



BOB DEBUS
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS
ANDRE NOBBS
CHIEF MINISTER NORFOLK ISLAND

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DISCUSSIONS PROGRESS ON NORFOLK ISLAND REFORMS

The Minister for Home Affairs, Bob Debus, has met with the Norfolk Island Chief Minister, Andre Nobbs, and Administrator Owen Walsh where substantial progress was made on reforms to the Island Government.

The main topic discussed was transparency and accountability measures and the Chief Minister informed the Australian Government that the Administration of Norfolk Island would commence an Administrative Complaints System on 2 March 2009.

Mr Debus acknowledged the work already done by the Chief Minister on improving accountability saying it was a good starting point.

“This is a step in the right direction which paves the way for the Commonwealth Ombudsman to be appointed to handle matters of a serious nature arising out of the new Administrative Complaints System.

“Strong accountability and anti-corruption checks and balances are essential to any modern government.”

Mr Nobbs said he was pleased the talks were progressing towards long term stable and sustainable governance practices for the Island.

“There was significant agreement on areas of the Norfolk Island Act which could be further examined and amended to improve accountability. The Commonwealth has offered us assistance in implementing these changes.”

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