



Vale Geoffrey Shaw OAM

Central Land Council chair Warren Williams paid tribute to former deputy chair Geoffrey Shaw OAM, for his lifelong advocacy and leadership of Aboriginal people across Central Australia.

Mr Shaw, who passed away in Alice Springs this morning, was a founding member of the CLC and served as a delegate from its inception until 2006. He attended the landmark meetings in 1973, 1974 and 1975 that followed the Justice Woodward inquiries and led to the creation of the council.

“He gave many years of service to the Central Land Council and to Aboriginal people across Central Australia,” Mr Williams said.

Mr Shaw helped establish Tangentyere Council, later serving as its president, and became the first ATSIC Commissioner for Central Australia. He was a tireless advocate for essential services, housing and greater self-determination for Aboriginal communities throughout the region.

Mr Shaw joined the Australian Army and served in the Indonesian-Malaysian confrontation and completed two tours of duty in Vietnam.

“Mr Shaw believed deeply in service. To country, to community and to the nation,” Mr Williams said.

“His military service shaped his discipline, leadership and strong sense of responsibility, all of which he carried into his work with the CLC.”

A mentor to many young leaders, Mr Shaw inspired future generations to continue the struggle for justice, equality and recognition of Aboriginal rights.

“On behalf of the Central Land Council and the people we represent, I extend our sincere condolences to Mr Shaw’s family and friends,” he said.

“Mr Shaw’s contribution to this organisation, the land rights movement and the wider Central Australian community will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude.”

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