

Healing Foundation appoints new chair

Kungarakany man Professor Steve Larkin has been elected as the Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation.

Professor Larkin replaces Daurareb man Charles Passi, who stepped down after chairing the national organisation since January 2013.

Professor Larkin is currently Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership at Charles Darwin University and a member of the beyondblue board. He has extensive experience working with urban, rural and remote Aboriginal communities on behalf of the Northern Territory Government and in the areas of social health, substance misuse and prisoner health while employed by the Commonwealth Department of Health.

Professor Larkin has previously held the positions of Chief Executive Officer at the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and National Aboriginal Health Advisor with the Australian Medical Association.

Professor Larkin expressed his gratitude to outgoing Chair Charles Passi for his leadership over the past two years.

“The Healing Foundation is playing a critical role in addressing the trauma affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and I’m honoured by the opportunity to further shape this work as Chair,” Professor Larkin said.

“Healing the pain and distress caused by colonisation requires culturally competent and appropriate support. Mainstream services are often not equipped to deal with the specialised needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

“The Healing Foundation is playing a key role in building and sharing knowledge about the trauma affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and what works in Indigenous healing.

“In particular, we are working to prevent trauma being passed down to yet another generation, working with Stolen Generations members and their descendants to create their own healing responses, supporting healing for men and women in the community, and providing trauma related workforce education and training.

“I’m looking forward to working with other leaders in the field to ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can access appropriate healing support in the future,” Professor Larkin said.

The Healing Foundation Board is committed to ensuring community voices are paramount in guiding our work.

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation with a focus on building culturally strong, community led healing solutions. More information is available at www.healingfoundation.org.au

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