



Health matters – an update from your Community Advisory Committee

The Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on 24 August 2026 for its third meeting of 2026.

Community feedback received through surveys and consultation workshops is now being analysed alongside health data to identify priorities for the next IOT Five-Year Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This work will also consider the achievements and shortcomings of the previous strategy.

The Committee discussed the possibility of another round of community consultation later in the year to test the emerging priority areas before the strategy is finalised.

The Committee received an update on discussions with the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing about aged care services in the Indian Ocean Territories. Aged care remains a high priority, with work continuing to identify the distinct needs of older people on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the service delivery models that may be most appropriate for each community, including home-based supports. After several years of information-gathering and planning, this work is now moving towards more concrete action.

The Committee received updates on several infrastructure and accessibility matters. The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts has recently purchased two new minibuses for West Island while on Christmas Island, the Territory Day Park to Smith Point walking trail has reopened following upgrade and safety works.

A range of other community matters were raised at the meeting, including the temporary rock bags at Kampong and the longer-term approach to coastal protection, installation of spray bidets at Christmas Island Hospital and the airport, and the Macau paper wasp biosecurity incident.

Keeping the Committee informed

Community Advisory Committee meetings provide an important opportunity for residents' views to inform the design and delivery of health services across Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

If you have a health-related matter you would like raised, please contact a committee member or email the Office of the Administrator at iotadministrator@infrastructure.gov.au.

Community Advisory Committee Members:

Christmas Island

Paul Maberly
Tanja Schonewald
Swee Lin (Mel) Tung
Regine Andersen
Stephanie Lai

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Jan (Ayesha) Young
Ibrahim Macrae

Planned 2026 meeting date for the IOTHS Community Advisory Committee:

- Monday 7 December 2026