


Notice of Annual General Meeting and Explanatory information

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting 2024 of members of The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited will be held:

Date: Thursday, 14 November 2024
Time: 2:00pm
Place: Novotel Perth Langley (Boardroom)
221 Adelaide Terrace
Perth WA 6000

2024





Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited
ACN 617 555 843
Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited ACN 617 555 843 (the **Company**) will be held in the Boardroom of Novotel Perth Langley, 221 Adelaide Terrace, Perth WA 6000 on Thursday, 14 November 2024 at 2:00 pm.

Business

1. Meeting Open and Acknowledgement of Country

2. Declaration of Proxies

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 16 November 2023

To consider the acceptance of the previous Annual General Meeting's minutes from 16 November 2023 as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting's proceedings.

4. Financial and Other Reports

To receive and consider the Financial Report of the Company and the reports of the directors and the auditor for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

Note: there is no requirement for members to approve these reports

5. Election of Directors

To consider the appointment of the following candidate as a Elected Directors of the ALSWA Board:

- (a) BARON, Paul;
- (b) THOMAS, Preston; and
- (c) WATSON, Kathy.

The biographies of the candidates have been attached to this notice.

Directors who retire in accordance with rule 3.6(a) of the Company's Constitution and being eligible, are able to offer themselves for re-election.

6. General Business

7. Close of Meeting

By order of the Board,



Peter Rogers
ALSWA Company Secretary
October 2024



Explanatory Notes

Financial Statements and Reports

Section 317 of the Corporations Act requires the Financial Statements of the Company and Directors report and Auditors report for the financial year to be laid before the Annual General Meeting.

There is no requirement for a formal resolution to approve the Financial Statements or reports. Accordingly, there will not be a formal resolution put to the Annual General Meeting in respect of this item of business. However, members will be given a reasonable opportunity at the Annual General Meeting to comment and raise questions on the Financial Statements and reports of the Company.

Re-election of Directors

In accordance with rule 3.6(a) of the Company's Constitution, Director Paul Baron, Preston Thomas and Kathy Watson will retire and, being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

Details of director seeking election are set out below.

The Company's Constitution provides that a resolution put to the vote at a meeting of members must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is demanded under rule 18.2 either before or on declaration of the result of the vote on a show of hands.

A separate motion for the election of each candidate will be put to the meeting, as set out in this notice.

The Chairman of the meeting will declare the result only after all motions have been put to vote at the meeting.

Details of director seeking re-election:

BARON, PAUL:

As an Aboriginal man, Paul is constantly practicing cultural activities with families, meetings, and on country. For Paul, culture is about respect and lore, together with looking after traditional lands and waters.

Culture is also knowledge of sensitive and respectful issues between neighbouring traditional owners during death, marriages and ceremonies.

Paul is the current General Manager of Baiyungu Aboriginal Corporation since June 2006. The Corporation is a registered not-for-profit organisation and it oversees large tracts of traditional lands.

Prior to this position, Paul was the Chief Executive Officer at Burringurrah Community which is the homeland for the Wadjarri peoples in Western Australia. He has also worked with Commonwealth Departments for about 18 years holding senior positions, including ATSI and Department of Education, Employment and Training.

He has a varied skill set which would be an asset to the Board of Directors and company in general. Paul believes that he was an integral part of the change which created the new Aboriginal Legal Services company registered under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) rather than the old registration under the CATSI Act.

Over the years, Paul has sat as a Director on numerous boards across Western Australia.

THOMAS, PRESTON:

Preston is a proud Wongi man with connections to the Wongi (Goldfields-Esperance Region) and Ngaanyatjarra lands where he is an Elder. The Ngaanyatjarra lands are located in Western Australia near the borders of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

For over twenty years, Preston has lived within the small Kanpa Community (Pira-Kata) which is located close to the Warburton Community. Many Warburton residents visit Kanpa to go hunting or to camp.

Preston was brought up to respect his country and his people and have a deep connection with his land and traditions. His long and proud Culture was immersed within him from a young age with an understanding of lore, language and his connection to country, in remote, regional and urban areas of Western Australia.

His experience working with Aboriginal organisations includes:

- Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Limited – where he's been a Director for 20 years. This year marks the 50th year that ALSWA has been striving for justice for our people;
- Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation) – where he's been a Director for over 10 years. The Council represents the interest of around 1,800 Ngaanyatjarra, Pintupi and Pitjantjatjara Traditional Owners (Yarnangu) who reside in the eleven member communities of the Ngaanyatjarra Lands; and
- Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia – where he's been a Director for over 10 years. AHCWA offers support, advocacy and influence, building capacity and strengthening the sector to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

Preston has a longstanding commitment to the work undertaken by ALSWA. Having been a Board Member with ALSWA for 20 years, he is passionate about ensuring there is access to justice for First Nations Peoples.

Our people are over-represented within the criminal justice system and ALSWA plays a vital role in providing a culturally appropriate service for our people.

He believes that he has the required and extensive skills to contribute greatly to the knowledge, expertise and direction that is provided by the ALSWA Board of Directors.

WATSON, KATHY:

Kathy is an Aboriginal woman of the Broome area and the Kimberley Region. She is a Traditional Owner of her mother and father's country. She is also understanding of and respects the culture of both men and women.

She has been a Director of ALSWA for a long time and brings an understanding of the Broome region. Kathy will seek to fully represent ALSWA in her capacity as a Director.

Kathy will bring the following if re-elected to the ALSWA Board – support, loyalty, respect and fairness. Kathy will offer the same to the whole workforce that works at ALSWA.



Information for Members

1. **Eligibility to vote: Only Ordinary members (Members) may vote at the Annual General Meeting (the Meeting).** Members will be eligible to vote at the Meeting if they are registered as Ordinary Members of the Company on 14 November 2024.
2. **Voting methods:** Members can vote in either of two ways:
 - a. By attending the Meeting and voting in person or by attorney; or
 - b. By appointing a proxy to attend and vote at the Meeting on their behalf. A proxy form accompanies this notice.
3. **Proposed arrival time:** If possible, a Member should arrive at the Meeting venue 15 minutes before the time designated for the Meeting, so that their Membership is verified against the Company's membership register and attendance is recorded.
4. **Attorneys:** A Member may appoint an attorney to vote on his or her behalf. For an appointment to be effective for the Meeting, the power of attorney or a certified copy of it must be received by the Company at its registered office by **no later than 2:00 pm on 12 November 2024 via any one of the methods noted in item 5.c.i to 5.c.iv below.**
5. **Voting by proxy:** A Member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote at the Meeting.
 - a. A proxy need not be a Member of the Company and can be an individual or a body corporate.
 - b. A body corporate appointed as a Member's proxy may appoint a representative to exercise any of the powers the body may exercise as a proxy at the Meeting. The representative should bring to the Meeting evidence of his or her appointment, including any authority under which the appointment is signed, unless it has previously been given to the Company.
 - c. **In order for a valid appointment of a proxy, the completed proxy form, and, if the proxy form is signed by the appointor's attorney – the authority under which the appointment was signed (e.g. a power of attorney) or a certified copy of it, must be returned and received by 2:00pm on 12 November 2023 at the Company's registered office** by one of the following ways:
 - i. By mail: PO Box 8194, Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849;
 - ii. By email: progers@als.org.au;
 - iii. By fax: (08) 9221 1767; or
 - iv. By hand: Piccadilly Square 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth Western Australia 6000.
 - d. Members are encouraged to direct their proxies how to vote on each resolution by marking the "For", "Against" or "Abstain" for each resolution on the proxy form. If a proxy chooses to vote, then he/she must vote in accordance with the directions set out in the proxy form.
 - e. If the Chairman of the Meeting is appointed as a proxy but the appointment does not direct the proxy how to vote on the resolution, **then the Chairman intends to exercise the relevant member's vote in favour of the relevant resolution as required.**
6. **Registered office:** Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited ACN 617 555 483 Piccadilly Square 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth Western Australia 6000. Telephone: 08 9265 6666 Facsimile: 08 9221 1767 Website: www.als.org.au
7. **Asking questions at the Annual General Meeting**

In the interests of all present, members are asked to confine questions to the matters before the Meeting that are relevant to the members as a whole. Questions for the Company to respond to at the Annual General Meeting should be submitted by sending the questions

 - i. By mail: PO Box 8194, Perth Business Centre, Perth WA 6849;
 - ii. By email: progers@als.org.au; or
 - iii. By hand: Piccadilly Square 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth Western Australia 6000.

Submitting questions in advance will not stop members from asking questions at the Annual General Meeting, should they wish to do so, but will facilitate a considered reply.

Questions must be received by no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, 8 November 2024.

The Company will respond to as many of the more frequently asked questions as possible at the Annual General Meeting. Please note that individual responses will not be sent.