will be heard in Parliament loud and clear.



Thanks to everyone who told me their hopes and wishes for 2026.

We live in the best electorate

I love Johnston - the Water Gardens, Rapid Creek markets, our six wonderful local schools, amazing restaurants and local businesses - and best of all, our community. When I was first elected, I worried our electorate office was not in the right place and that people might not drop in, but the opposite has been true.

Over the past 18 months it has become a genuine community hub. Every day people come in, sometimes for help, and sometimes to offer us help, sometimes just for a cup of tea, to browse the community library or to get out of the heat. And they bring with them the generosity and spirit that makes Johnston special: Faye arrives each week with armfuls of flowers from her garden; Di, who first came in with concerns, is now our champion volunteer letterboxer; Val makes sure even my baking disasters are covered; Bill helped make our office beautiful by painting the walls and donating paintings from his own collection; Vivienne from Sarah Lyn keeps me well briefed on small business and life in general; Peter continues decades of care for Rapid Creek; Somi at Sabai Thai has us all celebrating their reopening after holidays; and so many more new businesses like KingKing are adding fresh life to the electorate.



Left: Wonderful Mimi, who helped organise a seniors X-mas morning tea. Right: meeting with CREATE to discuss advocacy for children in care.

Alongside Stan and friends at the Greek Men's Club, Tenzin, Jack and many others, they remind me every day how lucky I am to represent this community. Despite the many challenges we are facing, I feel deeply hopeful and full of gratitude to work with and for the people of Johnston as we keep building connection and community together.





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Doing politics differently

You can tune into
Parliament at
[parliament.nt.gov.au/
about/broadcast](http://parliament.nt.gov.au/about/broadcast)

An Update from February Parliament sittings

Opening Week

It was wonderful to welcome friends and families to the Chamber to start the year, reconnect with community leaders including faith representatives, and enjoy a lively performance by the Chung Wah Lion Dancers - here's hoping they bring all of us good luck for the year ahead.



Left: Chung Wah Lion Dancers come to Parliament, Right: Fellow Independent Yingiya Guyula and I are ready for another year of Parliament sittings.

Child Death Review Committee

After receiving conflicting information from the Attorney-General about how often it had met, we discovered the CLP government has quietly disbanded the Child Death Prevention Review Committee. This is despite the NT having the highest child and infant mortality rate in Australia and the Committee playing a vital role in reviewing and preventing child deaths.

Housing Amendment Bill

The CLP government passed the Housing Amendment Bill on urgency, denying people in remote public housing their right to procedural fairness. This is the 11th bill rushed through this term under laws meant for genuine emergencies, avoiding scrutiny and silencing opposition. I cannot support legislation that treats the right to be heard as an inconvenience and replaces fundamental justice with unfairness.

New NT Administrator

David Connolly was sworn in as NT Administrator in late February despite Territorians expressing loud and clear concerns about this appointment. In response to your concerns I wrote to and met with the Governor General, coordinated and signed an open letter to the Prime Minister with over 20 community groups, wrote to the Chief Minister, and David Connolly himself, and stood with the community in protest of his appointment. I will not stop amplifying your voices on the matter.

Farewell to Kat McNamara

Kat McNamara brought strong, principled advocacy into the NT Parliament. Their work on integrity, transparency and social justice issues made Parliament a better place, and Territorians are better served when voices like theirs are present and heard. Thank you and farewell, Kat.

Coming up next in Parliament

Next sitting dates: March 10-12, 17-19

Code of Conduct Motion

Over the past 18 months we have seen repeated use of bullying, harassment and personal attacks as distraction tactics from the CLP government. These behaviours are unacceptable, and they have no place in Parliament or in any workplace. That's why, during the next sittings, I will move a motion calling for the establishment of a Parliamentary Code of Behaviour to ensure no one who works at Parliament is bullied or harassed at work.

Upcoming Bills

- **Bail Amendment Bill 2026:** Makes it clear that the same bail rules apply to adults and young people.
- **Commercial Passenger (Road) Transport Amendment (Licensing) Bill 2026:** Changes the licensing rules for people who run taxis, rideshares and other commercial passenger vehicles.
- **Electrical Safety Amendment Bill 2026:** Permanently removes the need for compliance certificates for certain low-risk, like-for-like electrical work.
- **Local Government Legislation Amendment (Code of Conduct and Other Matters) Bill 2026:** Changes the code of conduct system for local councils and includes a range of other reforms that should have been properly reviewed by a scrutiny committee, but wasn't.
- **Sentencing Amendment (Murder) Bill 2026:** Introduces a mandatory minimum 25-year non-parole period for killing a current or former partner, despite strong opposition from women's legal and other legal services.



Out and About

It's been another jam-packed season of events across the community. Celebrating Lunar New Year, Holi, Lent, Iftar and so much more has reminded me of reflection, renewal, generosity, and hope and brought colour, joy and connection.

I was honoured to attend local events celebrating some of these traditions and stand alongside communities who make our Territory what it is. Celebrating culture in the NT strengthens belonging, understanding and safety for all Territorians. It reinforces the simple but powerful idea that everyone belongs here. These traditions remind us that even in difficult times, we are strongest when we lean toward each other, not away. This is the time to keep building the kind of community where everyone feels that they belong.

Ochre Ribbon Week

I was honoured to attend the Ochre Ribbon Week breakfast hosted by NAAFLS. Thank you to NAAFLS CEO Cindy Torrens and all those at NAAFLS, as well as the many other organisations who work tirelessly for the safety of Aboriginal women and children. In the words of Zelda Dhamarrandji and Golung Rhoda Dhurrkay from Galiwin'ku Women's Space, "Ochre Ribbon week reminds us that ending violence against women starts with listening to women. Lasting change happens when communities are trusted to lead."

Standing with the Iranian Community

I joined with the Iranian community and supporters to stand against the violence in Iran. This is a terrifying time for our Iranian friends, and those from the region, and we stand with them.



Joining with the Iranian Community for a rally.

Read about the Johnston Community Benefit Fund at
[justinedavis.com.au/
 johnston_community_benefit_fund](http://justinedavis.com.au/johnston_community_benefit_fund)



Exit Art Awards

If you haven't had a chance to check out the annual Exit Art exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery NT (MAGNT), this is a celebration of talented emerging artists and is truly outstanding! Huge congratulations to all the young people who won awards, especially Johnston locals Sophie Kuswadi and Wren Fisher-Kendall.



Left: Congratulations to Exit Award Winner Wren Fisher-Kendall,
 Right: Catching up with Kwame Selormey from Melalueca

There are so many organisations doing incredible work with people in our community, and I greatly value the opportunity to meet with them and hear about their work. Recently I have met with Create who work with young people in care, the Law society, LGANT, Melaleuca working with refugees and asylum seekers, and many others.

If there is an issue or organisation that you think is important for me to know about, please get in touch.



Ready to go for Term 1!

We are well into Term 1 – thank you to all the teachers and school staff working with our children and young people. I love spending time at our wonderful schools in Johnston whether it is talking with children and teachers, visiting assemblies or cooking sausages!





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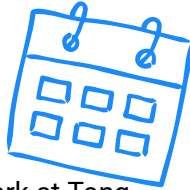
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Coming Up in Johnston

25th March 5:30-6:30pm: Pizza in the Park at Tong Luck Park
Pizza in the Park

12 March 6.45- 8.45pm: Community Cane Toad Bust, Jingili Watergardens,

1st April 5:30pm: Jingili Water Gardens Community Easter Egg Hunt!



Seniors' Painting Group

It is a delight having Pam and the Seniors' Craft and Chat group brighten up the office every Tuesday afternoon. If you are a keen painter or crafter and would like to join this group, please get in touch! All are welcome !



Friday Shout Out

Each Friday we do a shout out post on social media recognising someone in the Johnston community. Do you have someone in mind who deserves a shout out? Let us know!

Come say hi at the 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
24 March**

**Jingili
31 March**

**Millner
7 April**

**Moil
14 April**



Volunteer Relaunch

In February we hosted a volunteer relaunch event to kick off the new year of volunteers! It was great to see so many new and current vollies come down and share their ideas and excitement. If you would like to volunteer with us, please get in touch via the QR code below or head to justinedavis.com.au/volunteer.

Justine is a Commissioner of Oaths.

If you have documents that you need signed, drop into the electorate office or come and see me at the mobile office - just bring your documents with you! If you need to know more, call the office on 8999 6620



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