

Introducing the Australian Social Welfare System on Norfolk Island

Many people may not be aware that since at least 2006 the Commonwealth Government has had access to reports which modelled the economic impact of introducing Commonwealth law to Norfolk Island; and chose not to share all of the information in those reports with the Norfolk Island People.

Despite the many disturbing findings in these reports the Commonwealth Government has chosen to introduce all Commonwealth law to Norfolk Island.

NIPD recognises, that as a direct result of the negative economic impact of introducing Commonwealth law to Norfolk Island the introduction of the Australian social welfare system has become a necessity and not a luxury as we are being asked to believe.

NIPD also recognises -

1. That some people may be financially advantaged by the introduction of the Australian Social Welfare system - and we will fight to have those support mechanisms retained; and
2. That in the shift from the Norfolk Island social welfare system into the Australian social welfare system there are demonstrable and serious grievances regarding the financial effect on those people who will lose entitlements – and we will fight to have those benefits restored.

Both of the above outcomes can be achieved under NIPD's preferred governance model of 'Self-government in Free-Association with Australia'.

And finally, NIPD recognises that there are some people who are worried that Australia may leave Norfolk high and dry if Norfolk Island is listed as a non-self-governing territory with the United Nations. This is not the case. Under international law Australia, as a member of the United Nations, has a range of obligations to Norfolk Island including:

- *To ensure, with due respect for the culture of the peoples concerned, their political, economic, social, and educational advancement, their just treatment, and their protection against abuses; and*
- *To develop self-government, to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples, and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions, according to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement.*