



Issue 66 – 21 April 2026

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Welcome Message

Welcome to this edition of our community newsletter.

Over the past month, our islands have marked Eid and Easter, making this a particularly meaningful time across the Indian Ocean Territories. These celebrations reflect the rich cultural and spiritual diversity that defines our communities, and I want to acknowledge the warmth, generosity and togetherness shown throughout this special period.

This edition comes at an important moment for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, with the release of the final Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) on 10 April. This plan represents years of work, shaped by technical studies and, importantly, by the voices and lived experience of the Cocos community. I want to sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time, knowledge and feedback. Your involvement has been vital in ensuring the CHRMAP reflects local priorities and supports a shared, long-term pathway forward.

The CHRMAP team returned to island from 13–17 April to meet with residents, the Shire and stakeholders to discuss next steps. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Australian Government, the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and the community as we move into the next phase of climate adaptation and planning on Cocos.

In this edition of the newsletter, we are also providing updates on several other critical areas of work, including progress on the seawall repairs on Cocos, the upcoming consultations on a new tourism and governance framework, and refreshing the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service Strategy, as well as recapping the recent GolfWA visit to both islands.

From 30 March to 3 April, I was pleased to be back on Cocos to meet with the local community, the Shire, the Emergency Management Committee and a range of stakeholders. During my visits, I always welcome the opportunity to speak directly with residents about any issues or concerns you may have. If you would like to meet with me during future visits, please contact my office to arrange an appointment.

As we look ahead, we also take time to honour our shared history. On 6 April, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands marked Act of Self-Determination Day, a significant moment each year to reflect on the islands' journey to self-governance and the strength of the community that shaped it. Later this month, on 25 April, we will come together to commemorate ANZAC Day. The Indian Ocean Territories have a proud martial history, with an important role during the Second World War and in the decades since. ANZAC Day remains a solemn reminder of service, sacrifice and the enduring values that bind our nation.

I'm pleased to invite expressions of interest from women who would like to join the Christmas Island International Women's Day Organising Committee for 2026. The committee, which is made up of representatives from the IOT Health Service, and other community organisations, plays a key role in supporting a year-long commitment to women's equity across our community. Through the planning and delivery of a range of activities and initiatives, the committee helps celebrate the achievements, leadership, and contributions of women, while also creating opportunities to connect, learn and advocate throughout the year. Being part of the organising committee is a meaningful way to contribute to this ongoing work and help shape how we recognise and support women across our region. Regular meetings will be held during business hours, with specific timings to be confirmed. If you're interested in getting involved, please register your interest with my office via phone or email.

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

Final CHRMAP Released: A Clear Pathway for Cocos' Coastal Future



The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan (CHRMAP) was officially released on Friday 10 April, marking an important milestone in planning for the long-term resilience and sustainability of the islands.

The final CHRMAP brings together years of technical studies, environmental data and community feedback to build a clear picture of how coastal conditions are changing — and what actions can help protect the places that matter most. From homes and roads to community facilities and natural assets, the plan outlines practical, staged options to manage future coastal hazards and support safe, sustainable development.

To support the release, the CHRMAP team was back on island from Monday 13 to Friday 17 April, meeting with community members and stakeholders to talk through next steps. These conversations focused on how the CHRMAP will inform a coordinated, long-term response

— helping the Australian Government, the Shire of CKI and the community work together to protect the islands' future.

The CHRMAP provides:

- a detailed assessment of current and future coastal risks
- clear adaptation pathways to guide decision-making over time
- options for protecting key community assets
- information to support planning, investment and long-term sustainability

The release of the CHRMAP gives the community, SoCKI and government agencies a shared foundation for future coastal planning.

The Government is establishing a Community Reference Group to support ongoing engagement on the pathway forward and actions from the CHRMAP, with an expression of interest process for joining the group opening shortly.

The final report, appendices, FAQs and the report on submissions are now publicly available at the link: [The Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands Coastal Hazard Risk Management and Adaptation Plan Project | Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts](#)

Strengthening Our Shores: Progress on CKI Seawall Repairs



The Cocos (Keeling) Islands seawall remediation works are about supporting immediate protection for critical

infrastructure, as part of building a safer, more resilient Cocos for the future.

The project is being funded through the Australian Government's \$23.3 million investment in emergency preparedness and community safety for Cocos Islanders in the short-term through improvements to seawalls, cyclone shelters and community support programs.

The Department has partnered with the Shire of CKI (SoCKI) on the current works, which are focused on repairs to the sandbag seawall protecting the West Island Health Clinic.



Stage 1 so far has seen the SoCKI works team starting sand extraction at the Rumah Baru boat ramp. Progress is tracking well, and the team has also used surplus sandbags to shore up a deteriorating section of seawall along Sydney Highway — a quick win that improves safety while the main works continue.

There are 2,800 sandbags and supporting materials now on island. Once all required bags are filled for the current repairs, the team will mobilise to the West Island Health Clinic site to begin the main remediation works, which are anticipated to be completed by the end of May.

Stage 2 works will see repairs and upgrades to the Settlement concrete SeaBee seawall, with contractor appointment and supporting procurement processes under way to support works commencing in May.

Throughout the various stages, the project team will continue collaborating with SoCKI to support delivery and strengthen local capability for future seawall

construction and repair works and we thank the Shire and its staff for their partnership and support.

While Stages 1 and 2 progress, engineers are refining the scope for the final part of the project, which will see prioritisation of repairs across the remaining seawalls.



Shaping the Future of Health in the IOT: Have Your Say

Work is under way to develop a new Indian Ocean Territories Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2026–2030) — a five-year plan that will guide how health, wellbeing and community services evolve across Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

This Strategy is being developed by the department in partnership with the IOT Health Service (IOTHS), the IOT Administrator, and the IOTHS Community Advisory Committee (CAC), with community input playing a key role in shaping its direction.

The Strategy will focus on what supports good health, where the gaps are, and how services can be better connected across prevention, primary care, mental health, aged care, disability and broader social supports. It will also draw on recent data and learnings from the past 5–10 years to ensure the next phase of planning is grounded in evidence and local experience.

What the Strategy will explore

- Health trends — what's changing, and why

- Prevention and primary care — priorities that help people stay well and reduce avoidable illness
- Connected services — stronger links between health, social and community supports
- Evidence and learnings — insights from recent data and the previous Strategy
- Needs, access and pathways — what helps, what gets in the way, and what future care could look like across the lifespan

Consultations in May — your voice matters

Community consultations will take place in May 2026, and everyone is encouraged to take part.

- **Christmas Island:** Monday 18 May – Friday 22 May 2026
- **Cocos (Keeling) Islands:** Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2026

Further details on the consultations will be shared closer to the dates.

You can also share feedback at any time through your representatives on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). Your representatives on the committee are:

- Tanja Schonewald (CI)
- Swee Lin (Melissa) Tung (CI)
- Regine Anderson (CI)
- Paul Maberly (CI)
- Ibrahim Macrae (CKI)
- Jan Young (CKI)

The insights gathered through these consultations will directly shape the final Strategy, helping build a clear, community-informed roadmap for health and wellbeing across the IOT for the next five years.



Building a Strong, Sustainable Tourism Future for Our Islands

Tourism is one of the biggest opportunities for the future of the Indian Ocean Territories — and it's now time for our communities to help shape what that future looks like.

Next month, the Office of the Administrator and the Department will be staging on-island engagements to hear directly from operators, businesses and community members as we design a new tourism and governance framework for the IOT.

Consultations will run on selected days between 11–15 May on Christmas Island and 18–21 May on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. These public consultations build on tourism stakeholder engagement which has already been conducted.

For years, reviews have told us the same thing: our islands are extraordinary, but our tourism structures aren't keeping pace with the potential opportunities.

The sector is ready for a model that brings people together, strengthens coordination, and promotes the IOT as a single, world-class destination — not just individual organisations working in isolation.

A refreshed regional framework will help us:

- build a stronger, more sustainable tourism economy
- unlock new investment and destination development opportunities

- target high-value visitor markets, from bird watchers to cyclists to niche adventure travellers
- connect more effectively with national and international tourism networks
- support operators with clearer governance, better coordination and a shared strategic direction.

To get this right, we need to understand what structure will best serve the IOT in the years ahead. Options being considered are:

- an independent regional body with a board or committee structure to focus on regional destination development and promotion
- establishing a tourism sub-committee of an existing organisation such as the Shires or Regional Development Organisation with terms of reference to commit to specific actions.

The consultations will help shape a model that reflects the realities of doing business here, the aspirations of our communities and the unique strengths of our islands.

Tourism is already a vital part of our economic transition — but with the right framework, it can become a powerful driver of sustainable growth, new jobs, and opportunities for generations to come.



ANZAC Day Commemorations across the Indian Ocean Territories



Communities on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will come together on 25 April to mark ANZAC Day, a day of quiet reflection, shared remembrance and gratitude for those who have served, and continue to serve, in Australia's defence forces.

Across the IOT, ANZAC Day holds a particular resonance. Our islands have a special place in Australia's martial history, from their strategic role during the Second World War, to the generations of residents who have contributed to national service in different ways. Even as the islands have changed over time, the values at the heart of ANZAC Day – courage, endurance, compassion and community – continue to be deeply felt across our territories.

To commemorate ANZAC Day, services will be held on Christmas Island and Cocos' West Island.

On Christmas Island, a Dawn Service will be held at Tai Jin House on 25 April at 5.30am. A community bus will operate from 4.15am, and attendees are encouraged to arrive by 5.30am or earlier. A shared breakfast will follow the service.

On West Island, the Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands will host a Dawn Service at the West Island War Memorial, located at the Administration Building on 25 April, beginning at 5.35am. A Gunfire Breakfast will follow at the Cocos Club.

ANZAC Day here in the Indian Ocean Territories is a moment to recognise the enduring significance of service, sacrifice and community.

Lest We Forget.

GolfWA Brings a Swing of Energy to the IOTs — and a Soccer Star Is Up Next



The recent visit from GolfWA, held from 24 March to 2 April, brought a burst of energy to both Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Their “come and try” clinics for juniors and adults were a huge hit, with sessions packed across both communities.

Students loved the lessons so much they kept practising during lunchtime — even the pre-primary kids joined in with big smiles and impressive focus. The GolfWA coach saw real improvement from those who returned for multiple sessions, with confidence and technique growing each day. It was a fantastic week of learning, laughter and community connection, and the photos say it all.

Hot on the heels of GolfWA's visit, the islands will soon welcome Izzy Foletta, who has played professionally for Perth Glory in the A-League Womens and is now a highly experienced coach.



Soccer is the world game — played everywhere, loved by millions, and a pathway that has taken Australian players to the biggest stages on the planet. Izzy's visit is an incredible opportunity for young people across the IOT, especially aspiring Matildas and Socceroos, to learn from someone who has competed at the highest national level.

Izzy will provide soccer sessions in schools and in the community during her visit to the islands on these dates:

- **Christmas Island:** Monday 27 April to Monday 4 May
- **Cocos (Keeling) Islands:** Monday 4 May to Monday 11 May

Her sessions will focus on skills, confidence and the joy of the game — giving local players a chance to train with a pro, ask questions, and see what's possible with passion and persistence.

Sport visits to the IOT are funded by the Australian Government, through the Western Australian Government, to bring high-quality sporting opportunities to our remote island communities. The sporting coach visits are also assisted by various organisations on island, including the Shires of Christmas and Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas and Cocos District High Schools and IOT sporting clubs.



Community Bulletins



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



Community Bulletin

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

Number: D04/26. **Date:** 20 April 2026.

Release of the 2024-25 Service Delivery Arrangements Annual Report

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (the department) is pleased to advise that the 2024-25 Annual Report on Service Delivery Arrangements (SDA) for the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) has now been released.

The report provides transparency to the IOT communities, and the broader Australian public, about the Australian Government's delivery of services and essential infrastructure to Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. It summarises the delivery of essential services and activities undertaken by Western Australian Government agencies in partnership with the Australian Government to support residents of these remote communities.

In 2024-25, the partnership between the Australian and Western Australian Governments saw the delivery of \$58.94 million in essential services to the communities of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands through the SDAs. This significant investment, which is in addition broader federal government funding for services and infrastructure on the islands, reflects the Government's commitment to meeting the diverse needs of the IOT communities.

Some highlights from the 2024-25 reporting year include:

- Olympics Unleashed: Two Olympians travelled to the IOTs to deliver school and community activation sessions through the Australian Olympic Committee program
- Multicultural Health and Wellbeing program: Delivered by the Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Service
- Cultural activities: A tour by the Steve Hensby Band, which included live performances, workshops, and the creation of two original songs professionally recorded and gifted back to the islands
- Better Beginnings Family Literacy Program: Delivery of 200 reading packs to parents and children by the IOT libraries, supporting literacy and family engagement.

The department thanks residents and the broader community for their ongoing engagement and support for SDA programs and acknowledges the continued partnership with Western Australian agencies to ensure services meet the needs of the local community. A full copy of the 2024-25 SDA Annual Report, including detailed outcomes and service highlights, is available on the department's website at: [Service Delivery Arrangements \(SDA\) Annual Report Indian Ocean Territories 2024-25—March 2026—PDF](#)

The Australian Government remains committed to delivering high-quality, fit-for-purpose services and essential infrastructure to the Indian Ocean Territories through ongoing SDA partnerships.

Adam Stankevicius, Assistant Secretary, Territories Division



Number: A02/26. **Date:** 18 March 2026.

Fuel Security Update

I understand that some in our communities may be concerned about local impacts of the current global situation affecting fuel supplies and pricing.

I want to reassure you that we are closely monitoring the situation and the Indian Ocean Territories (IOT) are entering this period well prepared.

Here in the IOT, there are sufficient stocks of fuel – including diesel, unleaded petrol and aviation fuel – for several months, with future deliveries already scheduled.

The Government is engaging with our air services and ports partners and other key stakeholders to support fuel stability for the region.

While fuel and freight pricing are matters for private operators, we remain in regular contact with service providers to maintain clear visibility of the situation.

Our priority is to maintain stability, keep the community informed and ensure essential services remain supported. We will continue to actively monitor the situation and provide updates as needed.

Thank you for your understanding while we work to mitigate global impacts on fuel supplies and support our region's, and communities', best interests.

**Farzian Zainal, Administrator of Christmas Island
and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands**



2026 ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Join the Christmas Island community as we come together to honour the courage, sacrifice and legacy of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Bus available for those that require from 4.15am

Walkers 4:45am - 5:25am

Please be at Tai Jin House at 5:30am or earlier.

Dawn Service begins at 5:35am

Breakfast to follow service

Please note a room at Tai Jin House will be available for prayer

25 April at 5.30am

Tai Jin House



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

CHRISTMAS ISLAND
ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Expressions of Interest

If you are interested in joining the organising committee for 2026, please register your interest via email or telephone.

Regular meetings will be held during business hours, with details of timings to be confirmed.

lotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au

(08) 9164 7959





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



Social Worker

Territory Executive Level 1
Christmas Island
Full time, Ongoing Vacancy

Package valued in excess of up to \$150,000 including:

- Base salary of \$95,812 to \$127,014 per annum, *plus*
- Employer contribution to superannuation at 16% of base salary, *plus*
- District Allowance payable in addition to base salary, *plus*
- Generous leave entitlements including 27 days of Annual Leave, *plus*
- Relocation assistance if relocating to the Indian Ocean Territories, *plus*
- Heavily subsidised housing and motor vehicle (including fuel), *plus*
- Annual return airfares assistance to Perth (upon completion of 12 months' continuous service)

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity, adventure and a better quality of life whilst expanding your experience?

The Indian Ocean Territories Administration (IOTA) is currently seeking a motivated, professional and suitably qualified person to join our team as a Social Worker within the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) based on Christmas Island.

The Social Worker is responsible for enhancing and maintaining the social, physical and psychological wellbeing of individuals, families and communities of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This position is pivotal in providing community engagement and development to address issues at both the personal and social level. They will employ evidenced

based practises to support, advocate and empower vulnerable people to resolve the challenges they experience and build sustainable resilience and capacity.

The Social Worker are to provide client centred practice, advocate for community members in times of crisis and work with an understanding of the World Health Organisation's Social Model of Health and the Social Determinants of Health. Additionally, the Social Worker will arrange access to services such as financial assistance, legal aid, housing, job placement, and assist in the recovery from mental or physical illness.

This position also involves liaising and mentoring of the Community Services Officer located on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Quarterly visits for service delivery to Cocos (Keeling) Islands will be required.

Our ideal applicant will have demonstrated knowledge of varied methods of assessment, treatment and evaluation within Social Work practice, the ability to work as part of a multi-disciplinary and/or interagency teams, be self-motivated and able to work independently. Further, the successful candidate will have demonstrated effective interpersonal and communication skills (written and verbal) and have experience living and working in a rural or remote setting. Applicants with experience working in a Social Work position, delivering community education, working within a culturally and linguistically diverse community and

knowledge of therapeutic approaches and counselling experience will be well regarded.

To be considered, applicants must have tertiary qualifications in Social Work and be eligible for, or currently hold, full membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers or the Society of Professional Social Workers. Applicants must also hold a current 'C' class Driver's Licence transferable to the Indian Ocean Territories and a valid Western Australian Working with Children Check.

For an application pack outlining how you can apply, please contact the IOTA Human Resources Team at IOTARECRUITMENT@INFRASTRUCTURE.GOV.AU and quote position number **111491**.

Applications close 4.00pm (Christmas Island local time) (CXT) (UTC+7), Friday, 01 May 2026



WE'RE HIRING

Training Coordination Officers

We're hiring two Training Coordination Officers, based at our Christmas Island office to help deliver Adult Education across the Indian Ocean Territories.

Want to play a key role in shaping the local workforce?

Join us in coordinating training that helps our people and industries thrive.

► [Applications open now.](#)

Contact us for an application pack

Send us a message or email general.manager@iogta.wa.edu.au

Training Coordination Officers

IOGTA is advertising for multiple full-time Training Coordination Officers to be based in our Christmas Island office.

These positions reflect the significant and growing training demand across local industry and the community, as well as upcoming workforce requirements within our training team. The roles will support a high-tempo period of course delivery as we prepare to scale up training activity in the second half of this year, aligning with the expected completion of construction works at the Old Technical School.

For further information or to request an Applicant Information Pack, please contact IOGTA.

Applications close **Monday, 11 May 2026.**

Community Announcements

Christmas Island Outdoor Cinema



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

Movie ticket \$5.00



Reminders of him

Friday, 24 April

Get ready for an emotional night under the stars with Reminders of Him, based on the bestselling novel by Colleen Hoover 📖 🌙

A powerful story of love, loss, and redemption, this film follows a young mother fighting for a second chance at

life - and the chance to reconnect with the daughter she's never known.

Grab your friends, your snacks and your tissues.

See you under the stars.

Christmas Island Cinema Kiosk IS OPEN! 🍿



COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We are currently seeking a:

Secretary
help keep things organised with meeting notes, communication, and coordination

Social Media Coordinator
bring our events to life online and keep our community engaged

This is a great opportunity to:

- ✦ Be part of a vibrant local initiative
- ✦ Meet new people and contribute to community events
- ✦ Help shape the future of outdoor cinema on Christmas Island

No experience necessary - just enthusiasm, reliability, and a love for film and community!

📩 Interested or want to know more? Send us a message or email us at cioutdoorcinema@gmail.com or Facebook Message us
Come be part of something special under the stars ✨



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.)

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, Sport and the Arts

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

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