



Issue 51 – 2 July 2024

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Welcome Message

Welcome to the latest edition of my newsletter.

Earlier this month I called for community members interested in helping inform our healthcare services to nominate to become members of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS).

The IOTHS CAC is an incredibly important voice for shaping our health services, including priority areas of focus, emergency needs and risks – and most importantly, what matters to the community.

Your expressions of interest are being assessed and the new committee members will be announced shortly ahead of our first meeting. If you are seeking more information on the process, please email me at IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au or call me on 9164 7959 for further information.

I continue to focus on emergency management and how I can support our communities and stakeholders to be best prepared for any extreme events that come our way.

This has included updating the emergency management plans for Christmas Island and the Cocos Keeling Islands, to reflect not only the requirements of our emergency management frameworks, but to make sure we have best practice plans in place to keep our communities safe in the event of emergencies in the region.

I would like to acknowledge AFP officer in charge (OIC) Detective Sergeant Jeffrey Cukon who will be departing Cocos on the 4th of July. Jeff has been instrumental in the emergency management plans and has kept us informed and prepared in imminent weather threats and events. He has always been willing to share his knowledge, time and expertise and I thank him for his contributions to Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Leading Senior Constable Dan Williams will commence in the acting

role of OIC until a suitable replacement is identified for CKI.

We have also been fortunate to have a number of visitors from the WA government, including the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, who provided vital training and upgrades to our existing infrastructure. Thank you to the Australian Government, the Shires, our volunteers and the community for working with our WA partners to deliver the best outcomes for our region.

You can read more inside, along with the latest on the new marine rescue vessel which is set to land at Christmas Island for final checks before its launch later this year.

I am pleased to share some welcome news for IOT households, with the Australian Government delivering cost of living relief through the Energy Bill Relief Fund. Every household in the IOT will see a \$300 credit automatically applied to their electricity bills and eligible small businesses will receive \$325 off their bills over 2024-25. This relief will be directly applied to people's energy accounts, with the Government to work with territory electricity providers to deliver this support.

I was honoured to be invited to deliver the keynote address at the annual CIDHS Alumni event in Perth on 22 June. It was wonderful to see so many alumni, both staff and students, and current school community members in attendance at the event. As an ex- CIDHS student, I was incredibly proud to tell my story and share the experiences I have gained throughout my schooling years and career, along with my focus as a local in the role of Administrator.

If you would like to find out more about anything in the newsletter or you would like a hardcopy, please contact my office. Let us know if you want us to include your upcoming community event or activity in the newsletter. Stories (including photos) about recent IOT community events are very welcome and can be emailed to IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au.

Farzian Zainal

Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Latest News

An energy transition for the Indian Ocean Territories

The Australian Government is supporting the investigation of a transition to lower emission energy systems across the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) over the next ten years.

Environmental sustainability and the impacts of climate change are significant concerns for the communities of the IOT. Transitioning to lower emission energy systems is a critical step forward in adopting environmentally sustainable practices and addressing the impacts of climate change in our region. It will also align with the Australian Government's objective of achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2050 and is consistent with the community-led strategic plans for both Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

Currently, the IOT relies on diesel generators for 95 per cent of its power generation. There is an opportunity to holistically consider power infrastructure and energy sources for the IOT that are more cost effective and environmentally sustainable.

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is commencing an analysis project to support development of future options for lower emissions energy systems and energy transition across the IOT. This important work will reflect the significant differences between Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands including environment, land availability and topography, weather conditions and existing infrastructure.

In the meantime, the department is investing in the transition to hybrid vehicles and is trialling solar powered air conditioning units for government buildings. These initial measures highlight the importance of incremental and simple changes which can be made by government, business and community to lower emissions.

The future of energy generation in the IOT affects us all, and the community will play a critical role in changing behaviour to ensure that we have a sustainable future for our Island homes. As we move forward with the analysis project, you will be engaged to ensure any impacts to infrastructure and the environment are appropriate for the region and that local voices and values are incorporated into the transition.

I will provide you with an update on the analysis project, including timelines and opportunities for engagement, when this becomes available.

The backbone of our community – celebrating IOT's volunteers



It is hard to imagine our lives in the Indian Ocean Territories without the contributions of volunteers.

Volunteers not only make a difference in our lives, but volunteering knits us together as a community, breaking down barriers and cutting across generations. And volunteers are critical to our emergency services and response – from fighting fires, to helping during weather events and responding to medical and marine emergencies.

The government is committed to supporting our volunteers, including through regular training, so they are ready to protect themselves and our communities. Throughout May and June, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) was on Christmas and Cocos Islands, to deliver vital training in emergency preparedness.

Across Christmas, West and Home Island, the team from DFES delivered volunteer pathway training in case of incidents – including HAZMAT and Bushfire Safety Awareness. DFES also conducted maintenance

training in , Road Crash Rescue, Casualty Handling and Pump Operations. Training and Station inspections were carried out making sure the pumps, and fire stations were up to standard.

On Home Island, the team from DFES also met with Marine Rescue to discuss how to support effective and efficient rescue operations moving forward.

Thank you to the team for making the visit to our region, and taking the time to conduct the invaluable training with our volunteers and meeting with key members of our community including the Office of the Administrator, IOTA Senior Operations and Emergency Management Officers, the VFES Captains of Christmas, Home and West Islands, the AFP Controllers from Christmas Island and Cocos, and the Christmas Island and Cocos Islands Marine Rescue Commanders.

Most of all, thank you to our volunteers who play such an important role right across our region. If you are interested in becoming an emergency services volunteer in the IOT, please contact my office on IOTAdministrator@infrastructure.gov.au or 08 9164 7959 and we can put you in touch with the appropriate organisation.



Protecting Cocos water security through technology



*Photo left: Groundwater telemetry equipment being prepared.
Photo right: Team member Andrew Stevenson measuring inside a gallery pump station.*

There is nothing more important to the community than the sustainable and consistent provision of clean water, particularly through times of emergency. Ensuring water levels remain adequate to service hundreds of people at a time including during changing climate conditions is paramount, and can only be assured through the collection of data.

For Cocos as one of Australia's most remote communities, technology – and more specifically telemetry – is vital to providing real-time water measuring data across vast distances.

Recently, the WA Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) IOT team made the trip over to Cocos to install telemetry equipment into four wells to measure groundwater levels.

Thanks to the wireless capabilities of the telemetry systems, the data from the wells are sent daily via satellite to a monitoring team thousands of kilometres away on the mainland.

The services provided by DWER in the IOT are funded by the Australian Government.

While on island, the team from DWER also conducted an audit of the monitoring equipment already installed, to make sure high-quality data was being transmitted back to the central server.



Photo left: Team member Tony Falkland inspecting a multipoint salinity monitoring bore. Photo right: Field team with recently installed groundwater telemetry system. Aaron Gwynn-Thomas, Judith Le Gresley and Andrew Stevenson (left to right).

The installation of the monitoring equipment could not have been completed without close collaboration with the community – including the Water Corporation, the Shire and a local plumber, whose local knowledge and expertise was used to securely fit the new equipment to the old infrastructure.

Overall, the trip to Cocos was highly successful, with confirmation of the data successfully being remotely sent to Perth.

The team will next assess similar options for Christmas Island, which has a different environment to Cocos, but water security which is equally as important to protect.

Thanks to the DWER IOT team who installed the equipment, including Andrew Stevenson the Senior Hydrogeologist who led the trip, with Judith Le Gresley leading the telemetry installation on-site and Aaron Gwynn-Thomas present to support.

Thank you also to Tony Falkland, an Island hydrology expert who provided advice and assisted with the audit.



The field team, Tony Falkland, Aaron Gwynn-Thomas, Judith Le Gresley and Andrew Stevenson (left to right).

New marine rescue vessel making waves

The new marine rescue vessel for Christmas Island is almost ready to launch, following a series of sea trials recently undertaken in Queensland

The results of the trials were extremely successful. The new vessel includes modern capabilities including enhanced instrumentation and ease of handling.

Rod Twitchin Marine is now working on a Safety Management System for the new vessel, which will consider the distinct marine conditions of the region.

The new vessel is in the process of being shipped to CI to undergo and complete a schedule of training and commissioning.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day '24

The Indian Ocean Territories Health Service hosted a special morning for all Christmas Island seniors in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. More than 50 seniors from all different backgrounds gathered at the Poon Saan Community Hall to participate in this worthy and important event.

According to Advocare WA, one in six older Australian seniors experience some form of abuse and 75 per cent of abusers are family members.

AFP Constable Braidee Bell opened the event with a warm welcome and highlighted the importance of elder abuse awareness, followed by a special Kompong drumming performance by the Christmas Island District High School Year 7 LOTE students.



Guest speaker Charlotte Solomon, a solicitor from Elder Rights WA, informed and educated the seniors about the different types of elder abuse, with clear examples of financial abuse, neglect, emotional and physiological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and social isolation. The seniors were then equipped with important strategies to reduce the risk of being abused, including the importance of enduring power of guardianship, advanced health care directives, enduring power of attorney and wills and estate planning. Thanks to Zaleha Aksan and Suzanne Chan who translated this very important message into Malay and Mandarin.

Hafiz Masli entertained the crowd with great vocal performances while seniors participated in a pledge wall activity. The Shire of Christmas Island and some IOTHS staff members sponsored morning tea, and some of the seniors won a few lucky draw prizes donated by CI Charities.

Thanks to all sponsors for making this event one to remember, including the Shire of Christmas Island and IOTHS staff, the Community Resource Centre, CI Charities and Legal Aid WA for your assistance and support. Thanks also to Ms Julie Figliomeni and her Year 7 students, James Pan, Zaleha Aksan, Charlotte Solomon, Constable Braidee Bell, Hafiz Masli, Oliver Lines, Suzanne Chan and the community health team at IOTHS for all the planning, preparation and work behind the scenes.



Community Bulletins



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Community Bulletin

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

Number: D12/24. Date: 26 June 2024.

Release of the Service Delivery Arrangement Annual Report

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (the department) is pleased to release the 2022-23 annual report on service delivery by Western Australian government agencies to the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT).

The Australian Government, through the department, provides funding to WA agencies to deliver services to Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI).

Some highlights from the 2022-23 reporting year include:

- provision of new Heritage services from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, along with Office of the Information Commissioner services relating to the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)
- visit by the WA Local Government Grants Commission to meet with IOT local governments to discuss access to Financial Assistance Grants
- commencement of an Authorised Inspection Service on CKI through the Department of

Transport

- attendance of crews from CKI Home Island and CI Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) at the WA Fire and Emergency Services Volunteer Conference and participation in a range of training activities
- there were 73 WA Seniors Card holders living on CI and 38 on CKI, with cards issued through the Department of Communities
- IOT libraries received 4,194 items, including English language and materials in languages other than English from the State Library of WA
- seven visits by Legal Aid to CI and two visits to CKI.

A copy of the report, including a summary and full list of highlights of the services delivered by WA agencies during 2022-23, is available on the department's website at:

[Service delivery arrangements | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

The Australian Government remains committed to delivering high quality, fit-for-purpose services to the IOT through service delivery agreements (SDA) with the WA Government.

Fact sheets on all SDA services are available at: [Service Delivery Arrangements—fact sheets | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts](#)

Adam Stankevicius

Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch



Number: D13/24. Date: 27 June 2024.

Update on the IOT Air Services Tender

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts is currently considering responses from the market for a

long-term air services partner for the Indian Ocean Territories, following the tender closing recently.

The request for tender (RFT) was informed by consultation with the Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands communities through a comprehensive survey of air services conducted in the second half of 2023, which identified key priorities like airfare and pricing, service reliability, seat availability, baggage limits and speed of recovery services.

The responses are assessed against key criteria, supporting an air service provider to best meet the needs of the Indian Ocean Territories' residents, tourists and businesses while delivering value-for-money.

The Department will keep the community informed throughout the procurement process, and remains committed to supporting the delivery of critical aviation services to the Indian Ocean Territories.

The successful tenderer will deliver both passenger and air freight services to the IOT for a period of five years, with two possible two-year extension options.

Adam Stankevicius
Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch

Job Opportunities



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts



Business Manager - Health Service

**Indian Ocean Territories Health Services
Territory Executive Level 1 - Christmas Island
Full Time Ongoing Vacancies
\$92,127 - \$122,129 per annum
(a remote support package may be offered)**

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking a motivated, professional and suitably qualified person to join our team as Business Manager based on Christmas Island. The Business

Manager is primarily responsible for delivering high quality administrative, financial and business management support to the Health Service Manager and the Health Service Stream. In addition, the Business Manager is responsible for undertaking key project, procurement and contract management activities.

Our ideal candidate will have demonstrated experience and knowledge of financial processes and procurement policies and governance. They will manage simultaneous tasks, work under pressure to meet deadlines, and deliver quality business outcomes. Further, they will be highly motivated people who want to make a difference; and be effective networkers who will build strong partnerships across the IOTA, the wider department and external stakeholders and service providers.

The successful candidate will demonstrate high level communication skills; be experienced in analysing information and documentation, preparing complex correspondence, managing open tender procurement process and preparing financial related documentation. They will also have effective leadership skills with previous experience supervising, mentoring, training and supporting employees, managing performance, scheduling and delegating tasks, and ensuring activity compliance.

A demonstrated understanding of Australian Government procurement policies and governance and the IOTA governance arrangements and functions; the ability to work effectively in a remote and multicultural environment; experience using government financial management systems (SAP), and tertiary qualifications in Accounting and/or Finance will be well regarded.

To be considered, applicants must be eligible to obtain security clearance at baseline vetting level (must be an Australian citizen), obtain a satisfactory Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check and hold a driver's licence transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories. The successful candidate will also be subject to a pre-engagement health assessment.

For further information about this unique and exciting opportunity or for an application pack outlining how you can apply, please contact the IOT Human

Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au
and quote position number 109331.

**Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local
time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Friday 5 July 2024**



Australian Government
**Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts**



District Medical Officer Christmas Island

Serving the local community

**Full time Ongoing Vacancy Remuneration Package
\$400K+**

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking a motivated and suitably qualified professional to join our enthusiastic and multidisciplinary team as a District Medical Officer (DMO) within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on Christmas Island.

The IOTHS delivers a primary and acute health care service in two of Australia's most remote and most spectacular settings - Christmas Island (CI) and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (CKI). The IOTHS includes a 24 hour eight bed hospital and primary care facility on CI and clinics on Home and West Islands in the CKI. The IOTHS is committed to "Working with our communities to keep us healthy for the whole of our lives".

The DMO works in a team and is primarily responsible for delivering comprehensive medical services to the community of Christmas Island using a culturally appropriate approach. The DMO provides general practice services and inpatient care as required, after hours' emergency medical care and preventative health care.

Our ideal candidate will have demonstrated recent and substantial experience working effectively in general practice in a rural and remote cross cultural environment, recent experience working in an Emergency Department and the ability to work independently, make sound medical judgements and manage the emergency environment. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to working

collaboratively with other health disciplines to deliver quality health outcomes and have excellent communication skills including experience in preparing reports for medical practitioners and health professionals.

The successful candidate must hold a current unconditional and unrestricted registration as a Medical Practitioner, General in Australia with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), relevant post graduate qualification, class C driver's license transferrable to the Indian Ocean Territories and a Western Australian Working with Children Check.

Further the successful candidate will be subject to a pre-employment health check and screening (including a Nationally Coordinated Criminal History Check) and provide proof of vaccination or immunisation as required by the IOTHS.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTHRTeam@infrastructure.gov.au and quote position number 109161.

Applications close 4.00PM (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Monday 15 July 2024

Community Announcements

Sports Visits to the IOT – Upcoming Dates



Rugby League (NRLWA)

Coach: Gethin Thomas

- **Christmas Island:** Friday 19 to Tuesday 23 July 2024
- **Cocos Keeling Islands:** Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 July 2024



ATHLETICS WEST

Athletics West

Coach: Kylie Wheeler

- **Cocos Keeling Islands:** Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 August 2024
- **Christmas Island:** Friday 9 to Friday 16 August 2024

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



Late changes will be posted on the Roundabout Blackboard and [Facebook](#).

Adults \$ 5.00

School aged children 3 to 17 years old \$2.00



Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (MA15+)

SATURDAY - 6th July, 7.30pm

The origin story of renegade warrior Furiosa before her encounter and teamup with Mad Max.

Want to sponsor an upcoming movie?

You will receive 2 free passes, special seating, food platter with your favourite nibbles, drinks of your choice and a public announcement on the evening of the movie. We will advertise your company or individual message in the Islander, Facebook Page, on the world's most remote roundabout and one of the last remaining outdoor Cinema screens. (Your choice of movie and date will be dependent upon availability.)

Volunteers needed for projection, bucket collection and to assist on the Executive Committee.

To become part of this exciting club or enquire about sponsorship, please Email:

cioutdoorcinema@gmail.com

or accounts@cinema.org.cx

Rating information provided by

<http://www.classification.gov.au>.

The Christmas Island Cinema Club is proudly supported by: CiFi, Freightshop, Shire of Christmas Island, Metro Solar and many local sponsors and volunteers.

*** THE CHRISTMAS ISLAND CINEMA IS A SMOKE FREE AREA ***

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Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Office of the Administrator of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

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