

# MEDIA RELEASE

01 September 2011

**Hon Jane Aagaard MLA Committee Chair  
Ms Fran Kilgariff Co-Chair  
Ms Kezia Purick MLA  
Ms Marion Scrymgour MLA  
Ms Lynette DeSantis  
Mr John Rawnsley  
Mr Matthew Storey  
Professor George Williams AO**

## **16 Year Olds to Vote - An Australian First**

The Members of the NT Constitutional Convention Committee (NTCCC) today welcomed the agreement of the NT Government to a recommendation that 16 and 17 year old Territorians will be permitted to vote for and stand as a Delegate at the State7 Constitutional Convention.

“This was a key recommendation of the Statehood Steering Committee Final Report, and is probably an Australian first for any official election.” The Chair of the NTCCC and the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Jane Aagaard said today.

Northern Territory residents who have reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday before the closing of the rolls and who have pre-enrolled to vote with the Northern Territory Electoral Commission will be eligible.

“This measure will open up the process and further encourage young people to stand up and be heard. Committee Member Kezia Purick said.

To ensure the Convention includes as broad a cross section of Territorians as possible, sitting Members of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, Australian Senate or House of Representatives will not be eligible to stand as a Delegate. Candidates will be individuals and not be permitted to stand representing any political parties.

Committee Member Professor Williams said “The Territory is leading the way in ensuring young people are contributing to the foundation of a bright and confident future for this part of Australia.”

The election takes place on 24 March 2012. Delegates will be elected from within existing Northern Territory Legislative Assembly electorate boundaries. The Convention meets from 21 April 2012. Rules for Candidates will be published during November this year.

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