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Appendix C – Biographies of Commissioners and the Registrar

Family Responsibilities Commissioner

Commissioner Tammy Williams

Tammy Williams was appointed as Commissioner of the FRC on 2 September 2019. Since her appointment she has been working hard to apply her own work culture and extensive business acumen to Commission operations. Commissioner Williams leads by using an adaptive and authentic leadership style drawn equally from both her professional and lived experiences as an Aboriginal woman.

Tammy Williams is a Murri woman from the Guwa people near Winton and the Wangan and Jagalingou peoples of central Queensland. She was awarded a law degree from the Queensland University of Technology in 2001, after which she was admitted as a Barrister to the Supreme Court of Queensland and High Court of Australia in 2002. She is a highly experienced professional who has worked successfully within and outside government. She has a great understanding of the Commission and welfare reform communities, having acted as the Director-General for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in the past, and as such, a member of the FR Board.

Deputy Commissioner Rodney Curtin

Deputy Commissioner Rodney (Rod) Curtin was born and raised in Cairns and completed his secondary education at St Augustine's College. He attained a Bachelor of Law degree through the Queensland University of Technology and was appointed a Barrister-at-Law to the Supreme Court of Queensland and the High Court of Australia in 1987. Deputy Commissioner Curtin's practice has been predominately in the jurisdictions of Family Law and Criminal Law. His experience has involved the conduct of circuits in the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait regions for more than 25 years. Over the years he has been called on to conduct many seminars

and training sessions for students at James Cook University, the Department of Education and Family Court counsellors on family law and domestic violence issues. Deputy Commissioner Curtin has also mentored young solicitors and field officers attached to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service.

Deputy Commissioner Curtin is passionate in the pursuit of access to justice services for Indigenous people. He advocates for the advancement of programs to provide better resources and achieve better outcomes for Indigenous people who appear before the courts. Deputy Commissioner Curtin has been involved with the Cape York Peninsula Youth Justice Program and has been a strong advocate for Juvenile Justice issues. His service to the Indigenous communities has been acknowledged as dedicated and compassionate, having an in-depth knowledge of the cultural and social issues of people within those communities. Rod's original appointment as Deputy Commissioner from July 2010 expired in December 2018. He was reappointed to the role in July 2020. Deputy Commissioner Curtin advises that he thoroughly enjoys his work, the most rewarding aspect of which has been his association with the Local Commissioners. Their dedication and tireless persistence in striving toward creating a better community and setting a wonderful example for the next generation has been inspirational.

Local Commissioners

Aurukun

Commissioner Edgar KERINDUN OAM (Sara Clan) was born and raised in Aurukun and is a traditional owner of the area. Before his election as a Councillor for the Aurukun Shire Council in 2012 Commissioner Kerindun worked as an Engagement Officer at Queensland Health. He served as a Councillor for eight years, including four years as Deputy Mayor, until 2020 when he decided not to run for re-election. On

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26 January 2015 Commissioner Kerindun was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his services to the community. One of the original Community Police Officers in Aurukun, he continues to advocate for justice and rehabilitation for ex-offenders. Along with his partner, Commissioner Doris Poonkamelya, he cares for three children from their extended family. Commissioner Kerindun believes that showing respect to everyone fosters mutual respect.

Commissioner Doris POONKAMELYA OAM (Putch Clan) was born at the Kendall River Outstation and moved with her family to Aurukun when she was a child. She dedicated 29 years of her life to working as a senior health worker for Queensland Health, retiring in 2009. On 26 January 2015 Commissioner Poonkamelya was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to the community. From 2016 to 2020 she served as a Councillor for the Aurukun Shire Council but chose not to run in the 2020 Local Government elections. A founding member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group, Commissioner Poonkamelya is also deeply committed to education as a pathway to employment and a promising future for young people. As a carer for Child Safety Services, she believes in creating a safe environment for children to grow and mature.

Commissioner Ada Panawya WOOLLA OAM (Winchanum Clan) was born and raised in Aurukun, leaving the community to attend boarding school and later Cairns Business College. From 2012 to 2020 Commissioner Woolla served as a Councillor on the Aurukun Shire Council, deciding not to stand for re-election in 2020. Upon her election to Councillor in April 2012 she retired from her position as a Recognised Entity where she assisted families and children in Aurukun.

In September 2014 Commissioner Woolla was appointed to the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland, established by former QLD Premier Campbell Newman and chaired by the Honourable Quentin Bryce AD CVO and former Governor-General of Australia. On 26 January 2015 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her

services to the community. In September 2018 she was appointed to the Queensland First Children and Families Board, which oversees the implementation of *“Our Way” – a generational strategy* and *“Changing Tracks,” an action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families (2017 – 2019)*.

Commissioner Woolla is also a foster and kinship carer, an office bearer in the Aurukun Church, a founding member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group, and a respected mediator and community elder. Her support for the education and training of young people is well recognised. Alongside her husband Dereck Walpo, she strives to improve opportunities for her community.

Commissioner Dorothy POOTCHEMUNKA (Winchanum / Aplach Clans) was born, raised, and educated in Aurukun. She has 10 children, 17 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Commissioner Pootchemunka's interests encompass a wide range of traditional activities including fishing, camping and basket weaving using Pandanus and Cabbage leaves. Her baskets are displayed in national galleries in Australia and overseas. In 2023 Aurukun State School engaged Commissioner Pootchemunka to deliver cultural classes to senior students, teaching weaving, collecting roots to extract dye, and fire building.

Commissioner Pootchemunka is a registered Wik interpreter, and her expertise is utilised within the court system and by the Department of Human Services. More recently she worked with the Youth Justice team as an interpreter for local Aurukun youth. She became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 4 March 2010. Commissioner Pootchemunka views education as the key to employment and encourages all students to make the most of their education and training to enhance future job opportunities.

Commissioner Vera KOOMEETA OAM (Aplach Clan) was born in Aurukun and attended primary school there. She continued her studies at Scots PGC College in Warwick, completing Year 10, and later earned a qualification in community teaching from Technical and Further Education (TAFE) in Cairns. From 2012 to 2020 Commissioner Koomeeta served as a Councillor in the Aurukun



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Shire Council, choosing not to run in the 2020 Local Government elections. On 26 January 2015 she was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to the community.

Commissioner Koomeeta is a Justice of the Peace (Magistrates Court) and a registered interpreter, as well as a member of the Aurukun Community Justice Group. As a representative of her clan group, she is involved in several committees and holds positions on multiple boards. Her extensive experience enhances her ability to make independent and informed decisions as a Local Commissioner. In 2022 she joined the Aurukun School Board (Paamp) to support school attendance and children's wellbeing. When not working Commissioner Koomeeta can be found fishing and camping with her grandchildren. Commissioner Koomeeta is an established artist, with her paintings featuring at the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

Commissioner Keri TAMWOY (Putch Clan) was born in Cairns but has spent her entire life in Aurukun. She met her husband Gerald Tamwoy when they were 17 and 18 years old respectively. Together they have raised their six children in Aurukun, deeply embedding themselves in the community.

Commissioner Tamwoy has extensive experience as a mediator and has successfully run the mediation program in Aurukun which has been instrumental in helping families resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. She considers the mediation program a valued service in Aurukun.

Professionally, Commissioner Tamwoy has previously worked as the Office Manager for the Aak Puul Ngantam Ranger Program and currently serves as the chairperson of the organisation. She is also a Director of her husband's business and runs her own business delivering cultural and community awareness workshops for Aurukun stakeholders.

Commissioner Tamwoy became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 1 January 2018 at the age of 44. She was elected Mayor of the Aurukun Shire Council in the Local Government elections on 28 March 2020. Throughout her term of four years, she was dedicated to supporting the Wik people of Aurukun, striving to empower them and enhance their community.

On 1 December 2021 Commissioner Tamwoy was honoured with the National NAIDOC Person of the Year award. In 2022 she became an active member of the Paamp Aurukun State School Board, which was established to address the attendance and wellbeing of Aurukun's school-aged children. Commissioner Tamwoy believes that education is the foundation for children's futures and supports personalised learning for each child.

In her spare time Commissioner Keri Tamwoy enjoys fishing and camping or simply relaxing at home watching movies with her seven grandchildren.

Commissioner Dereck WALPO (Kiadilt Clan) was born and raised on Mornington Island. After completing his primary schooling on Mornington Island, he completed his senior studies while boarding in Warwick Queensland. Commissioner Walpo then moved to Cape York where he met his partner of 40 years, fellow Commissioner Ada Woolla of the Winchanum Clan. He has worked in various positions across Aurukun including in plumbing, as a road worker and machinery driver before finding work in the health system and becoming the Team Leader of the Wellbeing Centre. In 2016 Commissioner Walpo joined the Apunipima Board to support the Aurukun community and ensure their voices are heard. He recognises the importance of mental health support and the need for services to support remote Indigenous communities such as Aurukun.

From 2012 to 2020 Commissioner Walpo held the position of Mayor in the Aurukun Shire Council using his authority to work towards improving social norms and helping the community of Aurukun grow. In November 2023 Commissioner Walpo joined the Aurukun Community Indigenous Corporation as a member of the board.

Commissioner Walpo has two children and nine grandchildren and enjoys spending the weekends with his grandchildren fishing and hunting. Commissioner Walpo became an Aurukun Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022. He wants to use his role as a Local Commissioner to further restore social norms and encourage community members to take responsibility for their futures.

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Coen

Commissioner May Mary KEPPLE OAM (Wik-Munkan Clan) is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified). Commissioner Kepple has had a variety of positions in retail and sales and enjoys painting on canvas. As an accredited foster carer since 2007 she remains committed to the welfare of children, ensuring they receive opportunities for self-development and a bright future. From February 2014 to 2018 Commissioner Kepple worked with Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC) as a Community Recognised Entity and Advisor. On 23 December 2021 Coen Commissioner Kepple retired from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General as a Member Elder where she was responsible for providing court support to the Justice Group Coordinator and clients, and networking with other stakeholders to advocate for clients in relation to referrals, programs and activities.

On 26 January 2015 Coen Commissioner Kepple was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. Commissioner Kepple spends her weekends on country with her daughter and grandchildren passing on culture and the ways of the Elders.

Commissioner Elaine Louise LIDDY OAM (Lama Lama Clan) was born in Cairns. She is a fluent Umpithamu language speaker and has contributed to the dictionary of the Umpithamu language. Coen Commissioner Elaine Liddy has been pivotal in establishing the Lama Lama Rangers who live and work on her Lama Lama homelands of Port Stewart and is now a full-time Cultural Heritage Adviser Team Leader. She is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and is a highly respected leader of the Lama Lama Clan. On 26 January 2015 Coen Commissioner Elaine Liddy was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. Commissioner Elaine Liddy devotes her spare time to the care of her homelands, and to passing on tradition and culture to future generations.

Commissioner Alison LIDDY (Lama Lama Clan) commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015. Coen Commissioner Alison Liddy was born in Cairns and completed most of her schooling in North Queensland. Furthering her educational qualifications, Commissioner Alison Liddy attained a Certificate III in Indigenous Community Service and Primary Health Care. She has held many positions over the years, working in administrative roles as an Indigenous Health Worker with the Coen Primary Health Care Centre, Community Engagement Officer with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and Apunipima Cape York Health Council at the Coen Wellbeing Centre. Coen Commissioner Alison Liddy is currently employed as the Junior Ranger Coordinator and Administrator for the Yintjinnga Aboriginal Corporation and the Lama Lama Ranger Service. Working locally in Coen for many years and being involved in the community has enabled her to gain a broad understanding of the issues that affect those living in Coen. Her interest in becoming a Local Commissioner was inspired through her sister, Elaine Liddy, who has been a Coen Commissioner since the commencement of the Commission in 2008.

Commissioner Maureen LIDDY (Lama Lama Clan) also commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015. Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy has worked extensively with families and children across Cape York. She taught at a number of schools in the far north, including Bloomfield River State School where she became the Acting Principal. She was the Coen State School Principal for some five years and then was the Hope Vale State School Principal. For four years in Hope Vale, she was seconded to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Cape York Strategy Unit as part of the Government Champions Program where she coordinated the Negotiation Tables throughout Cape York between the communities and their Government Champions. She resigned as the Principal of Hope Vale State School and took on the role of Transition Officer for the Department of Education, assisting in moving children from primary schools to secondary schooling, and even further education.



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Since 2010 Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy has held several positions including with Cape York Partnership as a manager involved with the academy schools and teachers, with the RFDS in Coen as a Community Development Officer and later Services Coordinator, with Apunipima Cape York Health Council as Team Leader, with Good to Great Schools in the role of Community Partnership Engagement Manager, and more recently as Implementation Manager with Pama Futures. Commissioner Liddy has now transitioned to the position of Opportunity Hub Leader with Cape York Partnership and has returned to live in Coen.

On 26 January 2019 Coen Commissioner Maureen Liddy was awarded the Cook Shire Citizen of the Year in recognition of her work to improve the lives of Indigenous people in the Cook Shire. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Education and is a member of the Coen Justice Group, the local Sports and Recreation Association, and the Advisory Committee to the Cook Shire Council. Commissioner Maureen Liddy's personal interests include spending time with her family, camping, fishing, reading, four-wheel driving and meeting people.

Commissioner Ramana WALKER (Wik-Mungkan Clan) commenced with the Commission on 1 July 2023. Commissioner Ramana Walker has a deep connection to Coen, having been born and raised there. She is currently raising her two young boys in the same community and takes great pride in her role as a mother.

Commissioner Ramana Walker brings a wealth of experience in working with families in Coen, with eleven years of dedicated service at Queensland Health. Previously, she held the position of Domestic Violence Prevention Worker at the Coen Regional Aboriginal Corporation. Her current role at the same organisation is Coordinator of the Coen Justice Group.

Commissioner Ramana Walker is committed to continuous growth and development, actively pursuing a Certificate IV in Mental Health, and engaging in other relevant studies. Commissioner Ramana has also recently become a Justice of the Peace (Qualified). These educational

endeavours aim to equip her with the necessary knowledge and tools to effectively support individuals and families in her community, particularly in the area of suicide prevention.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Commissioner Ramana Walker is passionate about helping people.

Commissioner Naomi HOBSON (Southern Kaantju Clan) commenced with the Commission on 1 July 2023. She received her early education in Coen and then completed her studies at several different high schools. After completing school Commissioner Hobson undertook further studies and has obtained numerous certificates.

Commissioner Hobson has extensive working knowledge within her community, having held numerous positions in Coen and holds director positions in several local and regional government organisation as well as not-for-profit organisations.

Commissioner Hobson enjoys travelling and experiencing different cultures, something she has been able to achieve through the numerous accolades she has achieved in the arts. Commissioner Hobson also believes strongly in the importance of family and preserving cultural practices.

Doomadgee

Commissioner Christopher LOGAN (Garrawa Ghuthaarn / Takalaka Clans) was born in Normanton and educated at Normanton State School to Year 10, after which he moved to Doomadgee. Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan is married to Eleanor Logan, herself a Local Commissioner, and together they have had three children of their own, raised another two from a young age, provided foster care for many more and have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Commissioner Christopher Logan's working life has included employment as a stockman, carpenter, Community Police Officer, a storeman at the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and work at the Doomadgee retail store. He was a Councillor from 1992 to 1994 with the Doomadgee Aboriginal

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Shire Council and Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council Deputy Mayor from 2008 to 2012. He has also driven trucks and has run the night patrol for the Doomadgee community. For many years Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan was involved with the State Emergency Service and was second in charge. His strong belief in education and the importance of children attending school every day led in 2013 to his commencement in the initial role of School Attendance Supervisor at the Doomadgee State School, working directly alongside the Doomadgee State School Principal. He then went on to hold the position of Indigenous Education Leader at the Doomadgee State School until 2019. Commissioner Christopher Logan played rugby league for the Doomadgee Dragons from 1989 to 2007, captaining the side from 1989 to 1994, and was the club chairperson from 2008 to 2014. He loves to spend his weekends taking his grandchildren out bush, camping, hunting and fishing.

Commissioner Elaine CAIRNS (Waanyi Lardil Clan) moved to Doomadgee from Mornington Island in 1969. She completed her junior education at Doomadgee State School before moving to Malanda to complete Years 9 and 10. A mother of six, grandmother of 19 and great-grandmother of eight, Commissioner Elaine Cairns has firm ties to several clans within the community and derives great joy from her extended family. A strong Indigenous woman, Doomadgee Commissioner Elaine Cairns worked as a cleaner and receptionist at the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council, served as Deputy Mayor from 2004 to 2007, acted as Mayor for six months in 2007 and was a Councillor from 2012 to 2016. Previously Doomadgee Commissioner Elaine Cairns spent one and a-half years as a chef at the Doomadgee Hospital, and nine and a-half years as a Centrelink agent before becoming a Councillor. She has also been involved with the Strong Women's Group (formerly known as the Indigenous Women's Forum) since 2004. In her capacity with the group, she has travelled across Australia taking a stand against domestic violence towards Aboriginal women.

At the Local Government elections conducted on 16 March 2024 Commissioner Cairns was elected again as a Councillor for the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council. Her view that strong Indigenous women can make a difference to the communities in which they live drives her ambition to contribute to building a better future for Doomadgee's children. Commissioner Elaine Cairns loves reading, gardening and spending time out bush, fishing and camping. As a hobby she also enjoys composing and writing poems and songs and painting.

Commissioner Kaylene O'KEEFE grew up in Mount Isa before moving to her parents' hometown of Doomadgee in 1990. Married to Dwayne O'Keefe since 2001, Commissioner O'Keefe is a mother of three daughters, and she became a grandmother to a granddaughter in 2023. Her past employment has included time working at the local store, in accounts at the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and as a Family Support Worker with RAATSICC. Since 2018 Doomadgee Commissioner O'Keefe has been involved with the Strong Women's Group and has mentored Indigenous women. Commissioner O'Keefe hopes that her role as a Local Commissioner with the Family Responsibilities Commission will enable her to play a significant part in improving outcomes for Doomadgee families. Commissioner O'Keefe enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with her family, in particular her young grandson.

Commissioner Eleanor LOGAN (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) grew up in Doomadgee, before moving to Banyo College in Brisbane to complete Year 11. Commissioner Eleanor Logan continued to further her education, gaining a Certificate III and a Diploma of Children's Services, and trained in the area of Aged Care Management. Recognising the need for a support network for young mothers in Doomadgee, Commissioner Eleanor Logan was instrumental in forming a playgroup for young mums. She was a Councillor with the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council from 2008 to 2012. Married to fellow Doomadgee Commissioner Christopher Logan, she says family is her priority. She has fostered many children and is presently fostering two young



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boys. Doomadgee Commissioner Eleanor Logan is currently the Director of the Doomadgee Child Care Centre. When not working she enjoys camping, fishing and spending time with her 16 grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

Commissioner Guy DOUGLAS (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) has always lived in Doomadgee, apart from a year spent completing his education at Atherton State High School. He has worked as an Aboriginal Health Worker, Senior Community Worker, Police Liaison Officer, Project Worker at 54 Reasons (formerly Save the Children) for the Doomadgee Deadly Homes Program, a Senior Community worker and Health Services Manager for Gidgee Healing. Doomadgee Commissioner Douglas is currently employed as an Indigenous Liaison Officer for the Rheumatic Heart Disease project with QLD Health. In this role Commissioner Douglas provides assistance to hospital staff in the management and treatment of community members suffering from Rheumatic Heart Disease.

Commissioner Douglas is married to Cecilia, is father to six children and they have five grandchildren. Commissioner Douglas, along with his wife, has spent many years volunteering with young people in the community and as a leader of the local Brethren Church. He is also a board member of the Doomadgee Health Council. When he is not busy coaching the local women's softball team, 'The Bushfires', he likes nothing better than to go back out on country to hunt, fish and camp. Doomadgee Commissioner Douglas is a firm believer that education must begin at home from a young age to form a strong foundation for the future.

Commissioner Isabel TOBY (Waanyi / Gangalidda Clans) was born in Doomadgee and has lived most of her life there. Married to Christopher Toby, Isabel has three sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren who she loves having around. Having not had the opportunity to attend boarding school herself, Commissioner Toby was determined that her own children would not miss out on a good education and has sent each of them to boarding school to further their studies. One of her sons is currently in his last

year of a carpentry apprenticeship. Commissioner Toby would also like her grandchildren to follow in the same steps to ensure they receive the education they deserve. Doomadgee Commissioner Toby has worked at Centrelink, the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council and Job Futures and as a teacher aide. She is currently employed as a Team Leader to Family Support Workers at 54 Reasons where she has worked for ten years. She enjoys helping her community to ensure a positive future for their children and families. Commissioner Toby commenced as a founding Local Commissioner for Doomadgee in August 2014 until 8 June 2017. She has since re-joined the Commission as a Local Commissioner on 1 November 2019.

Commissioner Dawn APLIN (Waanyi Clan) was born in Burketown. She moved to Doomadgee as a young child where she attended the Doomadgee State School until she completed Year 7. She then moved to Malanda to attend Malanda State High School to complete Years 8 and 9. After she completed her schooling Commissioner Aplin moved back to Doomadgee and commenced working. Commissioner Aplin's work experience includes working for the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council as a Pay Clerk for 11 years, and for the Community Development Employment Projects program as a Sign-up Officer. Since 2016 Commissioner Aplin has been working at 54 Reasons. Commissioner Dawn Aplin has five children, three boys and two girls, is a grandmother of 18 grandchildren and a great-grandmother of three great-grandchildren with another one on the way. She enjoys fishing in her spare time as well as going out on country with her family to camp and hunt. Commissioner Aplin feels committed to helping young parents in the community and this is what inspired her to become a Local Commissioner.

On 1 November 2019 Dawn Aplin was appointed as a Doomadgee Local Commissioner. Coupled with her employment at 54 Reasons, Commissioner Aplin sees her work as a Local Commissioner as being extremely important in aiding and guiding young families in the community.

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Commissioner Wendy TAYLOR (Lardil / Gangalidda / Garrawa Clans) was born in Doomadgee where she attended Doomadgee State School as well as School of the Air, whilst living on an outstation. Commissioner Taylor later attended school in Malanda where she completed Years 8-10. After completing school, Commissioner Taylor returned to Doomadgee where she commenced working in various positions in the community. She worked at both the Doomadgee shop and the Doomadgee State School for a couple of years each and is currently working at the Doomadgee Childcare Centre where she has been since 2000.

Commissioner Taylor spends her personal time fishing, hunting and collecting bush tucker with her friends and family. She is a mother of five children, grandmother of 18 grandchildren and great-grandmother of five great-grandchildren. Commissioner Taylor became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Leila CAIRNS (Waanyi Clan) was born at Gregory Downs Station. She attended school in Burketown and Doomadgee before moving to Brisbane to complete Year 9, and then to Malanda to complete Year 10. After completing school, Commissioner Leila Cairns returned to Doomadgee where she held various positions in the community. She has managed both the aged care facility and the local bakery, worked in the local store for five years, held the position of receptionist at the Doomadgee Rural Hospital for 15 years, and worked as a health worker for 10 years. Commissioner Leila Cairns has four children, 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. In her spare time, Commissioner Leila Cairns enjoys time with her family fishing, camping and spending time outside. When she is not enjoying the great outdoors, she likes to attend church and participate in Christian conventions held throughout the state. Commissioner Leila Cairns became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Virginia Grace COLLINS (Waanyi / Gangalidda / Garrawa Clans) was born in Mt Isa but has lived in Doomadgee for most of her life. Whilst in Doomadgee, Commissioner Collins attended Doomadgee State School. After

completing school, she commenced working with Community Development Employment Projects in Doomadgee and then other organisations such as the store and the Women's Shelter before settling into her current employment with the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council in the Post Office, where she has been employed since 2020. Commissioner Collins is a mother of two boys and is eagerly waiting to become a grandmother. She enjoys going out bush camping and fishing, as well as reading and spending time with family and friends. Commissioner Collins became a Doomadgee Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Hope Vale

Commissioner Priscilla GIBSON (nee BOWEN) has ancestral heritage to the following clan groups: Dharrba Warra and Bagaarmugu from both her parents with the latter being from her mother. From her grandparents she also has traditional affiliation with the Walkaman and Birraguba clan group from her maternal grandmother and the latter from her father's dad. Putting this aside she is a Guugu Yimithirr woman, born and raised in the Hope Vale community, with a strong cultural background intertwined with her own cultural spiritual beliefs and customs immersed into her spiritual and religious beliefs of the Lutheran teachings.

Commissioner Gibson has lived in Hope Vale all her life only leaving the community for education and working purposes.

Commissioner Gibson has a Diploma in Early Childhood having trained as a Kindy craft teacher at the Creche and Kindergarten and a Diploma in Nursing, having trained at the Cairns Hospital and qualified as an endorsed enrolled nurse. She has a Diploma in Advanced Health Worker/Nutritionist, and Health Promotion with the University of Sydney and completed her research qualification. She has completed the Parent Training Program, Parent Child Interaction Therapy-Circle of Security, Positive Parenting Program, Behavioural and Emotional Skills and Defiant Teens program.

She has a diversified working background having worked in various organisations in both



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management and operational duties as well as holding positions on Boards in the role of Director and committee member. Previously Commissioner Gibson has worked as a Parenting Officer with Cape York Partnership. Currently she works in the role of Project Officer/Support Officer with the Rinyirru (Lakefield) Aboriginal Corporation dealing with the jointly managed National Park, assisting her clan groups to create employment in tourism ventures and play a role in the management and governance. Commissioner Gibson also gives back to her community in participating as a community elder in the role of Local Commissioner for the FRC.

Commissioner Priscilla is a community person, and her interest and purpose is helping her community, and especially the young people, to take control of their lives through education. She achieves this by working with the parents in an informal way and seeks support from the various organisations that service the community to strengthen, mentor and support the parents. She instills in people not to forget the power of their own culture in how they communicate and care for each other, and that the power lies with them, it is with the people.

Commissioner Doreen HART OAM (Binhthi / Bulcan Clans) was selected as a Cape York representative for the 2015 Emerging Leaders Program hosted by Jawun. In 2021 Commissioner Hart, with the support of her workplace, completed her Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care. Her former roles include Engagement Officer for Cape York Empowered Communities Backbone Organisation, Community Development Officer with Living Change at the Wunan Foundation, Chief Executive Officer for the Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Housing Officer for the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council. In December 2021 Commissioner Doreen Hart retired from her position as Team Leader/Service Provider with Apunipima Cape York Health Council. Commissioner Hart is enjoying retirement with family and friends, with grandchildren playing a big part in her life.

Local Commissioner Hart is a Justice of the Peace (Qualified) and a member of the Thurrpiil

Community Justice Group. On 26 January 2015 Hope Vale Commissioner Hart was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community.

Commissioner Cheryl Florence CANNON is a strong, determined, and motivated Indigenous woman from Hope Vale. Commissioner Cannon loves the precious time she spends with her family including 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Some of her children live in different parts of Australia but they are all close to her heart. Commissioner Cannon enjoys her leisure time pottering around home and tending to her garden.

She has had a career in education across Cape York, teaching and in leadership roles within a number of schools. After a brief retirement, Hope Vale Commissioner Cannon's commitment to education had her employed as a Student Development Officer at the Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA. Her role involved engaging community people to be more active within the school community, in addition to providing support for school attendance and incorporating cultural aspects within the school. Commissioner Cheryl has high expectations for her family to do well in school, be positive role models, and always do the right thing.

From 2021 to February 2023 Commissioner Cannon was the Education Coordinator of the CYAAA Hope Vale Playschool which is a learning environment for children aged 0 to 4 years. Their learning is focused on literacy, language and numeracy, delivered through fun and enjoyable activities for children and their parents. In 2023 Commissioner Cannon commenced in a new role as Secretary of the Thurrpiil Community Justice Group. Commissioner Cannon enjoys being involved in community events that engage all age groups.

Cheryl joined the Commission as a Hope Vale Local Commissioner in August 2014. She enjoys using her FRC role to support and encourage families to be the best people they can be. In 2023 Commissioner Cannon met up with two former students who have joined the FRC, one as a Local Commissioner in Coen and the other as

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a teacher aide in Hope Vale. “We were all once Teacher-Student now we are colleagues - such proud moments”. As a Commissioner for Hope Vale, Cheryl’s vision and values run parallel to that of the wider community, and she is eager to set in motion change for the positive future of Hope Vale. Always care for your children!

Commissioner Erica DEERAL (Gamaay / Waymbuurr Clans) retired from her position of Administrative/Accounts Officer with the Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA in 2019. She enjoyed working at the school and seeing school attendance improve so that young children can obtain an education to better their futures. Prior to this Hope Vale Commissioner Deeral held administrative positions with the North Queensland Land Council and Cook Shire and Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Councils. She also held a role in the live performance and re-enactment of the landing of Captain Cook and his interactions with the Guugu Yimithirr Bama at the Cooktown and Cape York Expo 2021.

She attended Hope Vale State School, Cairns West State School, Trinity Bay High School and the Cairns Business College. She is a traditional owner, a Director of the Hope Vale Congress Aboriginal Corporation, and a Director of her own Gamaay Warra family business. In January 2022 she was elected as Deputy Chair of Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation before being appointed as Chairperson in August 2022. In 2024 Commissioner Deeral was appointed as a Director on the Board of Gungarde Community Centre Aboriginal Corporation. These positions reinforce her vision of providing a range of services and positive initiatives for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Cooktown and surrounding areas.

Commissioner Deeral is a mother of two sons and grandmother of five granddaughters and one grandson. Commissioner Deeral became a Hope Vale Local Commissioner on 20 October 2011.

Commissioner Selina KERR-BOWEN is married to Ronald Bowen from the Thuubi / Dharrba Warra Clans of Hope Vale. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has two children and one adopted son from the many children that she and her husband cared for

over the years while being kinship carers. Both of her sons graduated from Peace Lutheran College in 2013. Her daughter Nancee-Rae is currently schooling at St Patrick’s College in Townsville. She is striving to also graduate secondary school, like her older brothers, Warwick and Coleridge. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has lived in Hope Vale for most of her life, only leaving to complete her secondary schooling in Brisbane where she graduated from Hendra High in Nundah. After leaving school her former jobs have included being an Assistant Manager for the local food store, an agent for the Commonwealth Bank in Hope Vale, a Parenting Consultant where she delivered the Triple P program for Cape York Partnership, and a Councillor from 2016 to 2020 with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council.

Hope Vale Commissioner Kerr-Bowen commenced with the Commission on 14 May 2015 and feels good parenting is vitally important. She would like other parents to also enjoy the close relationship and respect from their teenagers that she enjoys with her children. Over the years Commissioner Kerr-Bowen and her husband have committed their time as General Carers. Since 2019 they have been raising four children who were placed into Child Safety. Commissioner Kerr-Bowen has recently undertaken, and greatly enjoys, organising functions for women in the community, such as Mother’s Day and other related Women’s events.

Commissioner Robert GIBSON (Bulgun Warra / Aba Yeerrkoya Clans) was born and raised in Brisbane and is one of six children. His family, though originally from Hope Vale, moved to Brisbane to access medical treatment for his eldest brother. Commissioner Robert Gibson attended Zillmere North State School and in 1982 completed Year 12 at Aspley State High School. He continued his tertiary studies at TAFE prior to attaining a boilermaker apprenticeship at the Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Army Barracks.

In 1984 he was happy to return to his family’s homeland of Hope Vale and secured employment as a Deckhand at Cape Flattery until 1991. Following his work at Cape Flattery Commissioner



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Robert Gibson gained employment with the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council as a Debtor's Clerk/Administration Officer. In 1993 he was elected as Deputy Chairperson of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council. After completing a Certificate of Justice Studies, Community Policing at Innisfail's TAFE he was employed as a Police Liaison Officer in Mossman from 1996 to 1999, later transferring to Hope Vale.

Commissioner Robert Gibson has been Director and Deputy Chair for both Alka Bawar Aboriginal Corporation (Bathurst Heads) and Kalpowar Aboriginal Land Trust. These positions included the sourcing of funding and planning for on country development. On 1 November 2019 Robert Gibson was appointed as a Hope Vale Local Commissioner.

Commissioner Robert Gibson has been blessed with two daughters and one grandson who live in the Cooktown and Hope Vale area. Fishing and camping have been a big part of his life and he has a new-found hobby of carpentry in constructing planter boxes.

Commissioner Kathryn Dora GIBSON (Thuubi/Dhaarrba/Biri Gaba Clans), or Dora as she prefers to be called, is currently employed by My Pathway as an Activity Supervisor and works at the newly established Hope Vale Community Activity Hub.

She is married to Trevor Gibson from the Bulgun/Binthei clans, and has four children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren of whom she is very proud.

She has had a career in education which spanned almost 40 years, initially in administration at the Hope Vale State School and then as a teacher-aide. After years as a teacher-aide, she was encouraged to study for her teaching diploma. She graduated with a bachelor degree, which was special as she graduated together with her daughter Tamara. Within her teaching role, she was seconded as a multi-lit teacher for two years, also holding down many acting-principal positions, the last being at Coen State School. She retired from teaching in 2012.

In 2013 Commissioner Dora Gibson applied for and was successful in acquiring a role as the

Education & Youth Support Officer for the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, a position she held for four years. In 2018 she was offered a position with My Pathway at the Youth Hub. This role focused on after-school and holiday activities at the hub for school children. Within this role she worked closely with the school, supporting them with incentives, and used the Hub to manage behaviour and improve attendance.

Commissioner Dora Gibson is passionate about keeping her language and culture alive and works tirelessly with her husband to run cultural programs in the community. Commissioner Dora Gibson became a Hope Vale Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Mossman Gorge

Commissioner Loretta SPRATT OAM (Olkola / Lama Lama Clans) was born on Thursday Island but spent her infant years in Coen and Hope Vale. She remained in Hope Vale throughout her childhood until her late teens when she met Nathan McLean, a young man visiting from Mossman Gorge. Commissioner Spratt later moved to the Gorge where she resided for many years with Nathan before buying a house and moving to Mossman in February 2018. Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt has previously worked in the areas of sport and recreation. She has completed a Certificate III in horticulture, discovering her true passion in life, and is currently employed by Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Aboriginal Corporation (BBNAC) propagating and using native plants and trees in landscaping.

On 26 January 2015 Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in recognition of her services to the community. She has a keen interest in art and a love of reading and continues to learn new skills to complement her Local Commissioner role in the community. Mossman Gorge Commissioner Spratt continues to work closely with young people and the women of her community to promote strong, healthy and supportive families. On weekends she likes to

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spend time with her nieces and nephews fishing, enjoying the natural beauty of the Daintree area, reading and particularly gardening at home.

Commissioner George ROSS-KELLY (Kuku Nyungkul / Kuku Yalanji Clans) was born and raised in Mossman where he attended Miallo State School and Mossman State School. He is the eldest of two children and is proud to be fluent in the Kuku Yalanji language which he has passed down to his children and grandchildren.

In the mid-1980s Commissioner George Ross-Kelly became a resident of the Mossman Gorge community during which time he was employed as a bus driver, providing transport for community residents to shop in Mossman and to go on country excursions which included camping and fishing trips. Further positions held include a role as Supervisor of the landscaping and gardening unit of BBNAC, and Team Leader in the Woodwork Unit of the Mossman Art Centre which afforded him the opportunity to indulge his hobbies of woodwork and using a lathe.

He returned to bus driving in 2004 when he commenced employment with Country Road Coachlines – a service running from Cairns to Cooktown. In 2006 he returned to working closer to home with FNQ Bus Lines which provided a school bus run for the Mossman Gorge and Newell Beach areas.

Mossman Gorge Commissioner Ross-Kelly joined the FRC as a Local Commissioner on 1 November 2019. He finds his role with the FRC enriching as it enables him to use his skills and aptitude to communicate with community members, providing support and empathy. He is empowered by the opportunity to learn new skills.

His weekend activities include fishing at Newell Beach and Rocky Point and camping in the Daintree and Rossville/Cooktown areas with his family.

Commissioner Daphne CREEK (Kuku Nyungkul / Southern Kaantju Clans) was born and raised in Mossman where she attended Mossman State School and Mossman State High School. She is the youngest of two children and is a proud mum of six children. In 2012 Commissioner Daphne

Creek purchased her first home with her husband and sons.

Working as a health worker in the late 1990's immersed Commissioner Daphne Creek into the Mossman Gorge community whilst linking families with support services. Early in 2003 saw Commissioner Daphne Creek embark on her career with BBNAC. There she has worked in many roles including administration, finance and payroll and as housing manager.

Weekends include spending time with family and enjoying a meal together. Gardening and quiet times at home are also important to Commissioner Daphne Creek.

Commissioner Daphne Creek became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Zara RYAN (Yalanji / Nyungkul and Southern Kaantju Clans) was born in Cairns and raised in Mossman, where she completed school at Mossman State High School. She has three siblings and a young daughter.

Working part-time whilst completing her secondary studies, Commissioner Ryan worked in a local café and for an Indigenous Family Support Service. Training and skilling herself with tools to grow and progress in January 2019 took Commissioner Ryan to Ayers Rock in a position as front office receptionist. With the ever-changing world in 2020, she moved back to Mossman to be closer to family. Commissioner Ryan has a very relatable perspective of growing up in the area as a young Indigenous person, assisting her ability to interact with clients in an authentic and genuine manner.

Having a love of all sports, at seventeen Commissioner Ryan was a representative in the under 18's Indigenous Australian Netball Schoolgirl team that travelled to New Zealand. Her interests and passions include continuing to learn her language and culture, and performing and teaching her traditional dancing, which she wants to pass on to her daughter and the younger generation. Commissioner Zara Ryan became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.



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Commissioner Jarrod KULKA (Kuku Yalanji Clan on his father's side and Wulgurukaba People on his mother's side) has lived in Mossman his whole life. Commissioner Kulka attended Mossman State High School, and afterwards went on to gain accreditations including a Certificate II in Conservation and Land Management, Chainsaw Certificate, Construction White Card, and a Certificate III in Tourism.

Commissioner Kulka's background is in skilled manual work as a trainee deckhand, labourer, farmhand, fencing contractor, and he spent time working in the mines as a heavy truck operator. He then went into roles where he could use his strong knowledge of Indigenous culture – a Lead Tour Guide at Mossman Gateway and then a Cultural Awareness Teacher for Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation. He has taught cultural awareness to local businesses and visitors in the area, breaking down barriers and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Commissioner Kulka's calm, stable and easy-going nature enables him to engage with clients respectfully and attentively.

Commissioner Kulka's hobbies and interests on the weekends include rugby league, fishing and hunting which is an important cultural tradition he wishes to continue. Commissioner Kulka became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Commissioner Julie-Ann (Julie) WILLIAMS (Kuku Yalanji Clan) was born and raised in Mossman where she attended both Mossman State School and Mossman State High School. Being one of 12 children, life has always been busy for Commissioner Julie Williams.

She has a passion for encouraging the health and wellbeing of her community. Stepping into the Local Commissioner role is something that seemed a natural progression for her. Having worked for many years in Mossman Gorge, improving people's lives is very close to her heart. Early in her career Commissioner Julie Williams worked as an Indigenous Student Support Officer and teachers-aide, nurturing, and encouraging youth. In 2009 Commissioner Julie Williams embarked on her role as a Youth Development

Coordinator in Mossman delivering youth programs and offering counselling and support to stabilise health and lifestyle.

Her commitment to improving the wellbeing of her community expanded to the role of Parenting Consultant in Mossman Gorge, working closely with many community members. Increasing her skill set then saw Commissioner Julie Williams move into the role of Community Support Worker, supporting families to address alcohol and drug problems. In 2016 Commissioner Julie Williams undertook a role of travelling into thirteen Cape York communities delivering a drug and alcohol program. In 2021 Commissioner Julie Williams felt that she needed to be closer to her family and country and returned to Mossman to undertake her role at Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, hosting a girl's On Country Program.

When not immersing herself into community, Commissioner Julie Williams practices Bowen Therapy and Reiki, enjoys painting, camping and looking after her own wellbeing. Commissioner Julie Williams became a Mossman Gorge Local Commissioner on 5 May 2022.

Registrar

Registrar Maxine McLeod

Maxine McLeod was appointed as the Registrar of the Family Responsibilities Commission on 22 January 2016, having acted as the Registrar/General Manager from 1 January 2015. Prior to this appointment Maxine was seconded to the Commission in November 2009 as the Registrar Support Officer. Upon the Commission migrating its human resource management and financial services in-house in 2012, Maxine was appointed as the Human Resource and Policy Manager. In this role Maxine led the development and application of human resource and strategic/operational policies and procedures. In the role of Registrar Maxine is responsible for managing the registry and the administrative affairs of the Commission. A significant focus of the role includes the development and implementation of appropriate strategies to support the strategic

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capability of the Commission, introducing and implementing reforms and overseeing the operations of the registry.

Prior to joining the Commission Maxine was employed by the Department of Justice and Attorney General for a 17-year period, the last four years of which she spent as the Regional Operations Manager for the State Reporting Bureau.

Having been born and raised in Asia, Maxine has a keen interest in travel, enjoys cooking and is an avid reader and fisherwoman.

Acting Registrar Helen Weedon

Helen was born and raised in Nottingham, England. Originally with a strong science focus she first graduated university with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) Hons in Biological Sciences from Lancaster University. After graduating she moved into the corporate arena and went on to further study whilst working full time. Her additional tertiary qualifications include a Post Graduate Diploma (with Distinction) in Management Studies from Nottingham Trent University and a Post Graduate Masters level qualification in Advanced Investigative Practice. In addition, she has a professional qualification from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), Europe's leading professional body for HR, Learning and Development. Helen is also PRINCE2 project management certified and qualified, and successfully completed the BCI Certificate Examination from the Business Continuity Institute (a global membership association for business continuity and resilience professionals). She believes strongly in the benefits of education and training as a complement to real lived experience.

Helen has also studied at the University of Minnesota in the United States of America and lived in Minneapolis and Saint Paul for a year as part of her BSc Hons, contributing to a rich tapestry of cultural experiences over the years.

Helen has many years professional experience across a very diverse range of industries including Health, Financial Services and Energy. She has

extensive business management and operational skill and capability with multidisciplinary and client focused organisations. Prior to moving to Australia Helen was the Investigations Manager and Security Risk Manager for E.ON UK. After emigrating to Australia in 2010 Helen made Cairns her home and embarked on a lengthy career with Queensland Health where she had responsibility for a large operational portfolio of non-clinical functions comprising of several hundred staff and a \$35m dollar operating budget.

Helen joined the Family Responsibilities Commission in July of 2023 as Acting Registrar when Registrar, Maxine McLeod, took well deserved leave. Helen was then permanently appointed to the position of Registrar on 1 July 2024 and is truly delighted to continue to be a part of delivering on the aims and objectives of the Commission in a permanent capacity.

Community support staff

Local Registry Coordinators

A Local Registry Coordinator has been appointed for each of the welfare reform communities. The function of the Local Registry Coordinators is to support, at the local level, the operations of the Commission in the welfare reform community areas.

The Local Registry Coordinators are:

Aurukun:	Ms Cara Marks
Coen:	Ms Kate Gooding
Doomadgee:	Mr Brenden Joinbee
Hope Vale:	Ms Josephine Pinder
Mossman Gorge:	Ms Kate Gooding