

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE



**The Hon Brendan O'Connor MP
Minister for Home Affairs**



**The Hon André Nobbs MLA
Chief Minister**

Progress in Norfolk Island governance discussions

Commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs, Brendan O'Connor and Norfolk Island Chief Minister André Nobbs said today that progress had been made in joint talks about the ongoing relationship between the Australian and Norfolk Island governments.

Minister O'Connor visited Norfolk Island over two days to meet with government and community representatives for discussions about governance, financial arrangements and delivery of community services.

“The Australian Government is committed to working with the Norfolk Island government and people to ensure ongoing economic and environmental sustainability,” Mr O'Connor said.

“I believe that the relationship between Norfolk Island and the Australian Government can improve without sacrificing the unique character and lifestyle of this beautiful island,” said Mr O'Connor.

Mr Nobbs said that the discussions between the two governments had been wide-ranging and positive. “We have made real progress toward improving the communication between our governments”, Mr Nobbs said. “I am particularly pleased that we have been able to discuss in a frank and open way some of the major issues involved in us moving forward together to achieve positive changes in our self-government arrangements, particularly in relation to future financial cooperation and the implementation of improved transparency and accountability measures”.

The Ministers agreed to establish a schedule of regular meetings to be held more frequently than previously, with a view to providing a forum at which new or major issues can be raised and solutions generated on a cooperative basis.

Norfolk Island Ministers and Legislative Assembly Members raised a wide range of issues with Mr O'Connor, who agreed to take on board the matters raised and to provide responses as soon as practicable.

Mr O'Connor thanked the people of Norfolk Island for their hospitality and said that he hoped to return next year.

Norfolk Island
17 December 2009

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