

MEDIA RELEASE

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Farewell to a passionate advocate for Aboriginal land rights

The news of the passing of Northern Land Council Chairman Dr Bush-Blanasí was a very sad day for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory and beyond, AMSANT CEO Dr John Paterson said today.

On behalf of AMSANT Board, members, and staff we extend our deepest condolences to Dr Bush-Blanasí's family, NLC Board, members and staff.

"Growing up in Maningrida and Wugularr, Dr Bush-Blanasí learned from his Elders from a young age, both in the artistic community and the land rights movement," said Dr Paterson.

"A major turning point for him was his presence at the Eva Valley Statement meeting and a growing involvement with the NLC, both as an elected member, an executive member and the second longest serving chair.

"In that role he was a passionate advocate for sea and land rights and Two-Way Learning on Country programs.

Dr Bush-Blanasí also served as a member of ATSIC as well as a number of other organisations. In 2023, Dr Bush-Blanasí was awarded an honorary doctorate by Charles Darwin University and was the Northern Territory Australian of the Year.

"He was also a strong friend and supporter to the Aboriginal community-controlled health sector—and provided affective leadership to ensure remote communities were kept safe and protected from covid spreading throughout our remote communities.

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