

PRESS RELEASE

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Territory youth and Central Australia voices join Statehood Executive table

At their first meeting for 2009 in February, the Statehood Steering Committee selected new Executive members- Mr Peter Schaefer and Mr Daniel Bouchier marking the beginning of a busy year of discussions about the future of the Northern Territory. The Committee thanked outgoing Executive members Jamey Robertson and Margaret Vigants.

Mr Robertson and Ms Vigants are foundation members of the Statehood Steering Committee and have also spent the four years since their appointments as members of the Executive.

'Jamey and Margaret have done a wonderful job guiding the statehood debate since the committee's inception in 2005,' said Mr Bouchier.

'They have both presented me with the opportunity to learn about the hands-on-decision-making process while lobbying for the future of young Territorians'.

Mr Schaefer said his predecessors had done invaluable work in making statehood a discussion topic in the Territory.

"Being elected to the Executive gives Daniel and I the opportunity to have a greater input in to the team's work with eventual equality of Territorians with our State counterparts firmly in our sights", said Mr Schaefer.

Mr Bouchier said he was looking forward to the challenge of working on the Executive in the push for democratic change in the Northern Territory.

'It was a great honour to be elected by my peers on the committee who come from all walks of life across the Territory,' he said.

'This year we will be embarking on a community workshops program, with an overall aim to continue informing Territorians.'

'I hope my election to the Executive will encourage young Territorians to get involved. It is an exciting time for Territorians.'

For more information on Statehood visit www.statehood.nt.gov.au.

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