



Media Release

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New Citizen Takes the Pledge

The Barkly region is now home to one new Aussie following an Australian Citizenship Ceremony last week.

Barkly Regional Council Mayor Steve Edgington officially swore in Mr Kolinio Vakadurivalelotuvou Delailoa as an Australian citizen in front of his wife, friends and peers in the Council Chambers on Friday, 15 September.

Richard James presented a Welcome to Country for the ceremony, with Councillors Kris Civitarese and Sid Vashist in attendance to celebrate this special occasion.

"I am proud to formally welcome our new Australian citizen, and welcome Mr Delailoa to be part of the Barkly community," the Mayor said.

Kolinio Vakadurivalelotuvou Delailoa

Mr Delailoa was born in the village of Naro, on the remote Island of Moala, Fiji. He finished his schooling there and in 1999 came to Australia for the first time. He liked it so much he vowed to come back one day and in June 2011 his dream came true. He spent most of his time in Sydney, NSW, working as a supervisor for a rail company while waiting for his wife Mere Senigigia Vakadurivalelotuvou Delailoa, a teacher in Fiji, to join him two months later. In 2015 Kolinio moved to Tennant Creek to join his wife who was already working at the Childcare Centre. He got a job at IGA and later at a non-profit organization, Life Without Barriers, as a Disability Support Worker. Kolinio found the work challenging at first but now enjoys his job and is passionate about his new role. Here, in Tennant Creek Kolinio is grateful for the opportunity to develop his career, be part of an advanced health care system and enjoy a better lifestyle and higher standard of living. He is mindful of the responsibilities of being an Australian citizen and says he will respect and value this privilege.

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