

2024 NAATSIHWP National Conference

"Reaping the rewards of resilience"

OPENING ADDRESS

THE HON SEN MALARNDIRRI MCCARTHY

Minister for Indigenous Australians



Senator Malarndirri McCarthy is a Yanyuwa Garrwa woman from the Gulf country in the Northern Territory. She was elected as Senator for the Northern Territory (including Christmas and Cocos Keeling Islands) in August 2016, re-elected in 2019 and again in 2022 where she was appointed the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Australians and Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health and now as Minister for Indigenous Australians. Her experiences bring unique perspectives to the role of Labor Senator for the NT, a familiarity with the challenges and opportunities facing Territorians, and the perseverance and determination to drive change.

Before entering Federal Parliament, Malarndirri McCarthy served as the Member for Arnhem in the Northern Territory Assembly. During her seven years in the NT parliament, she held the Ministerial Portfolios of Local Government, Regional Development, Indigenous Development, Tourism, Women's Policy and Statehood.

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THE HON GED KEARNEY

Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health



Assistant Minister Ged Kearney is the Federal Member for Cooper, the Assistant Minister for Health and Aged Care, and the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health. Ged has served in the parliament since March 2018, when she was elected in a by-election. She is the first woman to hold the seat.

Ged started her working life as a nurse and rose to become Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation. From 2010, Ged served as the president of the ACTU – the peak body of Australia’s union movement – where she fought for better conditions for Australian workers. Ged’s working life – from nurse to President of the ACTU to parliamentarian – has been about fighting for the rights of others.

She is a strong voice for social justice, workers’ rights and universal healthcare inside Labor and the Parliament. Ged is a passionate advocate for the environment and throughout her career she has supported a humane response to refugees. Ged was born and raised in Melbourne and lived in Cooper for over 25 years. Ged has four children, two stepdaughters and six much loved grandchildren.”