

NOTICE OF FILING

Details of Filing

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File Title: LESLEY TURNER v JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE
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.

The date of the filing of the document is determined pursuant to the Court's Rules.

Form 59
Rule 29.02(1)

Affidavit

No. NTD 17 of 2024

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

LESLEY TURNER

Applicant

JACINTA NAMPIJINPA PRICE

Respondent

Affidavit of: Catherine Vandermark

Address: [Redacted]

Occupation: Retired

Date: 21 February 2025

I, Catherine Vandermark, of [Redacted] affirm:

1. I am a retired former Commonwealth public servant.
2. Les Turner is my partner. I first met Les in 2002 when I was working at the Department of the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Les was working at ATSIC and had come to the Department to discuss a review of Indigenous art centres. We have been in a relationship since 2003 or 2004.
3. I first heard about Senator Price's allegations about Les on 21 July 2024. We were at home on the weekend and Tess O'Loughlin, the Acting Communications Manager at the Central Land Council, phoned Les and alerted him to the article in the *NT News* that said that he had been sacked as the CEO of the CLC.



Filed on behalf of	Lesley Turner, applicant
Prepared by	Victoria-Jane Otavski
Law firm	BlackBay Lawyers
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4. Les was shocked, because it was the first he had heard that he had been sacked as CEO (and it was not true), but he and Tess thought that if they acted quickly, they could nip the issue in the bud. We all thought that it would just go away.
5. Sometime later, Les told me that Senator Price had issued a media release saying that there had been a motion of no confidence against him. He also told me that the *NT News* had published another article quoting Senator Price's media release.
6. Les was appalled. He could not believe that a member of parliament would promulgate unsubstantiated allegations about him, and that the *NT News* would publish them. He was anxious about the number of people who would read the allegations about him and believe them. He was also concerned about the shade cast on the CLC, particularly after a long and successful three-day meeting.
7. Even though Senator Price's statement was wrong and Les and the CLC had tried to correct the record, Senator Price did not withdraw her statement. As the days went by, Les became quite distressed. He is somebody who takes his work very seriously. His identity is tied up with his work, and with what he has been able to achieve for Aboriginal people. His reputation is so important to him. He believes in the importance of proper process and felt this was being disregarded by Senator Price, and struggled to work out what could be done. He was devastated that this had happened, especially at this stage in his career. I think he felt disappointed that he had been targeted, and also embarrassed. Les is a proud person and has a strong sense of justice. I think it was deeply personal for him, and he felt what had happened was unfair.
8. I think Senator Price's allegations and her refusal to withdraw them has affected Les' health and wellbeing. Seeing the impact on the CLC as an organisation and the staff that work there has also affected Les.
9. I felt sorry for Les, because he is 65 years old, and his current position is probably going to be his last job before he retires. He was enjoying being at the CLC and felt he had contributed a lot to the organisation. Since taking over as CEO, he has overseen a major restructure, initiated a large recruitment exercise, changed the way the administration and the members work together, and implemented measures to strengthen the CLC's governance. He was feeling

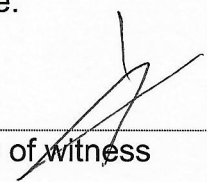


good about where the organisation was going. I felt really disappointed for him that this had happened.

- 10. Les's demeanour has changed since Senator Price made the allegations. He seems depressed. He is touchy and can get angry.
- 11. Les came back to Alice Springs to finish his career working for his own people, but now he doesn't want to go anywhere or do anything. He has a siege mentality. It has affected the way we live our life. Les is now very reluctant to go to social events, or even to go to the shops. I think he feels that people are talking about him.
- 12. I think a lot of people are aware of the allegations. Alice is a small town and there is a lot of chatter. Les does not like being pulled into that vortex. He has always seen himself as being able to rise above all that and he feels diminished by what has happened. He is a shy and sensitive person, and he hates being the centre of attention. He does not like speaking in public. He likes to be the person behind the scenes.
- 13. I had misgivings about Les commencing proceedings against Senator Price. I said "Are you sure you want to do this? You don't have to do this". But he was angry that Senator Price had ignored the Concerns Notice. He had expected that she would respond in some way. I think he felt diminished that she would just brush off something this important.

Affirmed by the deponent
 at Alice Springs
 in the Northern Territory
 on 21 February 2025
 Before me:

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) _____
) Signature of deponent
)



 Signature of witness

Local Courts Alice Springs
 10 Parsons Street
 PO Box 1394
 ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870

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