



Australian Government

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



Community Bulletin

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

Industrial action affecting Christmas Island services

Number: D24/24

Date: 11 December 2024

Relevant: Christmas Island

Topic: Protected industrial action from 12-14 December 2024

The community is advised that Union of Christmas Island Workers (UCIW) members employed by the Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) on Christmas Island have recently voted to take protected industrial action this week, as part of ongoing bargaining negotiations.

The union has notified this strike action will involve two consecutive days of work stoppages for a total of 48 hours, from 7am on Thursday, 12 December, until 7am on Saturday, 14 December 2024. There is also an unlimited ban on call-backs to work.

Continuity of essential services for the local community, and community safety and wellbeing, is the Government's priority. We are working with the UCIW, as well as considering options available under the Fair Work Act 2009, to minimise interruptions to critical services to the community, including through the Health Service on Christmas Island and electricity supply services. We are seeking undertakings that key staff will be available to attend to any emergencies should they arise.

The action will result in the rescheduling of some non-urgent medical appointments and cancellation of community health activities during this period. Please note, doctors and registered nurses are not participants in this action.

We continue to monitor the situation closely. Should we be advised of further protected action, we will reassess our options with the aim of continuing delivery of all essential services to the Christmas Island community.

We recognise the right of staff to choose whether to participate in protected industrial action and respect the right of staff to express their voice. We encourage the union and representatives to continue negotiations with IOTA so a new agreement can be progressed to a vote.

We thank the Christmas Island community for their understanding and patience during this period and will keep you updated with further information as needed.

Jane McIntyre, A/g Assistant Secretary, Indian Ocean Territories Branch