



CONFIRMED MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC) of the Shire of Christmas Island held at the George Fam Centre at 4.30pm Wednesday 15th May 2024

1 Declaration of Opening of Meeting / Announcement of Visitors

1.1 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** declared the meeting opened at 4.30pm

Chairperson **THOMSON** informed the meeting that several representatives from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care will be joining, alongside a person from Department of Infrastructure.

Recapped the terms of reference received from the DoHA team on their 'Aged Care Stewardship' consultation on island this week.

1.2 Chairperson Gordon **THOMSON** reported to the meeting that Administrator Farzian **ZAINAL** wished to express her thanks to the Community Consultative Committee for their efforts during the independent review of air freight and transport study.

CCC members provided with copy of 13.5.2024 media release from Administrator announcing completion of the report and location of it at the IOTRDO website.

2 Record of Attendance/Apologies/Leave of Absence/Declarations of Financial, Proximity or Impartiality Interest

Attendees:

Community Consultative Committee

Shire President

Shire Planning, Governance and Policy

CI Christian Fellowship

Islamic Council of CI

CI Women's Association

Shire Councillor

CI Neighbourhood Centre

Poon Saan Club

Gordon **THOMSON**

Chris **SU**

Stephanie **SAMBELL**

Sultan **SAYED**

Jessica **SEET**

Hafiz **MASLI**

Oliver **LINES**

Suzane **CHAN**

Apologies

Shire CEO

Shire Councillor

Phosphate Resources Limited

Union of CI Workers

Chinese Literary Association

CI Tourism Association

Malay Association

David **PRICE**

Kelvin **LEE**

Zoe **McMILLAN**

FOO Kee Heng

Mel **HAN**

Sarah **COOTE**

Azmi **YON**

Commonwealth Agencies

Dept. of Health and Aged Care

Olivia **LANNON** (4.40pm)

Rebecca **MCILROY** (4.40pm)

Dept. of Infrastructure

Eve **CULLEN** (4.40pm)

3. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

3.1 Confirmation of 11th March 2024 minutes

Motion not put to the meeting – guests arrived from DOHA and DITRDC

CCC Resolution –

Moved:

Seconded:

Res. No: **CCC/2024**

That the CCC confirm that the minutes of the 11th March 2024 are a true and accurate record

3.3 Action Items

	Action Item	CCC Meeting	Action Officer	Status
1.	That the WA initiative 'Attraction and Retention Packages for Regional Childcare Workers Program' be supported for roll out on Christmas Island.	April 2024 - note that no quorum was met	Chair	Completed, see letter of April 15 th to Administrator Farzian ZAINAL.
2.	That the Commonwealth be notified of the CCC's support of the WA Govt's new <i>Short-Term Rental Agreement Incentive Programs</i> to apply to CI	March 2024	Chair	Letter drafted for review and sending to Commonwealth

4. Agenda Business

4.1 Rebecca **MCILROY** introduced DoHA's role in delivery of Aged Care services to IOTs.

Summarised that the federal Aged Care Act applies to Christmas Island. This Act provides the funding framework for service delivery in the Aged Care Sector nationwide. There is a governance block in the IOTs where the Dept. of Infrastructure, who provide the health and aged care services, cannot access funding options from the Dept. of Health and Aged Care Services as a fellow Commonwealth entity.

This blockage does not apply for DOHA assisting state or local government entities access programs on the mainland. Any qualified NGO can access the programs for IOTs as well.

4.2 Rebecca **MCILROY** explained that the 'Aged Care Stewardship' visit to Christmas Island was to benchmark what services are presently being delivered on CI, and to seek to fill in any identified gaps.

It sought to do this by utilising provisions in the Aged Care Framework in place underpinned by the Aged Care Act to provide assistance.

4.3 Rebecca **MCILROY** advised that she and her team were based in Perth and have responsibility for regional WA and the IOTs.

4.4 Gordon THOMSON advised that IOTHS is not formally set up to be an RAC and that the practice of having seniors reside in there is a recent phenomenon out of necessity. Put that the Dept. of Infrastructure is under resourced for this significant task.

4.5 Rebecca MCILROY reiterated that the position is that aged people should be able to age in their homes and communities as a priority. Explained the mainstream model of provision to the meeting:

In terms of escalation, it was -

- **Assisting the elderly to live independently.** This is where HACC services are utilised.
- **Creating a Multi-Purpose Service (MPS)** where a hospital has a dedicated residential care wing
- **Creating a Residential Aged Care Facility.** Dedicated building for people who have high care needs, or no home support, or other factors making it impossible for them to live alone or with family.

Thus in this framework the HACC services will always be delivered to assist elderly live independently.

4.6 ICCI representative Sultan SAYED asked that should a Residential Aged Care facility be built on Christmas Island, would that reduce the Health and Community Care support services such as lawn care, cleaning, food delivery, that some CI seniors utilise now?

4.7 DoHA team indicated that this would not be the case if an RAC were established on CI, or anywhere else. DoHA team summarised that an 'Aged Care Assessment' took place for seniors with the Assessment informing what HACC / Commonwealth Aged Care Support Program offerings they would receive.

This was a foundation element to the management of Aged Care needs in Australia and would not change.

4.8 Rebecca McILROY advised that an RAC would need 18 beds (as in the Wagin township RAC in WA) to be financially viable.

A 'Multi-Purpose Service' (MPS) is the norm in regional locations, noting an MPS in Dumbleyoung as an example. Some beds are 'community care' and some are 'residential aged care.'

Rebecca McILROY advised that the framework for management of RAC and MPS is being reformed, with a 1 July 2027 update to the Aged Care Act underway.

Rebecca McILROY advised that the Aged Care Stewardship consultation on Christmas Island does seek to address the gaps in delivery and would 'overlay' the framework on the mainland to the IOTs. This would also mean that people would have to pay for services in the same way that they had to on the mainland.

Summarised that the aim is to 'not fix what isn't broken, but to identify and address the gaps.'

4.9 CCC meeting noted again that the Department of Infrastructure is not resourced enough to be able to deliver on the suite of services it would like to. Meeting discussed again the lack of ability for DOHA to fund DITRDC directly; meeting discussed the governance arrangements of non-self governing territory service delivery.

4.10 DoHA representatives put that the 1 July 2027 reform to the Aged Care Act would feature a 'business opportunity' in the aged care space. 'Sole Providers' would be able to provide HACC services to seniors, and debit against the seniors allocation for care services. Meeting noted this was reminiscent of NDIS. Some discussion on the complications the NDIS was experiencing in this methodology of service delivery in meeting.

4.10 Chris SU presented the Norfolk Island Residential Aged Care announcement from the Minister for Territories and summarised the process CCC went through in its FOI request for the papers related to the Christmas Island Residential Aged Care consultation program the Commonwealth undertook in 2021-2022.

CCC members expressed their continued interest in the development of a dedicated RAC for Christmas Island. Noted the IOTHS 5 Year Strategic Plan 2019-2024 recommending the development of an MPS to address aged care needs. Copy of this document tabled at meeting, CCC had input into this document in 2018/2019 consultation efforts from Commonwealth.

4.11 Rebecca McILROY advised that if there were a community on the mainland who needs an RAC, they can develop a business case for an Aged Care Facility. DOHA has a grant program for the construction of RACs.

A private provider for example could apply for capital works funding, and operate it using the Aged Care framework and claim the subsidies / payments for resident care applicable. Rebecca McILROY advised that could happen on CI presently if there was a private provider interested in that work.

Discussion around the modelling needed to be done, expected usage numbers and the financial caps per resident payable by DOHA. Meeting learned that the financial system is being changed and an up to date model is being developed. A study is being undertaken by a DOHA entity to assess the 'true cost' of serviced delivery in aged care services across Australia, including remote areas like CI.

CCC offered to pass the IOT Cost of Living Index to DOHA to help inform this study for IOT costs if the researchers weren't going to come to IOTs.

The funding would meet the cost of regulations, and up to 70% of the RAC.

Summarised that the major review of the Aged Care Act due 1 July 2027 will greatly inform the process forward for IOTs and Australia wide.

4.12 ICCI Sultan SAYED asked about ability to create universal access on Christmas Island?

Rebecca **McILROY** advised that DOHA is restricted to funding access for aged care facilities only, and not the public buildings or sites around a community. Advised that the Aids and Assistance Scheme applies through DOHA that IOT residents can apply for. This assists with things such as home improvements to help access.

- 4.13 PSC Suzane **CHAN** asked if seniors who live in rentals or public housing as was the case commonly on CI be able to access this Aids and Assistance scheme too?

Rebecca **MCILROY** advised that changes to the WA residential Tenancy Act seemed to be permissive of this. Noted that the area of public housing improvements was a matter for the local housing agency.

- 4.14 Members advised that the information from IOTHS at present was insufficient for the community to be able to forward plan their aged care needs and health care directions. Advised that the community lacks the visibility on what the 'cap' of aged care beds at the hospital facility are?

Meeting concurred that knowing the 'hard cap' is needed to empower the community their decision making and planning. Meeting discussed how many of eight beds at IOTHS were actually available for RAC-like use? Concluded that people need to know the options available and make alternative plans if the 'hard cap' information was knowable.

- 4.15 CRC Oliver **LINES** noted the anxiety that seniors had who were forced to leave the Island have.

- 4.16 Gordon **THOMSON** advised of a present request to the Commonwealth to have public unit Block C in Poon Saan fitted with an accessibility platform for a returning senior islander who underwent surgery.

Meeting discussed the process of receiving an Aged Care Assessment Team review with a social worker in the Perth hospital the patient received treatment from. This ACAT assessment would inform the delivery of accessibility platforms and other necessary items on Christmas Island. Rebecca **McILROY** thought a Regional Assessment Services' team may have to conduct this assessment over a normal ACAT review.

Eve **CULLEN** advised that a systematic process after an assessment is needed so that an individual can use their allocated funds to do the work needed for themselves.

Meeting ended 5.50pm

6. Closure of Meeting: 5.50pm, next meeting TBA