

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service



MEDIA RELEASE:

NT landmark coronial inquiry into deaths of four women begins

16 June, 2023

“This is a solemn time marking the start of the landmark NT Coronial inquiry into the deaths of four of our Aboriginal women, killed by their former partners” said NAAFLS CEO Cassandra Carolin. “We sincerely hope the process will be respectful and inclusive of all who loved and cared for these women and all living with their loss.”

The hearing started on Tuesday in Alice Springs and reflects two women who lost their lives in Central Australia. This will be followed on Monday 26 June by two hearing weeks in Darwin about the deaths of Ms Ragurk and Ms Yunipingu who were killed in Darwin. In October there will be further hearings about lessons to be learned from the four deaths, systemic issues and improvements.

Inquest must be a catalyst for change

Aboriginal community controlled organisations and other community-based efforts are strongly encouraged to let the coroner know what is needed from here and NAAFLS welcomes another opportunity to provide input into what we believe is necessary for better justice for Aboriginal women caught in violent relationships.

Our key recommendation is for the NT to develop an Aboriginal specific violence prevention strategy. Other states and territories in Australia have Aboriginal specific strategies and the NT is lagging behind when we should be leading change in this area.

“We hope the NT Government will step up and agree to an NT Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Strategy,” said Cassandra. “We need more backing for the efforts by our people and our leaders in communities day-by-day across the NT.”

NAAFLS supports a NT Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Peak, which would join in the Aboriginal Peak Organisation NT (APONT). We also support the efforts by all our people and our Aboriginal organisations who are working towards positive change.

For interviews contact:

Cassandra Carolin
NAAFLS CEO
Ph: 0447 772 333

Rachael Hill
Executive Assistant
r.hill@naaffs.com.au



admin@naaffs.com.au



(08) 89275942



www.naaffs.com.au