

# AIJA Indigenous Youth Justice Conference

## Panellist

### Day 2 – Session 13: Gender Diversity



## The Honourable Chansey Paech MLA Attorney General and Minister for Justice for the Northern Territory

It was after noticing the lack of diversity on his local council that the Hon Chansey Paech MLA [pron. Chan-see Pake] decided to nominate to serve his local community in Central Australia.

The first openly gay Indigenous Member of Parliament in Australia, Chansey was elected to Alice Springs Town Council in 2012 before becoming a member of the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly in 2016; serving as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees.

Addressing the chamber in his maiden parliamentary speech that October he said, “I am young, I am gay, I am Black; a true blue Territorian.”

“I am a proud face of the diversity and future of the great Australian Labor Party.

“[And] I am eternally proud of who I am and where I come from.”

Voted to represent the bush electorate of Gwoja in 2020, Chansey is currently in the second year of a four year term as the Northern Territory’s Minister for Local Government, Minister for Desert Knowledge Australia and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

Recently in May of this year, he also took on the role of Attorney-General and Minister for Justice as well as Minister for Racing, Gaming and Licensing.

Progressive by name and nature, Chansey has long-standing relationships in the Aboriginal community controlled sector in Central Australia and is a tireless campaigner for infrastructure investment, economic development and employment opportunities to retain people in regional, rural and remote areas of the Northern Territory.