



MEDIA RELEASE

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New member welcomed to ATSIEB

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body welcomes the election of Mr Masepah Banu as a member of ATSIEB.

ATSIEB chair Rod Little said Mr Banu was formally elected to fill a casual vacancy after the resignation of Mr John Paul Janke.

Mr Janke decided to stand down from his role on ATSIEB because of his busy work commitments.

“We are very sad to see John Paul leave after providing so much valuable input on ATSIEB,” Mr Little said.

“Unfortunately due to the part-time statutory office holder status of ATSIEB members means that we all need to undertake our ATSIEB roles above and beyond the part-time requirement and on top of our own personal work commitments, and in particular for those members who have full-time work responsibilities and the requirements on our time is very demanding with ATSIEB and Community Forum meetings, regular meetings with Minister Rattenbury, and monthly meetings with Director-General’s across the ACT Government agencies.

“All members would like to thank John Paul for his work on ATSIEB and we now welcome Masepah to the team.”

Vacancies on ATSIEB are filled by distributing the votes of the former member. In effect, those voters who voted for Mr Janke determine his replacement.

After the formal declaration of candidates, a distribution of the votes received by Mr Janke took place at the ACT Electoral Commission earlier this week.

Following the distribution of preferences, Mr Banu was declared elected to fill the casual vacancy.

Mr Banu is originally from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait and is a traditional custodian of the Keodal’Augadhalaige, Malu Kiai, Zenadh Kes and acknowledges his grandmothers people from Cape York Peninsula. Mr Banu currently works in the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations in the Commonwealth Government and he has lived and worked in Canberra since 1996 and will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the work of ATSIEB.

Statement Ends

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