



Consultation and clarity for the Indian Ocean Territories

The Commonwealth Ombudsman visited Christmas Island in 2013 and 2014, at the request of the then IOT Administrator, to conduct a community complaints clinic. The clinic was in regard to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's administration of the territories.

On Thursday, the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories will hear from the Commonwealth Ombudsman when it continues its hearings into governance in the Indian Ocean Territories.

Committee Chair, Mr Luke Simpkins MP said one of the themes to emerge from this inquiry is the importance of effective consultation processes between the Department and IOT residents.

"This includes the need for clarity around what forms the consultation will take and how outcomes will be communicated," he said.

The Committee will also speak to a former Christmas Island resident who has been researching the potential for Chinese outbound tourism market to increase tourism in the IOT.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE **Thursday 17 September 2015**

VENUE **Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra**

PROGRAM:	10:05 am	Commonwealth Ombudsman
	10:35 am	Mr James Clarke
	11:00 am	Close

All members of the public are welcome to observe proceedings.

The hearing will be webcast at www.aph.gov.au/live

For media comment: Contact Committee Chair Luke Simpkins MP on 0433 286 770

For inquiry information: Contact the secretariat for the Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories on (02) 6277 4355 or jscncet@aph.gov.au or visit aph.gov.au/ncet