

NORFOLK



ISLAND

**THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Increased allocation for social welfare needs**

Norfolk Island Minister for Finance (Neville Christian) and Minister for the Environment, Education and Social Welfare (Vicky Jack), said today that there had been some misunderstanding in the community about the Social Welfare budget for 2007/08.

The appropriation approved by the Legislative Assembly was \$1,996,900, an increase of \$230,000 over the provisional final expenditure for social services incurred in the previous year. The Social Welfare budget is overwhelmingly directed toward payments of pensions and benefits and to covering the costs of local or overseas medical treatment. In 2006/07, these items comprised over 95% of all welfare expenditure.

The Ministers said that the current financial year budget was based on assessment of the actual amounts of expenditure incurred in past years. Since social welfare was one of the larger areas of services provided to the community, expenditure and service delivery were closely monitored. If there was a demonstrated need to allocate additional resources to meet legitimate claims from persons in need, the Norfolk Island Government would ensure that extra funds were made available.

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007

Neville Christian  
**Minister for Finance**

Stephanie V Jack  
**Minister for the Environment,  
Education and Social Welfare**