



# Nauru Bulletin

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## Mentally disordered act amended, strengthened

The Mentally Disordered Persons Act 1963 was recently amended to update as well as strengthen the outdated provisions of the Act by proposing several changes to the principle Act of 1963.

The amendments include the introduction of powers of authorised officers, the inclusion of more procedures designed to address mental health patients, specifically in the areas of the power of review by the magistrate and the rights of a person including the right to appeal against detention for assessment, as well as amendments for an inpatient treatment order.

In a recent interview on the new radio program Discussion Desk hosted by the Government Information Office and Radio Nauru, Dr Toobia Smith briefly outlined the process of assessing someone who has been admitted for a mental disorder.

According to Dr Smith a second assessment will be required to be undertaken by a second authorised officer within a 24-hour period of the patient being admitted to hospital.

“First, authorised officers stated in this Act is the officer is going to assess that person if in the opinion of the officer thinks that the person appears to be



*Psychiatrist Dr Toobia Smith and nurse Myreena Ika discuss the Mentally Disordered Persons Act with program hosts from the GIO and Radio Nauru*

mentally ill then it requires a second assessment by a second authorised officer,” Dr Smith said.

Such assessments are conducted in a 24-hour period.

Currently, Dr Smith and nurse Myreena Ika are the only two officers with the unit and that have been authorised to carry out mental health work at the clinic based at the RON hospital.

As part of the new amendments, authorised officers have been empowered to search persons admitted to the clinic for mental reasons. Additionally, authorised officers under the revised Act have been empowered to carry out safety searches on persons for objects that may pose a danger to the safety of the alleged mental person and the officers doing the search.

“This is a new section of the Act... by this new section I think we will be able to exercise this power in order to search the person that is sent to us to be assessed only for safety,” Dr Smith said.

The Mental Health clinic conducts counseling as well as home visits for patients with mental disorders.

If you or a friend or family member feels you need to see a doctor or nurse of the mental health unit, please visit the Mental Health Unit at the RON Hospital.

For more information on the Mentally Disordered Persons Act 1963 please visit [www.naurugov.nr](http://www.naurugov.nr) and find the RonLaw link•

## ADB report on Nauru

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently published a report titled *Securing Sustainability – Nauru’s new Intergenerational Trust Fund and Beyond*, arguing that the Government of Nauru should establish a more sustainable fiscal strategy and put in place reforms to improve transparency and the quality of public spending.

The report talks of Nauru’s newfound income and economic boom and makes suggestions to increase saving and improve

public spending as revenue from the Regional Processing Centre and sale of fishing licenses are in their prime.

The Nauru Intergenerational Trust Fund (NTF) is set up to save for the future as Nauru experiences a windfall of revenue earnings. Annual contributions are made to the fund by the governments of Nauru, Australia, and Taiwan. Along with the three main contributors the Asian Development Bank (ADB) also contributed to the capital fund in 2016. The NTF is governed

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## ADB: Sustainable fiscal strategy

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by a committee consisting of representatives of the governments of Nauru, Australia and Taiwan.

The ADB report recommends higher contributions are made to the NTF so future generations can benefit from today's temporary high income.

The ADB reports the NTF and the policy framework it establishes are an important step forward and recommends the Nauru Government focus on two broad reform priorities.

The first priority is to establish a sustainable fiscal strategy that effectively saves revenue when it is unsustainably high, and by drawing upon these savings when revenue falls; and to save considerably more than the minimum rate required under the contribution rule.

The second priority recommends complementary public finance reforms that include improving fiscal transparency such as to make available financial statements; raise the quality of public spending; and ensure sustainable infrastructure management.

The full ADB report can be found on [www.adb.org/publications/securing-sustainability-nauru-intergenerational-trust-fund](http://www.adb.org/publications/securing-sustainability-nauru-intergenerational-trust-fund)

## Nauru Airlines extends Honiara service

Nauru Airlines will commence its extended service of Honiara providing convenient travel choices for visitors starting 24 March.

Residents and visitors to and from the Solomon Islands will have the choice of early travel to Honiara from Brisbane on Fridays and a Sunday afternoon service from Honiara to Brisbane.

"Nauru Airlines is pleased to be building this further new link to and from Brisbane, in addition to Nauru Airlines current connections from Honiara through to Nauru, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands and Micronesia," Nauru Airlines CEO Geoff Bowmaker said.

Arrangements for a further service into Guam are currently in the latter stages of approval by the U.S government and will be announced in due course.

Guadalcanal Travel Solomons have been appointed as Nauru Airlines general sales agent

## Nauru observes international women's day

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International Women's Day is celebrated with the theme Be Bold for Change which is echoed in Nauru with the observance of a national holiday and programs to illustrate the significance of the special day.

A non-denominational church service was conducted at the Orro Congregational Church in Aiwo with prayers and sermons shared by the church minister and speakers from support groups.

Like previous years a bike ride around the national airstrip was organised by the Australian High Commission with purple as the theme colour.

The program also included a walk around the airstrip, essay competition, stalls displaying the various departments of health, CIE, tourism, Nauru Police Force, culture, education, child

## Magistrate Lomaloma sworn in

Lawyer Penijamini Lomaloma was sworn in as acting magistrate of the District Court of Nauru by Acting Minister for Justice Aaron Cook this month, 14 March.

Mr Lomaloma takes over from Registrar Filimoni Jitoko as acting magistrate for a period of three months until the appointment of a permanent resident magistrate.

The brief ceremony took place at the Cabinet room with Registrar Jitoko present.



*Penijamini Lomaloma signs contract taking up post as acting magistrate of the Nauru District Court*

The Magistrate comes with years of experience including as a former barrister and solicitor of various institutions including the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and the High Court of Fiji. Mr Lomaloma has over 18 years' experience as a barrister and solicitor and 22 years of post-admission experience.

Mr Lomaloma's professional experience include private practice, resident magistrate of Fiji, been on the Fiji Agricultural Tribunal and has served in the Fiji Military Forces first as an officer before rising to the ranks of major and tours of duties in Sinai, Afghanistan and Pakistan

protection unit, family and community services.

*[Excerpt below from www.un.org]*

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. International Women's Day first emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and across Europe.

Since those early years, International Women's Day has assumed a new global dimension for women in developed and developing countries alike. The growing international women's movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations

# The UN designated 8 March as women's day

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women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point to build support for women's rights and participation in the political and economic arenas.

## Chronology

- 1909 The first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on 28 February. The Socialist Party of America designated this day in honour of the 1908 garment workers' strike in New York, where women protested against working conditions.
- 1910 The Socialist International, meeting in Copenhagen, established a Women's Day, international in character, to honour the movement for women's rights and to build support for achieving universal suffrage for women. The proposal was greeted with unanimous approval by the conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, which included the first three women elected to the Finnish Parliament. No fixed date was selected for the observance.
- 1911 As a result of the Copenhagen initiative, International Women's Day was marked for the first time (19 March) in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, where more than one million women and men attended rallies. In addition to the right to vote and to hold public office, they demanded women's rights to work, to vocational training and to an end to discrimination on the job.
- 1913-1914 International Women's Day also became a mechanism for protesting World War I. As part of the peace movement, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February. Elsewhere in Europe, on or around 8 March of the following year, women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with other activists.
- 1917 Against the backdrop of the war, women in Russia again chose to protest and strike for "Bread and Peace" on the last Sunday in February (which fell on 8 March on the Gregorian calendar). Four days later, the Czar abdicated and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote.



- 1975 During International Women's Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day on 8 March.
- 1995 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments, focused on 12 critical areas of concern, and envisioned a world where each woman and girl can exercise her choices, such as participating in politics, getting an education, having an income, and living in societies free from violence and discrimination.
- 2014 The 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) – the annual gathering of States to address critical issues related to gender equality and women's rights — focused on "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls". UN entities and accredited NGOs from around the world took stock of progress and remaining challenges towards meeting the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs have played an important role in galvanizing attention on and resources for gender equality and women's empowerment•

## Discussion Desk

Join the Government Information Office  
and Radio Nauru talk about policy that  
matter to you

Every Wednesdays 9.30am on FM105.1

# Introducing Human Resources, Births Deaths and Marriages Registry

Get to know your government departments.  
A new office will feature in this space each publication.

The Department of Chief Secretary comprises the sections of – Secretariat; Presidency and Ministerial; Human Resources and Labour (HRL); Administration and Operations; Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry. Some of these sections have other offices under them.

This edition will feature the sections of Human Resources & Labour, and Births, Deaths and Marriages. Under the HRL section comes Employee Relations (ER); Recruitment, Selection and Monitoring (RSM) and; Salaries and Employee Benefits (SEB).

The Human Resources division is responsible for all staff employment issues, policies, staff recruitment, disciplines, contracts, and remunerations. It plays a leading role in areas such as reforms and governance and development, strategic utilization of employees to serve and accomplish business goals.

The Births Deaths and Marriages Registry is responsible for all registrations of births, deaths and marriages, and production and publication of the Government Gazette

The sections of Presidency and Ministerial; and Administration and Operations were featured in previous editions of the Nauru Bulletin.

### HR staff

- Peta Gadabu - Secretary for Corporate Services
- Maritino Nemani - Chief HR & Governance Adviser
- Marcus Aremwa – Manager Benefits & Payroll Systems
- Clarissa Scotty – Contracts HR Manager
- Lindsey Dobwido – Manager Recruitment & Selection
- Allyson Reiyetsi - Deputy Payroll manager
- LiJune Itsimaera – HR Data/Systems Officer
- Odette Demaure – Snr Payroll Officer
- Oxyna Gobure – Payroll Officer
- Jadwiga Atsime – Benefits Officer
- Jana Bop – Higher Clerical Officer
- Tutember Bop – Clerical Officer
- Ami-Shaye Brechtefeld
- Amuson Bernicke

### BDM staff

- Marilyn Deireragea - Registrar
- Chrisabeth Canon - Administrative Assistant
- Rosie Raidi - Gazette Officer
- Agnessa Limen - Higher Clerical Officer (Admin)
- Egaiwe Hunt - Higher Clerical Officer (Gazette)
- Tromina Hartman - Student Intern
- Azaria Jose - Student Intern •



Secretary Corporate Services Peta Gadabu (far left) with part of the HR team



BDM Registrar Marilyn Deireragea (front right) with her staff

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NAURU BULLETIN



Republic of Nauru

### Office contact:

Government Information Office  
Government Offices  
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

director.information@naurugov.nr  
Mobile: +674 5573009  
www.naurugov.nr