

Northern Territory Labor

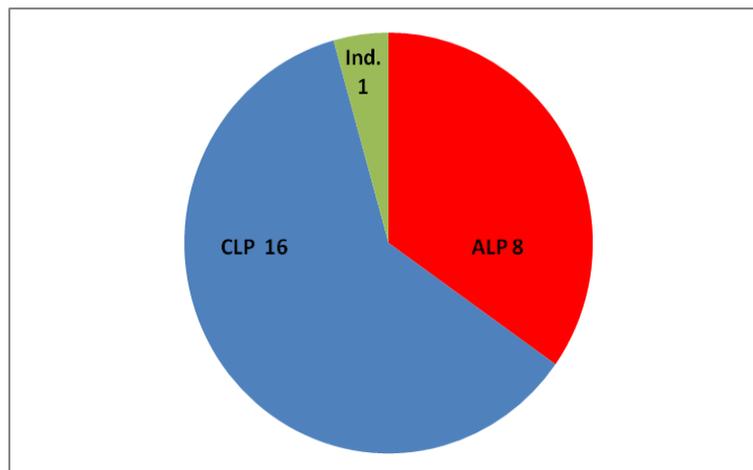
September 2012

The Northern Territory Legislative Assembly Election was held on Saturday 25 August 2012. The result was a uniform swing of 5.2 per cent to the Country Liberal Party (CLP). The CLP won 16 seats in the 25-seat Legislative Assembly and has formed government under Chief Minister Terry Mills.

Labor won a total of eight seats in the Legislative Assembly, five less than at the previous election held in 2008. The Independent Gerry Wood retained the seat of Nelson.

The Labor Government held office for 11 years under Chief Minister Clare Martin and Paul Henderson. The 2012 election result produced only the second change in government since the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly was established in 1974.

Northern Territory Legislative Assembly after 2012 election



Labor Members of the Legislative Assembly

Delia Lawrie, Leader of the Opposition (Karama)

Delia Lawrie was elected in the seat of Karama for the first time in 2001. Prior to this she worked as a journalist and a union organiser. She was appointed to the Ministry after the 2005 election and has since served in a range of different portfolios. She was appointed Treasurer when Paul Henderson became Chief Minister in November 2007, and was Deputy Chief Minister after Marion Scrymgour resigned in February 2009. On 28 August 2012 it was announced that Lawrie would become the new Northern Territory Labor Leader and Leader of the Opposition, following outgoing Chief Minister Paul Henderson's decision to step down. Delia Lawrie is daughter of Dawn Lawrie who served as Independent MLA for Nightcliff 1974-1983.



Ken Vowles (Johnston)

Ken Vowles was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the first time at the 2012 election. Vowles was the unsuccessful Labor candidate in Blain against Terry Mills at the 2008 Territory election. Up until the 2012 election Vowles was employed as a Senior Planner with Parks and Wildlife. Vowles has a wide range of experience working with disadvantaged people and communities across the Territory. Vowles was born in the Northern Territory and has been part of the local Johnston community since attending Jingili Pre School and Primary School. Mr Vowles is a former Australian Under-17s and Under-19s cricketer who gained a scholarship to spend a year at the Australian Cricket Academy 1989-90 and played grade cricket in Adelaide for many years.

Natasha Fyles (Nightcliff)

Natasha Fyles won the seat of Nightcliff at the 2012 election for the first time. The seat was previously held by Labor's Jane Aagaard. Ms Fyles has been a member of the ALP for 18 years and is passionate about health care and education. Fyles is born and bred in Darwin and trained as a teacher at the University of Canberra and has worked as a physical education teacher and a swimming coach. More recently she worked for the government as well as being an active member of the Nightcliff community having been involved in the local swimming club since the age of 15 and is currently Vice President of the Nightcliff Family Childcare Centre.

Paul Henderson (Wanguri)

Paul Henderson retained the seat of Wanguri which he has contested since 1999. Paul Henderson contested Nightcliff in both 1994 and 1997, and was elected as the Member for Wanguri in August 1999 in a by-election following the departure of Labor's John Bailey. He filled numerous different ministerial portfolios following Labor's election to office in 2001. Paul Henderson became Chief Minister of the Northern Territory in November 2007. After the 2012 election Henderson announced that he would step down as leader of the party but intends to stay in parliament, to mentor the new members of Labor's team.

Henderson was born in Croix Chapeau, France, while his father was serving in the US Military. He studied mechanical engineering through the City and Guilds of London Institute and moved to Darwin in the Northern Territory in 1983, working as a marine fitter before he began working for the Northern Territory Government as a computer operator in 1985. He was self-employed as a computer analyst in the UK from 1991 to 1992, and returned to work for the Northern Territory government in 1993.

Kon Vatskalis (Casuarina)

Greek born Kon Vatskalis was re-elected in the seat of Casuarina which he has held since the 2001 election. He was appointed to Cabinet after his election in 2001 and has since worked in a wide range of portfolios including Lands, Planning, Environment, Housing, Local Government, Transport, Infrastructure, Business and Economic Development and Tourism. He has been Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources since the 2008 election, Minister for Health since the February 2009 re-shuffle, and Minister for Children and Families and Minister for Child Safety since late 2009. Vatskalis immigrated to Western Australia in 1983, moving to Darwin in 1993 to work at the Darwin Environmental Health Unit. Later he worked as Director of Clinical Services at the Danila Dilba indigenous health service.



Gerry McCarthy (Barkly)

Gerry McCarthy retained the seat of Barkly which he won for the first time in the 2008 election. McCarthy joined the Ministry in February 2009 where he was appointed Minister for Transport and Minister for Correctional Services since February 2009, and took over the portfolios of Lands and Planning and Construction in late 2009. McCarthy has been a teacher for three decades and has spent many years teaching in the Barkly region, at remote schools as well as in Borroloola and Tennant Creek. He played a key role in founding five Barkly schools. He has worked closely with the diverse Barkly community as an advocate for education, training and employment, health, youth and regional development.

Michael Gunner (Fannie Bay)

Michael Gunner succeeded in increasing his margin in the seat of Fannie Bay, in which he was first elected in 2008 with a 0.9 per cent (78 votes) margin. Gunner was elected in 2008 and was the Government Whip, Parliamentary secretary for Business and Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Prior to his election to parliament he worked as a senior ministerial adviser to the Territory government. Gunner is long-term resident of the Fannie Bay electorate in Darwin. He attended John's College in Darwin and studied at the former Northern Territory University.

Lynne Walker (Nhulunbuy)

Lynne Walker was re-elected at the 2012 election in the seat of Nhulunbuy in which she was first elected to in 2008. Walker is a trained teacher and taught at Palmerston High and Katherine High before arriving to teach at Nhulunbuy High in 1990. In 1996 Walker took on a position as community liaison officer for the local bauxite mine. Walker worked for Rio Tinto's Alcan Gove operation and was an elected member of Nhulunbuy Town Council before being elected to the Legislative Assembly.