Indian Ocean Territories Health Service
Contingency Planning – Christmas Island & Cocos (Keeling) Islands

The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (the Department) is responsible for delivering health services in Australia’s external territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

The health services on Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands are delivered by the Indian Ocean Territories Health Service (IOTHS) and include:

• inpatient and emergency care;
• home and community health care;
• pathology and radiology services;
• oral health care;
• visiting specialist medical and allied health services; and
• Telehealth.

Christmas Island Multi-Purpose Health Service (MPHS)

Current State

The Christmas Island MPHS is comprised of 4 general ward beds, 2 aged care beds and 2 emergency department beds (8 beds total). Services are provided by 3 General Practitioners and 12 nurses to deliver 24/7 acute care to the community.

Heightened State of Preparedness

The following actions have occurred in a heightened state of preparedness for reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission:

• Establishment of dedicated COVID-19 Nurse to keep abreast and implement change to IOTHS protocols aligned to rapidly changing advice from WA Health and Department of Health (C’wlth) for testing, transmission avoidance, PPE stock supplies, community health messaging and clinical advice to IOTHS senior leadership team
• Attendance of IOTHS Chief Medical Officer at IOT Executive Emergency Management Committee
• Escalation planning for key triggers such as; suspect or confirmed COVID-19 case, COVID-19 case as an inpatient and community wide lockdown
• Procurement of x6 agency nurses for 3 months
• Establishment of accommodation for returning residents and essential staff to self-isolate from their families for 14 days (through Exec Emergency Management Committee)
• Increasing PPE supplies through usual suppliers and alternative means (ie. request to Defence)
• Fast tracking Emergency Telehealth Service through the WA Health Command Centre
• Recruitment and training of additional community health workers
**Activation of Planning**

Plans for activation of additional resources are dependent on triggers and include;

- Activation of additional 3 beds that have been established in the currently non-utilised Operating Theatre to act as overflow in the event that medical evacuation to Perth is impeded
- Relocation of x2 aged care residents to a modified private accommodation with wrap around nursing, cleaning, food services and health care worker support
- Procurement of x3 additional beds from ABF (North West Point Detention Centre)
- Establishment of teams (Clean, Dirty, Outreach) for ongoing health service provision
- Activation of Meals on Wheels for vulnerable at risk residents

**Cocos (Keeling) Islands – Home Island Clinic and West Island Clinic**

**Current State**

Services on Home Island Clinic and West Island Clinic are provided by 1 GP and 4 Nurses. Both clinics have 1 emergency bed and multiple consult rooms. There is limited capacity for inpatient treatment with overnight care only provided in the event of awaiting medical evacuation to Perth.

**Heightened State of Preparedness**

The following actions have occurred in a heightened state of preparedness for reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission;

- Escalation planning for key triggers such as; suspect or confirmed COVID-19 case, COVID-19 case as an inpatient and community wide lockdown
- Procurement of x3 agency nurses for 3 months
- Recruitment and training of additional community health workers
- Establishment of accommodation for returning residents and essential staff to self-isolate from their families for 14 days (through Exec Emergency Management Committee)

**Activation of Planning**

Plans for activation of additional resources are dependent on triggers and include;

- Activation of additional 2 beds at West Island Clinic to act as overflow in the event that medical evacuation to Perth is impeded
- Activation of Cyclone Shelter as a field hospital in the event that medical evacuation to Perth is impeded
- Establishment of teams (Clean, Dirty, Outreach) for ongoing health service provision