

[Sussan Ley](#) Having read yesterday's Facebook post on the Norfolk Online News and Chamber of Commerce pages, I want to respond sooner rather than later on behalf of the Australian Government to reassure you, the people of Norfolk Island, about ongoing services to your community.

We remain committed to ensuring Norfolk Island residents have access to similar services, rights and responsibilities as other Australians.

I want to work openly and transparently with your Council and with all of you, to ensure services are co-designed with the Norfolk Island community – and to ensure Norfolk Island residents are involved throughout this process.

The existing arrangements with NSW are in place until at least June 2021, and you can expect uninterrupted access to health and education providers, with the same expectation of high quality services.

There is a possibility that NSW will be unable to continue to provide or add the additional state services we expect and you deserve (such as vocational education and training and consumer protection), and for this reason we are exploring other options. This might be the Commonwealth or other state governments.

We have approached the ACT as a possible provider and are in the very early stages of discussion. Formal discussions have not started and we will work hard to negotiate the best arrangements in consultation with Norfolk Island residents.

I want to build a strong partnership with your whole community, based on an honest, constructive dialogue. I am committed to working collaboratively with the people of Norfolk Island.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact me or Eric Hutchinson, the Norfolk Island Administrator. I am very much looking forward to my first visit as Minister, hopefully at the end of October!