



**“IN THE MATTER OF THE STATUS OF
NORFOLK ISLAND AS A NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY”**

NIPD was very pleased this week to receive a Joint Opinion dated 6 May 2016 from Dr Christopher Ward SC (St. James Hall Chambers, Sydney) and Professor Vaughan Lowe QC (Essex Court Chambers, London) on “The Matter of the Status of Norfolk Island as a Non-Self-Governing Territory”. Dr Ward and Professor Lowe were asked to advise on a number of questions, including –

“Is Norfolk Island a Non-Self-Governing territory within the meaning of Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations?”

Dr Chris Ward SC is a recognised expert in the field of international law (public and private) and is a Senior Counsel for the State of New South Wales (2015) – <http://www.sixstjameshall.com.au/christopherward/>

Professor Vaughan Lowe QC is Emeritus Chichele Professor of Public International Law at Oxford University and a Fellow of All Souls College – <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/people/vaughan-lowe-qc>

A copy of the Joint Opinion and a copy of the Petition lodged with the United Nations on 25 April 2016 by Geoffrey Robertson QC, Albert Buffett and Ken Christian can be accessed on the NIPD website respectively at www.norfolkschoice.com/loweandwardopinion.pdf and www.norfolkschoice.com/thepetition.pdf.

NIPD today was provided with a copy of the following heartfelt email titled “Your Country” from a supporter of Norfolk Island living in Cairns North Queensland. We thought the email dated 20 April 2016 (which took a bit of time to reach us!) was nevertheless most worthy of sharing!

“Hello! I just watched the documentary about Norfolk Island tonight, and it moved me a lot, I laughed and I cried, and I was in awe, the sense of community and the bond of family, friends and community shone through and I loved that, of course it's your island and its your community, nobody can deny that, you people are the soul and the beating heart of Norfolk Island which transcends Australian government policy and bureaucracy, the words NEVER GIVE UP, ring loud and true. It is so unique and special what has been built by you all and your ancestors, please never let it fade away, I would imagine many other everyday Australians like me would support you in your fight for independence, I am happy to accommodate any Norfolk Islander who has to travel here to Australia to lobby Canberra or needs any assistance I can offer to make sure Norfolk remains independent, good luck (Will in Cairns far North Queensland)”

NIPD has sent a thank you note in reply.

Management Committee
Norfolk Island People for Democracy
12 May 2016