



Australian Government



Queensland Government

# Summary of the Intergovernmental Agreement on State Service Delivery to Norfolk Island

The *Intergovernmental Agreement on State Service Delivery to Norfolk Island* (IGA) provides the basis for a partnership between the Australian Government and the Queensland Government to provide state-level services to Norfolk Island on an enduring basis.

## Objects of the IGA

The IGA provides a mechanism for a long-term partnership for delivery of state services to Norfolk Island, including:

- The implementation of legal, regulatory and governance arrangements that enable or support service delivery to Norfolk Island.
- The delivery of services identified as critical priorities, including health and education services, by Queensland.
- The collaborative exploration of, and community consultation on, delivery options for additional services.
- The establishment of a mechanism to proactively engage with the Norfolk Island community in the implementation and delivery of services.

## Legal framework

The IGA is entered into by parties as an arrangement under section 18C(1) of the Norfolk Island Act 1979 (NI) which allows for the Commonwealth to enter into arrangements with a State for the effective application and administration of the laws in force in Norfolk Island.

## Terms of the IGA

The IGA is not legally binding, but provides agreement between the parties to applying their best endeavors to achieve its objects.

## Roles

The Australian Government has ultimate responsibility for service delivery to the residents of Norfolk Island, even where services are delivered by Queensland.

The Australian Government is responsible for:

- fully funding the delivery of services by Queensland
- providing Queensland with information required to achieve the objects of the IGA
- ensuring the Norfolk Island legislative framework facilitates delivery of the objects of the IGA.

The Queensland Government is responsible for:

- ensuring the provision of priority services of health and education,
- working collaboratively with the Australian Government to explore and determine options for additional services to residents of Norfolk Island in the future
- delivering and providing administrative oversight of services provided by Queensland.

## Governance and Decision-Making

The Norfolk Island Oversight Committee (NIOC) includes senior executive-level representation from both the Queensland and Australian Governments, and provides:

- strategic direction and leadership to ensure the effective delivery of services to Norfolk Island
- monitoring of high-level issues and risks
- endorsement of new service schedules, for consideration by respective governments.

## Activities under the IGA

Under the IGA, the Australian and Queensland Governments will

- Collaborate on the design of services to achieve the best service delivery outcomes, ensuring service standards comparable with similar mainland remote communities, considering the current availability of services, existing infrastructure and other factors unique to Norfolk Island.
- Develop service schedules, agreed between the Australian and Queensland Governments, that set out how Queensland will deliver agreed services for Norfolk Island.

Services can be provided directly by Queensland state bodies and employees, or through third-party arrangements put in place by Queensland.

The IGA does not prevent the Australian Government from sourcing alternative service delivery arrangements for services typically defined as state-level services.

## Priority Services

The IGA identifies “priority services” that will commence being delivered by Queensland on 1 January 2022. These are:

- the support of Norfolk Island Health and Residential Aged Care Service
- operation of the Norfolk Island Central School.

Additionally, the IGA states that within one year after execution of the IGA [22 October 2021], the parties will commence exploring options for providing additional services, including:

- regulation of early childhood education
- working with children and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) worker screenings.

## Additional Services

The IGA provides that parties will work collaboratively to address identified needs for the community, and explore and determine delivery options for the potential provision for additional services. Following agreement by NIOC, final agreement to any additional services rests with the Queensland Government.

## Engagement

The Australian Government has ultimate responsibility for consultation and engagement with the residents of Norfolk Island. This does not prevent Queensland engaging directly with the community as required to deliver the Services and otherwise give effect to the IGA.