

**Norfolk Island 2006  
Submission**

**DOCUMENT TITLE:**

**NORFOLK ISLAND MLA -  
MRS LORRAINE BOUDAN  
NORFOLK ISLAND INQUIRY 2006**

**RESPONSE TO ISSUES PAPER  
CGC 2006/1**

**SUBMISSION NUMBER: NI2006/SUB/010**

**DATE RECEIVED: 3/04/2006**

Mrs Lorraine Boudan MLA  
Legislative Assembly Building  
Old Military Barracks  
Kingston Norfolk Island  
South Pacific 2899

27 March 2006

**FAXED**

Catherine Hull  
Assistant Secretary  
Commonwealth Grants Commission  
Cypress Court  
5 Torrens Street  
Canberra  
ACT 2612

Fax (02) 6229 8809

Dear Catherine

It was a wonderful opportunity to meet with you and Alan Morris earlier this month here on Norfolk Island.

I had the opportunity to talk with Alan and he agreed that I should submit in writing concerns that I have shared and send it to him via you.

Please would you see that this is passed on to him.

I am of the firm belief that Norfolk Island should continue into the future under its present form of Self Government. It is indeed possible and I put before you some points to take into consideration when putting together your report for the Australian Government.

When looking at statistics from our last 2001 census report it shows that our population is made up of 36.7% of people who were born on Norfolk Island, 33.4% who were born in Australia, 20.7% who were born in New Zealand and a small % who were born in other countries.

The cost to Norfolk Island Government in educating each child on Norfolk Island equates to in excess of \$7,000.00 per year. Many of the children are from parents who are seconded to Norfolk from Australia. ie Police Officers, Bureau Of Meteorological Officers, School Teachers and the like.

At the end of schooling here almost all of the children leave Norfolk's shores for work related purposes and to further their education, which is a good thing. What happens though is that our children leave in most cases permanently. So what happens is that people come to the island through our Immigration system and take up residency, which is a good thing too. But, our youth has gone and will put very largely, probably all of their working years away in other places and in some cases will not even return. Then we have the older people coming in, gaining residency, and after ten years may become eligible to apply for benefits within our Social Services system.

Norfolk Island Government cannot assess an applicant for a benefit in Social Services beyond the two banks here on the island. So that means the applicant can have their investments invested in National, ANZ or any alternative bank to the Commonwealth Bank or the Westpac Bank.

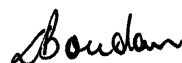
This is a major issue and needs to be addressed immediately. I am convinced that if this system was designed to collapse then this is the spanner in the works. It is most certainly the reason for our dreadful financial ruin and has taken its toll over these recent years.

Education and Social Services are among the list of Schedule 3 matters and I believe the Commonwealth should be showing responsibility in these two crucial areas by subsidising 50% of the costs. Such subsidisation would immediately show promise for a brighter future. More especially if it were to be taken into account over the last five or ten years.

It seems to me that there must be many people in high places in Australia who have in their minds that because the Norfolk Island people do not pay income tax are a drain on the Australian finances. Such people need to be made aware of the fact that Norfolk Island raises its own revenue and is able to sustain itself. It just cannot go on taking the financial burden of educating and caring for people from beyond its shores.

This important issue I leave with you in the hope that it will have considerable weight in concluding that Norfolk Island does not need to be scooped up into any of the two options that the Commonwealth has put before the Norfolk Island Government and its people.

Yours truly,



Lorraine Boudan MLA