

NOTICE OF FILING

Details of Filing

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Registry: NORTHERN TERRITORY REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA

Registrar

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

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Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Affidavit

No. NTD17 of 2024

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Northern Territory
Division: General

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: **Dr Josephine Douglas**

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Senior Executive

Date: 14 May 2025

I, Dr Josephine Douglas, of [REDACTED], Alice Springs affirm:

1. I am the General Manager Professional Services at the Central Land Council. I met Les Turner when he joined the Central Land Council as the interim CEO in April 2021. I have worked with him closely since then.
2. When it was announced that Les had been selected as the Council's new CEO, staff were incredibly excited. Les being from Alice Springs, he was regarded as a local and people were happy that he was returning home. He had an excellent reputation amongst people who knew him personally and in a professional capacity for being a man of integrity, bringing strong management and leadership experience and for being reliable.
3. I first became aware of Senator Price's media release on the morning of 22 July 2024 via an alert I received through a subscription service.

Filed on behalf of	Lesley Turner, applicant	A Justice of the Peace in the Northern Territory (OC) 8951 5710
Prepared by	Victoria-Jane Otavski	
Law firm	BlackBay Lawyers	
Tel	[REDACTED] Fax	
Email	[REDACTED]	
Address for service	Level 17, 20 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000	

Josephine Douglas


4. I was shocked when I read it because the allegations it made about Les and the events at the Full Council Meeting at Watarrka came completely out of the blue. I attended the meeting from 16 to 18 July 2024. At about 4.00 pm on the last day, all the delegates posed for a group photo with some staff in attendance. The mood was cheerful and happy. There was a lot of laughter. It was a good feeling. After the photo was taken, we all walked back to where the meeting was being held, and as I was looking around for my backpack and my chair, I overheard things being said in language. I could hear it but I did not take much notice, and then one of the delegates, said to me helpfully in English "It's a men's only meeting now, all you female staff and delegates have to leave". I and the other Central Land Council staff members went back to where our tents were and waited until the men's only meeting was over. Once we were made aware that the men's only meeting had finished, we went back and mingled with all the delegates to say our goodbyes, then we started packing up the chairs and tables. I was very surprised to read Senator Price's allegations about there being a motion against Les at the meeting, because it clashed with what I had observed to be the happy and positive mood on the last day and how delegates interacted with him as they were leaving.
5. Later on 22 July 2024, I discussed Senator Price's media release with other general managers and also with Tess O'Loughlin, who was the Council's Acting Manager of Communications at that time. They were equally shocked and surprised.
6. We agreed that it was appropriate for the Council to issue a short response to Senator Price's media release to set the record straight. We also discussed the Council's response with Les.
7. Les did not say anything to me about how he felt about Senator Price's media release, but when you work with someone, you get a sense of who they are and how they behave. I could tell from his demeanour that he had been dealt a blow by the media release. He seemed to me to be deeply shocked, hurt and upset, but being Les, he handled the situation in a calm and extremely dignified way. He did not suggest that the Council should retaliate or go on the attack.

- 8. Through the course of that day, I received approximately a dozen telephone calls from people outside the Council, who asked me whether Senator Price's media release was true and whether Les was still the CEO of the Council.

- 9. I spoke to Les again later that the week, and I observed that his demeanour was worse. He was not himself and appeared shell-shocked. Les is someone who has worked his way up and who takes pride in what he has achieved and in his professional reputation.

Affirmed by the deponent
at Alice Springs
in the Northern Territory
on 14 May 2025
Before me:

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Signature of deponent

Signature of witness



A Justice of the Peace in the
Northern Territory
(08) 8951 5710