



Nauru Bulletin

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Banking provider change for Nauru

Nauru has transitioned to a new banking provider and existing account holders encouraged to make the switch to ensure relevant payments from government are without incident.



The Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) has taken over banking services from Bendigo Bank who served the community for 10 years.

The Bendigo Bank ended its agency agreement with Nauru with Friday 8 August as its last trading day on the island, and the CBA commenced with a soft opening on Monday, 11 August.

The Bendigo Agency started winding down services in the first week of August with cash transactions at the counter ceasing on Thursday and Friday at the Ewa and Aiwo agencies, respectively.

The CBA's soft opening on Monday 11 August meant it is ready for business to serve the government and people of Nauru, officially accepting cash transactions at both agencies.

Approximately 8,000 applications for a CBA account have been lodged in the system to date.

CBA commenced issuing debit cards to customers over a fortnight ago, followed by access to electronic banking using the CommBank app.

Government staff salaries will be deposited into CBA accounts once account details have been registered with respective finance officers.

While Bendigo will cease cash transactions at the counter, customer accounts will not close and their money will remain in their accounts. Bendigo cards can still be used in shops and to withdraw cash from the ATM.

Bendigo Agency manager, Greg Watson, who has also moved across as manager for the CBA agency, said that for a few months longer, enquiries about Bendigo Bank accounts will still be possible through the Aiwo Agency.

"There will be some Bendigo Bank accounts that will be required to close, and Bendigo Bank will be sending emails to those customers.

"In each case 30 days' notice will be given but no business or individual will lose any money in the process. But it is important to act without delay to open a CBA account, so that final balances can be transferred from Bendigo Bank to CBA in those cases."

In November 2024, the Government of Nauru and Bendigo & Adelaide Bank issued a joint statement advising the Bank's intention to end the agency agreement, with support from the Government of Australia and the Asian Development Bank as Nauru explored an alternative banking service provider.

After securing the CBA as the new provider, the government facilitated a smooth transition ensuring customer's accounts were not affected.

The official opening day celebrations marking CommBank's involvement with Nauru will be held on Monday 18 August.

After years of operating as a cash economy without a proper banking facility, Nauru welcomed the first banking provider, the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank opened an agency in Nauru on 2 June 2015. The Agency offered essential services and the introduction of CBA will continue the valuable banking needs of the government and community. //

Gadabu joins government as deputy minister

Hon Rennier Gadabu is the latest member of parliament to be sworn in as deputy minister with the Adeang Administration, 25 July.

Hon Gadabu sworn in as the 4th deputy minister.



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Gadabu joins government as deputy minister

Mr Gadabu will assist the relevant ministers in his performance of duties as deputy minister for Infrastructure Development, National Emergency Services, Transport, Environmental Management & Agriculture, Fisheries, and Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation.

Acting Chief Justice Kiniviliame Keteca officiated the installation, witnessed by His Excellency President David Adeang, members of the Cabinet and Speaker of Parliament Marcus Stephen.

Hon Gadabu was first elected to parliament in 2019 and is one of two members of Parliament for the constituency of Aiwo.

He previously served as minister for the departments of commerce, industry & environment (later as department of environmental management & agriculture), climate change & national resilience, infrastructure development, and Ronphos, under two different administrations from 2019 to 2023. //

Aust donates dengue-fighting briquettes

As part of Australia's on-going commitment to regional health and resilience under the 'Ranga Timorum' program, Nauru has received a donation of 10,000 methoprene briquettes from the Government of Australia to strengthen efforts in the country's fight against the ongoing dengue outbreak, 7 August.



(L-R) Minister Scotty and Minister Jeremiah receive the methoprene briquette from Aust Deputy High Commissioner Close.

The consignment was presented by Acting Australian High Commissioner Stephen Close to Acting President Jesse Jeremiah and Minister for Health and Medical Services Charmaine Scotty at the VIP lounge, Nauru International airport.

Minister Scotty expressed on behalf of the government their sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to the Australian Government.

"Your contribution will make a real and immediate difference on the ground. It is a gesture that speaks volumes of your commitment to health equity, solidarity and regional resilience."

The briquettes will be distributed and deployed across high-risk groups by the Nauru Public Health teams.

Methoprene briquettes are a type of mosquito larvicide used to prevent the growth of mosquito larvae into adulthood. When placed in standing water, such as tanks, containers or natural catchments methoprene briquettes slowly release a compound that targets mosquito larvae. The active ingredient disrupts mosquito breeding cycles thereby reducing transmission risk.

This donation reflects the long and enduring partnership between Australia and Nauru in addressing public health challenges. //

Buoy launch signals start of fibre cable works

Nauru marked a significant milestone in its digital transformation with a ceremony celebrating the landing of the East Micronesia Cable System (EMCS), 9 August.



The cable will bring social and economic benefits for the government and people.

The ceremonial buoy event was hosted by Nauru Fibre Cable Corporation (NFCC), attended by Acting President Jesse Jeremiah, Ambassador of Japan Rokuichiro Michii, Australian Acting High Commissioner Stephen Close, US Embassy representative, Kelly Busby, supporting ministers, senior government officials, student representatives and guests.

Welcome remarks from Secretary of ICT, Geoffery Harris thanked the donors and all the key players who contributed to enabling the cable to land in Nauru.

"This is a very momentous occasion for us, this cable has been in the works and talks since 2016 and now it's finally here. The cable we envisage will be very important for Nauru's progress. The social and economical benefits we see will be immense, the advantages derived from the cable for our education sector, health sector and government and the people, will bring the cost of internet to very affordable rates and reliable connection."

Keynote speakers included Ambassador Michii and Mr Close expressed sincere congratulations for this critical step in enhancing Nauru's communications infrastructure.

Mr Close warmly remarked "The students from Nauru Primary School are here this afternoon to witness the arrival of the EMC, their presence is a reminder of who this infrastructure is ultimately for. This project will give the young people of Nauru better access to learning materials, global knowledge and new opportunities".

Buoy launch signals start of fibre cable works

“For Nauru, Japan and Australia funds the marine cable cross technical provisions and regional management support with funding for all land-based works including the cable landing station, through the Australian Infrastructure Financing Facility for the Pacific.”

Ambassador Michii affirmed Japan’s commitment to support technical capacity building in cable maintenance and operations, through Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) technical corporation including a separate project to enhance ICT support and cyber security capabilities for public institutions and communities.

The 2.250km cable linking Nauru with Kosrae, Pohnpei and Kiribati is set to elevate internet access to over 100,000 people across the three countries with faster, more reliable and more affordable rates, bolstering socioeconomic development and enhancing regional resilience. The cable is anticipated to be operational and live by October, 2025.

The EMCS project, valued at \$135m is supported by funding partners Japan, United States of America, and Australia, reflecting partnership with a shared vision of a prosperous, sustainable and inclusive future for Nauru. //

Nauru leaders meet top US officials in White House to build stronger economic ties

A Nauruan government delegation held high level talks at the White House with top US government officials early August, as part of the government’s aim to build stronger economic ties with the global superpower.



The US administration reaffirmed support in expediting the process of TMC's application with NOAA

Minister for Commerce and Foreign Investment Maverick Eoe led the delegation, accompanied by Deputy Minister Delvin Thoma, Deputy Speaker Isabella Dageago, Ambassador David Aingimea, and the CEO of Nauru Seabed Minerals Authority Ms Sai Sasikumar.

Two days earlier in New York the delegation outlined Nauru’s amended sponsorship agreement with Nauru Ocean Resources Inc, (NORI) at a special briefing held by The Metals Company (TMC), and the critical role that deep sea mining will play in delivering more prosperity for the Nauruan people.

Minister Eoe told the meeting that the agreement brings an essential diversification not only for financial sustainability but also for the long-term health of the Nauruan economy, providing security for its future generation.

President David Adeang welcomed the high-level talks, which he said signalled to the United States and other nations that Nauru is serious about attracting investment in new industries which have the potential to transform the nation’s economic prospects.

“Nauru’s deep sea mining partnership will not only promote the sustainable use of ocean resources while preserving the health of marine ecosystems for future generations, but generate economic growth, improve livelihoods and create jobs.

“Innovation is a core guiding principle of my administration, and we remain committed to creating opportunities that will contribute to Nauru’s long-term prosperity,” the president said.

During the American talks, the US Administration reaffirmed its intention to be a global leader in critical minerals and expressed full support for the expedited processing of TMC’s application with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Minister Eoe also emphasised that while Nauru welcomed constructive scrutiny on its deep sea mining stance, its position was strongly grounded on strong scientific data on the environmental concerns.

“NORI’s scientific data proves without doubt that deep sea mining for nodules provides a sustainable industry that will help provide the minerals required in the world’s transition to clean energy,” he said.

“It combats climate change by providing the critical minerals required for a low-carbon future.”

The New York event concluded with Minister Eoe, Deputy Minister Thoma and Deputy Speaker Dageago participating in TMC’s closing bell ceremony at Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square to ceremonially close the stock market for the day.

The Washington discussions also centred on building a stronger, mutually beneficial partnership between Nauru and the United States.

Both sides agreed to further deepen engagement, recognising the importance of collaborative action to advance regional stability, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability. //

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Working group press on for DV law implementation

Nauru hosted the 6th annual meeting of the regional working group on the implementation of family protection and domestic violence legislation, and at the conclusion, passed on the chairmanship to the Solomon Islands.



(Seated) Outgoing chair, Joy Heine, Nauru Secretary for WASDA, and incoming chair George Hoa'au, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Solomon Islands.

Minister for Women and Social Development Affairs, Hon Charmaine Scotty welcomed delegates to the three-day meeting, 11-13 August, and underscored the importance of strengthening domestic violence laws.

"It is imperative to note that violence against women constitutes the most severe expression of gender-based discrimination and disempowerment of women and girls. If we don't address this pandemic, it will dismantle democracy, peace, and security of like, hence, the importance of this working group.

"The enormity of the task to eliminate it is overwhelming and at times feel like we are fighting a losing battle, but I remind you all- we cannot give up. We may lose the battles, but we must remain resilient and eventually will win the war," Minister Scotty said.

Supported by the Pacific Community (SPC) the regional working group (RWG) heard presentations from senior government officials from the 12-member countries present who have dealt with legislation of domestic violence and family protection and their progress in implementing those laws.

WASDA legal officer Livai Sovau says with multiple agencies involved in DV matters data collection is a challenge. He adds that for Nauru implementation is linked to the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), women's policy and gender mainstreaming policy.

"This is a regional working group that is working because we listen to each other. It does not have the formalities of ministers so we can have conversations with each other. Basically, talk about it in the Pacific way, and hearing and learning from each other."

The RWG is made up of 12 countries and two states which have domestic violence legislation.

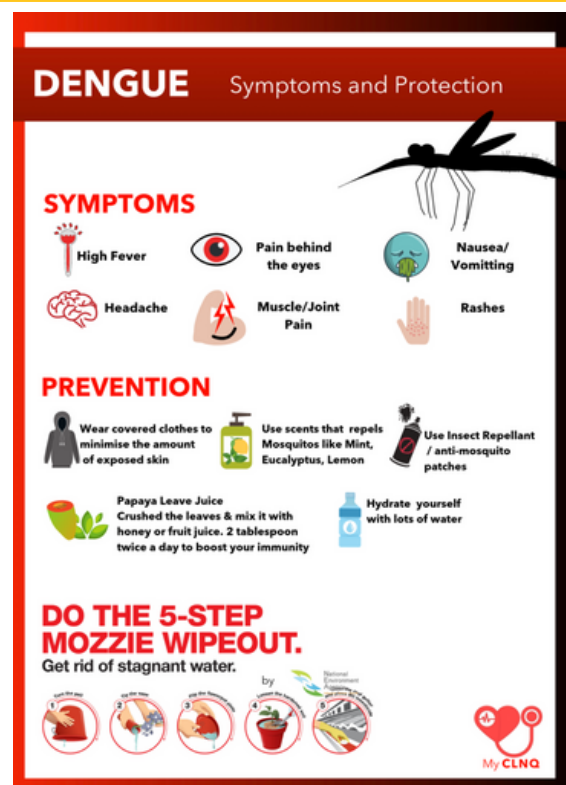
SPC Deputy Director Human Rights and Social Development, Tara Chetty says violence against women and girls is a serious problem in the Pacific with an average of two in three women experiencing DV which impacts many children and families.

"There are some really good laws that have been developed in the Pacific to try and protect survivors of violence but we are facing challenges in implementing. By that I mean we're facing challenges, [such as] survivors don't feel comfortable to come forward to get help maybe, and maybe police aren't fully trained to provide the help needed, or some services may not be available."

Ms Chetty says governments have a duty to act and the SPC is supporting in that capacity.

The RWG was first convened in 2018 and since then three sub-committees have been formed to focus on data collection, domestic violence and family protection legislation, and counselling.

The draft outcomes document was discussed on the final day of the meeting and will now be submitted for Cabinet endorsement. //



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