

I write again to you to raise awareness of another issue I believe is vitally important to all residents of Norfolk Island. The following information will seem unbelievable but has been provided to me by my contacts in both the Commonwealth department of infrastructure and the NSW premier's department.

I hope the Commonwealth will confirm these details also now they have been shared with the Norfolk community. In 2017, following a visit to the island by Commonwealth staff, infrastructure department staff believed they found evidence to suggest that there was widespread physical and sexual abuse of children going on in the Norfolk community, in particular widespread and frequent sex with underage people.

This discovery was quite shocking to the Commonwealth who apparently quickly set up a Norfolk Island Response Team, or Norfolk Island Response Taskforce, to secretly try and investigate whether these activities were in fact happening on the island, all without the community knowing.

My contacts advised me that this Norfolk Island Response Taskforce was made up of Commonwealth staff from many different departments and had about 15-20 staff at one stage.

What is very horrifying to me is that this team, in secret, was making a plan for the Commonwealth to intervene in Norfolk Island the same way they did in the Northern Territory, such as taking control of the council and removing children and families from the island.

I find this to be a shocking piece of information that the Commonwealth has kept secret from us. The following details come from a contact that used to be a staff member of this Norfolk Island Response Team who also thought the way they were dealing with this issue was terrible.

Apparently, there were separate teams within the Norfolk Island Response Taskforce that were going to be responsible for things like emergency accommodation for people evacuated, security and control on the island, securing the airport to make sure they could get people off the island, an investigations team and many others.

Because this issue must seem unbelievable my contacts said the island community should submit an FOI request on all emails, documents and meeting minutes from the Commonwealth department of infrastructure and Commonwealth department of prime minister and cabinet that cover

the following topics: *Norfolk Island Response Team *Norfolk Island Response Taskforce *Norfolk Island child wellbeing *Norfolk Island child abuse *Norfolk Island underage sex *Norfolk Island domestic violence *Norfolk Island Response *Norfolk Island intervention *Norfolk Island hospital records

The Commonwealth has actually mentioned this Taskforce publicly in the following document, which was found with a simple google search: http://regional.gov.au/territories/norfolk_island/governance/files/PVP-fact-sheet.pdf The first paragraph says: "The Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment (Protecting Vulnerable People) Ordinance 2018 makes changes to a number of criminal laws in Norfolk Island, following the work of the Commonwealth Government's Norfolk Island Response Taskforce and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse."

It is not clear if the Commonwealth accidentally let this out or if this is the pathetic attempt at informing the Norfolk Island community of the existence of this taskforce.

Concerned Resident