



## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

### Children's Ground announce Evelyn Schaber as Co-Chair

Children's Ground is excited to announce the appointment of Evelyn Schaber as Co-Chair. The appointment recognises the dual and equal roles of men and women in First Nations governance.

Evelyn is an Arrernte woman from Central Australia and a senior First Nations leader with extensive experience across governance, education and First Nations organisations. Born and raised in Mparntwe (Alice Springs), she has worked for over five decades in roles supporting Aboriginal self-determination and community led systems.

Her leadership spans the establishment of key First Nations institutions in the Northern Territory, contributions to national reform processes and decades of senior roles in tertiary education. Evelyn worked with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Aboriginal Legal Aid and the Central Land Council in their early operational periods. She also contributed to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody through the Underlying Issues Unit and has held roles with the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority and the Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Evelyn joins Founding Chair William Tilmouth as co-chair, reflecting Children's Ground's commitment to shared leadership grounded in First Nations governance. The appointment supports continuity, succession planning and long-term leadership stability as the organisation delivers its 25-year, community-led approach.

The co-chair model reflects cultural governance principles, recognising shared responsibility, gendered leadership roles and collective decision making. Evelyn's appointment will strengthen Children's Ground's capacity to engage across communities, systems and institutions at local, Territory and national levels.

#### **Quotes attributable to Evelyn Schaber, Co-Chair of Children's Ground.**

"Stepping into this role is about continuing the vision of our Elders, especially the old girl, Dr M.K. Turner OAM, and carrying that vision forward through strong governance and community authority.

"Shared leadership reflects how our people have always governed through collective responsibility. Having co-chairs strengthens decision making and creates space to comprehensively represent our communities."

“Working alongside William again is a really positive part of this next chapter. Our long history of working together brings trust and a strong foundation for leadership as we move this work forward.”

**Quotes attributable to William Tilmouth, Co-Chair of Children’s Ground and recipient of the 2025 Human Rights Medal.**

“Evelyn brings a lifetime of leadership, experience and cultural authority to this role. She has been part of building the institutions our communities rely on today and understands what it takes to hold systems to account over the long term.

“Shared leadership reflects how our people have always governed. Having Evelyn step into this role strengthens continuity, stability and succession as we continue to push for systems that respect community authority and deliver real outcomes.”

**Quotes attributable to Jane Vadiveloo, CEO of Children’s Ground.**

“Evelyn’s appointment is critical to both our cultural and strategic strength. She has a deep knowledge of community, politics, and education. She is part of the generation who were at the forefront of self-determination in the 1970’s. Her combination of cultural, political and professional knowledge is incredible and brings depth and strength to Children’s Ground at a critical time.

“As an organisation working over a 25-year horizon, strong succession planning and leadership continuity matter. Evelyn’s leadership supports that long term vision and strengthens our ability to work with communities and institutions for sustained change.”

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