



The Islander



Christmas Island Community Newsletter

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JON STANHOPE CALLS FOR HOSPITAL BOARD

In his evidence to the parliament in November former Administrator Jon Stanhope told the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories (JSC) Christmas Island and Cocos should have a community hospital board to oversee the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service.

This is what Jon Stanhope told the JSC:

“Jon Stanhope - The Commonwealth is responsible for one hospital in the whole of Australia, and two, from 1 July next year, when it accepts responsibility for the Norfolk Island hospital. I remember sitting at COAG and receiving the demand from the Commonwealth that every hospital in Australia must have a hospital board. There is only one hospital in Australia that does not have a hospital board, despite the Commonwealth’s prescription that every hospital must have a community based board, and that is the one the Commonwealth runs on Christmas Island. Now why would the Commonwealth demand of every community in Australia that there be community oversight of its healthcare arrangements, except for the one jurisdiction in which the Commonwealth has responsibility?”

There is no community involvement in healthcare delivery, and some of the implications of that can be seen. I think that it would be perhaps appropriate for the committee to take some in camera advice from perhaps the secretary of the Union of Christmas Island Workers about the state and the culture of management within the Christmas Island hospital at the moment. There are issues that I would not wish to discuss publicly, but I do believe that it is time for some intervention by somebody in relation to that.” [HANSARD 12 November 2015]

Jon Stanhope told the JSC about the Department’s continuous obstruction of his performance of his job as the Administrator.

“Jon Stanhope - ... you get to a point where you think: 'I have a statutory responsibility, and I haven't got a clue what it is. I have been sent here to do a job, and I am doing nothing.' And, of course, it is just a most unacceptable situation.

I asked for a copy of the delegations pertinent to my position - in other words, delegations I held - and I was denied access. I still do not know what delegations - I must have had dozens of delegations, but I have no idea what they were. When I asked the department to provide me with a list of the delegations pertinent to my position, I was denied the list.” [HANSARD 12 November 2015]

Warren Snowdon, a member of the JSC, shares Mr Stanhope’s concern about the department’s assumption of all control of the administration.

“Warren Snowdon - The role of the administrator has certainly changed. Prior to 1996, the role of the administrator had most of the delegated powers that you are referring to. Post 1996, it all changed and the empire struck back—I have said that here before. The bureaucracy basically re-established its control and it has not changed since.” [HANSARD 12 November 2015]

Article continues inside on pages 11-14.



**SOCCER FESTIVAL AND
SWISS INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES TOUR**

More pictures and articles inside, pages 21-24.

A large crowd attended the South Point Temple for the celebration of Kang Tian Tai Di's God Birthday on Sunday 6th December 2015.



Photo courtesy of Catherine Mei Ping Eng

**Merry Christmas
And
Seasons Greetings**

From the Shire of Christmas Island