

Quarterly Reports on Key Indicators in Queensland's Discrete Indigenous Communities

The Quarterly Reports provide data against a select number of indicators, for each of the discrete Indigenous communities (the discrete communities¹¹³), plus the two other Cape York Welfare Reform communities of Coen and Mossman Gorge. These reports focus on indicators directly relevant to the government's alcohol and welfare reform initiatives:

- hospital admissions due to assault
- reported offences against a person
- breaches of alcohol restrictions
- new substantiated notifications of harm
- new finalised child protection orders
- school attendance.

The data in the Quarterly Report are not directly comparable with the data in this report as they only relate to the discrete communities while this report has a statewide focus against nationally agreed measures.

The information summarised below provides an overview of the data for the majority of the six indicators as reported in the Quarterly Reports during 2008–2009. Where possible, the data are presented as a comparison of this financial year with the previous. It should be noted that some of these communities have small populations and accordingly, a small number of incidents can impact substantially on reported rates.

Hospital admissions for assault

From 2007/08 to 2008/09, the rate per 1,000 of hospital admissions for assault increased in some communities (Doomadgee, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge and Pormpuraaw) although none of those increases are considered to be statistically significant. The rate decreased in some communities (Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale, Mornington Island, Palm Island, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah), although again, none of those decreases are considered to be statistically significant. In Cherbourg, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area and Woorabinda, there was no substantial change (i.e. the per cent change was less than 10 per cent).

Reported offences against the person

From 2007/08 to 2008/09, the rate per 1,000 of reported offences against the person decreased in Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw and Wujal Wujal, although in all those communities except Aurukun, Doomadgee and Kowanyama, these decreases are not considered to be statistically significant. Mapoon, Mornington Island, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area and Woorabinda reported increases in the annual rates, although in all those communities except Mornington Island and Northern Peninsula Area, those increases are also not considered to be statistically significant. In Palm Island and Yarrabah there was no substantial change (i.e. the per cent change was less than 10 per cent).

¹¹³ These communities encompass the 19 discrete Indigenous communities of Aurukun, Bamaga, Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Injinoo, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mornington Island, Mapoon, Napranum, New Mapoon, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Seisia, Umagico, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah.

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**Table 4. Hospital admissions for assault
(rate per 1,000 persons)**

Community	2007/08	2008/09
Aurukun	22.5	15.9
Cherbourg	40.4	42.9
Coen	17.1	12.2
Doomadgee	14.6	17.7
Hope Vale	32.4	20.4
Kowanyama	5.3	7.9
Lockhart River	14.9	18.1
Mapoon	3.8	11.4
Mornington Island	40.7	27.6
Mossman Gorge	122.6	160.8
Napranum	24.1	25.9
Northern Peninsula Area	4.1	4.4
Palm Island	32.8	28.3
Pormpuraaw	13.5	17.8
Woorabinda	46.5	42.5
Wujal Wujal	29.0	0.0
Yarrabah	20.0	16.3

**Table 5. Reported offences against the person (rate
per 1,000 persons)**

Community	2007/08	2008/09
Aurukun	141.9	85.3
Cherbourg	101.8	70.1
Coen	183.0	138.2
Doomadgee	95.4	62.1
Hope Vale	56.4	43.3
Kowanyama	106.2	64.0
Lockhart River	122.5	92.1
Mapoon	15.4	22.8
Mornington Island	100.8	152.6
Mossman Gorge*	-	-
Napranum	39.3	47.4
Northern Peninsula Area	50.0	57.0
Palm Island	100.3	104.4
Pormpuraaw	93.0	62.4
Woorabinda	101.4	137.8
Wujal Wujal	101.7	59.7
Yarrabah	69.3	62.6

* Mossman Gorge data are highly variable and have not been reported.



Breaches of alcohol restrictions

Across all communities, except Doomadgee and Mapoon, there was a reported increase in the rate of charges resulting in a conviction for breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions during 2008/09 when compared with 2007/08.

Table 6. Breaches of alcohol restrictions (rate per 1,000 persons)

Community	2007/08	2008/09
Aurukun	128.9	163.9
Cherbourg*	-	-
Coen**	-	-
Doomadgee	63.9	31.5
Hope Vale	160.9	278.8
Kowanyama	61.9	86.8
Lockhart River	59.6	128.3
Mapoon***	-	-
Mornington Island	69.8	345.6
Mossman Gorge**	-	-
Napranum	76.5	223.1
Northern Peninsula Area	1.4	25.6
Palm Island****	-	-
Pormpuraaw	22.5	65.4
Woorabinda	64.4	215.5
Wujal Wujal	90.1	269.9
Yarrabah	47.4	91.4

* Alcohol restrictions were only introduced in Cherbourg in March 2009.

** There are no alcohol restrictions in Coen and Mossman Gorge.

*** Due to the small numbers of charges resulting in convictions in Mapoon, annual rates have not been provided.

**** Data for Palm Island not available pending outcome of leave to appeal a court decision to the Court of Appeal.

Child protection

No yearly comparisons were available at the time of publication of this report.

School attendance

Comparing Term two 2009 to Term two 2008, school attendance improved in Aurukun, Mapoon, Mornington Island and Mossman Gorge, with Aurukun and Mossman Gorge showing consistent increases in attendance over the last three terms. However, the communities of Northern Peninsula Area and Woorabinda showed a decrease in school attendance comparing Term two 2009 to Term two 2008. In the communities of Cherbourg, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah there was no substantial change (i.e. the change was less than 5 percentage points). In Napranum, no Term two 2008 data were available. Several communities have school attendance rates close to the semester one 2008 state average including Cherbourg, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge and Pormpuraaw. The Coen State School average attendance rate was higher than the average attendance rate for all students of Queensland state schools.

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Table 7. Average school attendance rate (%)

Community	Term 2 2008	Term 2 2009
Aurukun	37.9	63.2
Cherbourg	83.4	82.9
Coen	96.8	93.6
Doomadgee	53.1	52.0
Hope Vale	87.6	86.9
Kowanyama	83.0	81.5
Lockhart River	72.1	67.5
Mapoon	75.8	84.9
Mornington Island	51.9	63.7
Mossman Gorge	60.9	81.6
Napranum*	-	56.8
Northern Peninsula Area	63.7	58.5
Palm Island	68.7	70.7
Pormpuraaw	76.2	80.8
Woorabinda	81.9	73.8
Wujal Wujal	77.3	73.2
Yarrabah	71.6	67.3

* Napranum Term 2 data for 2008 were not available.