

Key Issues Brief

**2.11 Negotiations with the ACT Government for future state service delivery**

**Key Issues**

Norfolk Island needs a state service deliver partner willing to deliver more services

- Norfolk Island residents do not have access to services available in comparable communities. Extension of additional state services are required to ensure services are comparable to similar communities on mainland Australia.
- The NSW Government currently provides health, education and local government services to Norfolk Island, under a Heads of Agreement, that will expire on 1 July 2021, with health and education schedules set to expire in July 2019.
- The NSW Government has indicated it will not be able to provide additional state services.
- The Australian Government has approached the ACT Government to consider future state service delivery to Norfolk Island. Norfolk Island residents may express dissatisfaction about the lack of consultation preceding these negotiations.

If asked

- Formal negotiations with the ACT Government have not yet commenced. However, the Norfolk Island community and the Norfolk Island Regional Council will have an opportunity to select and co-design the new state service delivery arrangements.

**Background:**

The community is aware that the Australian Government is negotiating with the ACT

- On 17 September 2018, an anonymous post was made on the Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce and Norfolk Online Facebook pages, advising the Australian Government has approached the ACT Government for future state service delivery to Norfolk Island.
- The post claimed that the Commonwealth has no immediate plans to consult the Norfolk Island community about future state service delivery changes.
- You responded on 18 September 2018, advising that formal negotiations with the ACT Government have not yet commenced and that Norfolk Island residents will be consulted in the design of future state service delivery arrangements.

**Sensitivities:**

Transition to a new state service delivery partner will minimise disruption

- The community may express concern about the negotiations, uncertainty and the potential disruption of a transition to a new state service delivery partner.

## DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE, REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CITIES

- The Australian Government aims to minimising disruption to the Norfolk Island community.
- The Australian Government will continue working with the NSW Government and the Norfolk Island Regional Council to ensure:
  - Norfolk Island residents continue to have access to existing services such as the health service, and
  - Students are not disrupted by the transition during the school year.
- There are no plans to reduce staff numbers, remove services, or to change current state service arrangements with the NSW Government.

### **Attachments:**

A Defensive Talking Points on ACT Negotiations

