

ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORIES

EDITION 5: AUGUST 2011



THIS ISSUE

IOT Accommodation Needs Assessment

CI and CKI Community Capacity Assessment Audit

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Govt. funding programs for the IOT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hari Raya Puasa CI and CKI

Mid autumn moon cake festival CLA

CI Charity Ball

CONTACT DETAILS

Hon. Brian Lacy

Administrator

Indian Ocean Territories

Phone: 08 9164 7960

Email:
Brian.Lacy@regional.gov.au

WELCOME

I was extremely pleased to note that both the Cocos (Keeling) Island (CKI) and the Christmas Island (CI) communities embraced with enthusiasm and energy their participation in the **Community Capacity Assessments** earlier this year. The Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government has now released this report.

The challenge now is for the communities to use the results of this assessment as the baseline of our capabilities, strengths and weaknesses, to help with future planning and development proposals.

The CKI and CI Economic Development Consultative Groups (EDCG) have identified some of the areas in which the local capacity could be strengthened and are working with the Department to take the lead in developing an IOT community leadership program, company directors training and commerce workshops. This has included the recent support for CKI residents Isa Minkom and Aindil Minkom to attend the Co-Operatives Workshop in Perth during July 2011.

Two areas that the EDCG are working on with local organisations and service providers is a youth retention / activity and employment strategy and a business mentoring and incubator program. I would urge all groups to read the report and identify areas which they could be strengthened.

The second report to be released by the Department which was driven by the EDCG is the **IOT Accommodation Needs Assessment**. A summary of the findings regarding the immediate, medium (2-5 yrs) and longer term (5-10 yrs) needs, shows a need to care for younger singles, newly married couples and for those reaching retirement age. The level of land availability does not appear to be an issue whilst there is a recognised lack of private investment.

I have been working with the IOT Economic Development Officer (EDO) and local and off-island potential investors to help increase private investment on both islands. The development of an IOT marketing plan and marketing tools is one of the steps being taken. Both the EDO and I will be attending the Mid West Resources and Economic Summit in Geraldton to promote this interest.

I would anticipate further private housing investment occurring in the near future.

Both reports can be obtained by contact the IOT Economic Development Officer Simon Millcock on 08 91647959 or simon.millcock@regional.gov.au



ADMINISTRATOR'S NEWSLETTER

PAGE 2



IOT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Economic Development Funding Program (EDFP) for the Indian Ocean Territories is an Australian Government initiative supporting the development of self-reliant communities. The EDFP aims to promote economic development and enhance business opportunities by providing financial support to eligible organisations and activities. The EDFP is administered by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government on behalf of the Australian Government.

In the year ending 30 June 2011 the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government approved funding of \$340,300 for projects that will generate over \$4m worth of value to the IOT.

Organisation	Description	Amount
Indian Ocean Group Training Association	Contribution towards the costs of engaging a consultant to collect and collate historical and cultural information in order to develop a new training product	\$7,970
Chinese Literary Association	Towards the costs associated with the design, construction and fit out of the Chinese Cultural Centre	\$42,800
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	For the West Island Tourism and Retail Precinct Concept Plan Project for Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	\$22,000
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism Association	Towards the costs of employing an administrative assistant for Stage 1 of the HMAS Sydney and SMS Emden 2014 Anniversary Project	\$25,520
Cocos (Keeling) Islands Tourism	Towards the costs of the production of a documentary about the 1914 naval battle between the HMAS Sydney and SMS Emden	\$50,000
Christmas Island Tourism Association	Towards the costs of the production of a documentary about Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands by Australian Geographic as part of the series "Best of Australia"	\$192,010

For further information about the EDFP and how to apply please contact: **Simon Millcock – Economic Development Officer** Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government
 Ph: (08) 9164 7959, Mob: 0428 8437 474
 Email: Simon.Millcock@regional.gov.au

IOT STATE TYPE GRANTS PROGRAM

The State-type Grants Program is an Australian Government initiative supporting the communities of the IOT. The Program is administered by the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government on behalf of the Australian Government. In the year ending 30 June 2011 the Minister for Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government approved funding of \$1,373,501 for the following projects.

Organisation	Description	Amount
Persatuan Wanita Pula Cocos	Support for seniors excursion to CI to participate in a range of events and activities with the CI seniors.	\$11,416
Christmas Island Neighbourhood Centre	Project sourcing, restoring and selling second hand furniture to the community.	\$45,750
	A community activity International Women's Day.	\$500
	Community celebration event recognising volunteers.	\$1,000
Arts and Culture Christmas Island	The 2011 community arts and culture program.	\$31,900
	Completion of three community art projects: Hip Hop Dance, Thong Fish Art and the Community Mosaic Project.	\$50,130
Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands	Purchase of storage and processing shed for recyclable waste on Home Island and the purchase of two waste collection trucks.	\$572,020
	For the completion of Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the ZWPDS.	\$12,000
	Purchase and freight of materials to enable the completion of Stages 2 & 3 of the Home Island Foreshore Rehabilitation Project.	\$187,515
	Hire of a consultant to assist four not-for-profit community groups develop strategic plans.	\$12,000
Shire of Christmas Island	For the completion of Stage 2(b) of the Management Plan for Cats and Rats on Christmas Island.	\$449,270

For further information about the IOTs State-type Grants Program and how to apply please contact: **Hilary Owens** Territories Office Perth, Regional Australia,
 Ph: (08) 6211 8511, Fax: (08) 6211 8581
 Email: Hilary.Owens@regional.gov.au