

Safe Communities

All people have the right to live in safety, particularly in their own homes and communities. Safety from harm to themselves and their property is a fundamental right and an important precondition for maintaining health, participating in education and contributing to economic development. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are more likely to be victims and perpetrators of crime, more likely to be the subject of child protection intervention, and more likely to be incarcerated as adults and juveniles. Liveable communities also rely on people participating in community affairs and volunteering to support other vulnerable people, care for country, protect heritage, practise culture, educate or mentor young people, and participate in community events and activities.

Overview

Addressing the problem of violence in Indigenous families and communities, reducing the harm of alcohol and other substance use, preventing and dealing with criminal and other anti-social behaviours, protecting children from neglect and abuse, and supporting volunteering by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are priorities for the Queensland Government.

Below is an outline of Queensland's commitment under the COAG Indigenous reform agenda, as well as the measures which will be used to monitor progress, and the programs and services which have been delivered by the Queensland Government (in 2008/09) to address the community safety gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous peoples.

Queensland's commitment under COAG

Three national policy frameworks are currently included under the COAG Indigenous reform agenda for Safe Communities:

- the **National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children** 2009–2020, addresses the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in all parts of the child protection system. The Framework aims to improve services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families
- the **National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework** 2009–2015, sets out how to address justice issues to contribute to Closing the Gap. It will facilitate evaluation projects, identification of good practice policies and programs, and sharing of this information nationally

- **Time for Action: The National Council's Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children** 2009–2021, focuses on sexual assault, domestic and family violence, and the safety of women at home, at work and in the community. The Plan delivers strategies for prevention, early intervention, improved service delivery, and justice.

At the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General Meeting in August 2009, ministers agreed to develop justice Closing the Gap targets with the intention of including them in future COAG reform packages. The Queensland and Victorian governments will lead the development of these quantitative benchmarks for assessing progress on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues and community safety.

Queensland-specific initiatives that will help to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are supported and safe in their families and communities include the:

- **Cape York Welfare Reform** trial
- **Alcohol management reforms** in the discrete Indigenous communities
- **Foster Carer Recruitment and Retention Plan** 2009–2010, which focuses on recruiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers. At 30 June 2009, an additional 35 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders had been approved as carers, 29 as general foster carers and six as kinship carers
- action plan to improve practices relating to the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle**.



The evidence¹⁰²

Child safety

A child is considered in need of protection when he/she has suffered harm, is suffering harm, or is at risk of suffering harm, and does not have a parent or carer able and willing to protect the child from harm in accordance with section 10, *Child Protection Act 1999*. Under the *Child Protection Act 1999*, the government's role in protecting children and young people is to investigate concerns that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm and provide ongoing services to children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing harm.

Children subject to child protection notifications

When Child Safety Services receives information about harm or risk of harm to a child or young person up to 18 years of age, and reasonably suspects that they may require protection, a child protection notification is recorded. Child safety officers will then complete an investigation and assessment to determine if intervention is required to ensure the ongoing safety of the child.

In 2008/09, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were subject to a child protection notification:¹⁰³

- at a rate around four times greater than for non-Indigenous children (68.3 compared with 16.6 per 1,000 children)
- in major cities (80.7 per 1,000 children) at a significantly higher rate than in other areas, and in inner regional areas (54.4 per 1,000 children) at a significantly lower rate than in other areas.¹⁰⁴

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, rates decreased significantly in major cities (from 92.8 to 80.7 per 1,000 children), and increased significantly in all other areas and statewide.

¹⁰²Although there are no specific NIRA targets for the Safe Communities Building Block, the NIRA identifies that the outcomes for this building block will be met through the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children.

¹⁰³Source: Department of Communities, Queensland, 2009.

¹⁰⁴Rates for non-Indigenous children were, by contrast, lower in major cities than in remote/very remote areas.

Children subject to substantiated child protection notifications

An investigation and assessment will have a substantiated outcome when it is assessed that harm has been experienced by the child and/or there are identifiable risk factors that the child may be harmed in the future. Harm to a child or young person can be caused by physical, psychological or emotional abuse, neglect, or sexual abuse or exploitation.

In 2008/09, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were subject to substantiated child protection notifications:¹⁰⁵

- at a rate around five times greater than non-Indigenous children (25.5 compared with 5.0 per 1,000 children - see Figure 8)
- in inner regional areas at a significantly lower rate than children in other areas (18.0 compared with 24.5 per 1,000 children or more elsewhere).

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, the rate increased significantly in major cities (from 25.9 to 30.8 per 1,000 children).

Children subject to child protection orders

If it has been assessed that a child or young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm and requires protection, Child Safety Services may apply to the Childrens Court to grant a child protection order. Some orders may direct a parent to undertake specific actions or require Child Safety Services to supervise a child or young person's care at home. These orders allow the child or young person to remain at home in the care of their parents. Other types of orders can grant custody or guardianship of a child or young person to the Chief Executive (Director-General), a family member or other person for the duration of the order. Child protection orders can be either short-term (maximum of two years) or long-term (lasting until a child turns 18 years of age).

As at 30 June 2009, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were subject to child protection orders:¹⁰⁶

- at a rate of over seven times the rate for non-Indigenous children (38.7 compared with 5.3 per 1,000 children).

¹⁰⁵Source: Department of Communities, Queensland, 2009.

¹⁰⁶Source: Department of Communities, Queensland, 2009.

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Between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009, rates increased significantly in all areas except major cities (remote/very remote areas from 29.8 to 39.4 per 1,000 children, outer regional areas from 30.2 to 36.9 per 1,000 children, inner regional areas from 30.7 to 37.0 per 1,000 children, and statewide from 32.2 to 38.7 per 1,000 children).

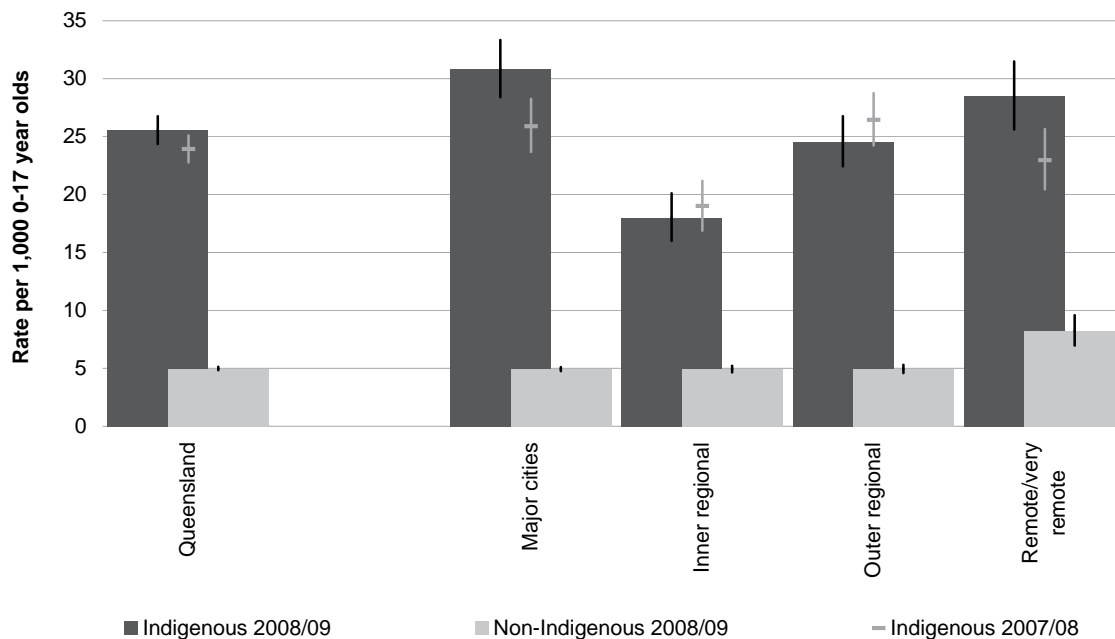
While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 0-17 years represented only 6.6 per cent of all Queenslanders aged 0-17 years in 2008/09, they represented 34 per cent of all children subject to child protection orders as at 30 June 2009.

Children in out-of-home care

In some cases, a child in need of protection may need to be removed from their home to ensure their safety. When placing an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child in out-of-home care, a culturally appropriate placement is sought in accordance with the Indigenous child placement principle (see Glossary for more information).

As at 30 June 2009, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were placed in out-of-home care.¹⁰⁷

Figure 8. Distinct children subject to a substantiated child protection notification (persons aged 0-17 years), Queensland, 2007/08 and 2008/09.



This graph compares the rate at which Queensland children were subject to substantiated child protection notifications in two time periods for a range of geographic regions within Queensland. The first year 2007/08 is represented by a floating line for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and is compared with 2008/09, represented by a solid bar. Source: Department of Communities, Queensland, 2009. Notes: (1) Data are reported by the geographic location of the child safety service centre responsible for the assessment of concerns at investigation and assessment. (2) Non-Indigenous rates include children whose Indigenous status was not stated. (3) Queensland rates include data where geographic location was not able to be determined, such as substantiated notifications recorded by the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre. (4) Confidence limits are used to aid analysis in this graph. Please refer to Appendix 1 for further information on how to read these graphs.

¹⁰⁷Source: Department of Communities, Queensland, 2009.



- at a rate of 36.1 per 1,000 children
- in major cities at a significantly higher rate than children in inner and outer regional areas (40.4 per 1,000 children compared with 34.0 and 33.3 per 1,000 children respectively).

Statewide, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were significantly more likely to be placed with a kinship or Indigenous carer than without a kinship or Indigenous carer (21.1 per 1,000 children compared with 15.1 per 1,000 children). This increased significantly with remoteness.

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, rates increased significantly in remote/very remote regions (from 26.1 to 36.8 per 1,000 children) and statewide (from 30.7 to 36.1 per 1,000 children).

Family violence

Domestic violence orders issued by the court

In 2008/09:¹⁰⁸

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons were around seven times more likely to have a domestic violence order made on their behalf by the court than non-Indigenous persons (22.7 per 1,000 persons compared with 3.4 per 1,000 persons)¹⁰⁹
- about 88 per cent (2,178) of orders issued for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aggrieved persons (see Glossary) were applied for by the police compared with 77.1 per cent for non-Indigenous aggrieved persons
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander respondents were around nine to 10 times more likely to have a domestic violence order imposed on them by the court than non-Indigenous respondents (30.4 per 1,000 persons compared with 3.3 per 1,000 persons)

¹⁰⁸Data source: Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts (QWIC) system, Department of Justice and Attorney-General by permission from Department of Communities.

¹⁰⁹Address data were missing or incomplete for 19 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aggrieved persons and 25 per cent of non-Indigenous persons, making remoteness calculations unreliable.

- around 71 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters were heard in outer regional and remote/very remote courts, while only 58 per cent of addresses of aggrieved persons were located in these areas.

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, there was little change in the rates at which orders were issued by the court.

Offences against the person

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders are over-represented in all levels of the criminal justice system – they are more likely to be offenders, be imprisoned and be victims of violent offences than non-Indigenous Queenslanders.

In 2008/09:¹¹⁰

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders were around eight times more likely to be charged by police with offences against the person than non-Indigenous offenders (3,255 compared with 386 per 100,000 persons - see Figure A19)
- there was little difference in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offending rates between major cities and inner regional areas, however, rates increased significantly with remoteness beyond these areas (from 2,036 per 100,000 persons in major cities to 5,043 per 100,000 persons in remote/very remote areas).¹¹¹ Non-Indigenous offending rates were also significantly higher in remote/very remote areas than elsewhere in Queensland
- persons aged 15-19 years had the highest rate of offending for offences against the person for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous young people. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the discrete communities were twice as likely as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people elsewhere in Queensland to be charged by police with offences against the person (see Figure A20).

¹¹⁰Source: Queensland Police Service, QPRIME unpublished data, 2009.

¹¹¹Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in remote areas may be more likely to identify as such than those living in urban centres, hence the higher rates evident in remote areas may be due in part to identification rates.

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offending rates in inner regional areas decreased slightly from 2,548 per 100,000 persons in 2007/08 to 2,237 per 100,000 persons in 2008/09.

Youth detention

Youth justice orders

As at 30 June 2009:¹¹²

- there were 977 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders aged from 10-17 years serving a supervised youth justice order in Queensland (an additional 119 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prisoners were aged 18 years or over)
- of the 41 young people aged 10-17 years serving detention orders, 34 were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Based on detention rates for non-Indigenous young people, only one young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young person would be expected to be in detention
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were over-represented on all supervised youth justice orders, and were at least 14 times more likely to be on a supervised order than non-Indigenous young people in 2009 (see Figure A21).

Between 30 June 2008 and 30 June 2009, the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were placed on a community order significantly decreased (from 17.0 to 11.1 per 1,000 10-17 year olds).

Charges for youth offenders

In June 2009:

- 43 per cent of youth justice charges were for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people were charged with similar types of offences to non-Indigenous young people (about two thirds of charges were for offences against property).

¹¹²Source: Department of Communities, unpublished data, 2009.

Key Queensland Government actions to close the gap

Protecting children

Capital funding of \$16.5 million and operating funding of \$29.1 million (a total of \$45.6 million) over four years (2007/08 to 2010/11) has been provided by the Queensland Government for establishment of 11 **Safe Houses** in Indigenous communities which will provide up to 66 additional placements for children and young people. One Safe House facility (in Yarrabah) was established in 2008/09.

Along with this, the Queensland Government has provided or supported:

- \$15.893 million in 2008/09 to support **30 dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations**, known as recognised entities, which are independent of the Queensland Government. In accordance with section 6 of the *Child Protection Act 1999*, recognised entities participate in all significant decisions in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. They assist child protection staff in providing culturally appropriate casework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities.
- **Sexual Abuse Counselling Services** which delivers specialist counselling and therapeutic services to children and young people subject to child protection statutory intervention
- a **Foster and Kinship Carer Recruitment Campaign** which commenced in mid May 2008 and was officially completed on 30 June 2009



- **Cultural competency training** for child safety staff
- **Cultural Support Plans** prepared by child safety staff for every Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander child who is subject to an ongoing child protection intervention.

Family violence

The Queensland Government's strategy to reduce domestic and family violence, **For our sons and daughters**, sets out a number of principles to guide responses to domestic and family violence including a high priority on reducing harm to women and children in Indigenous communities. Priority urban and regional locations for service reform will be identified and the Queensland Government will work with service providers to ensure cultural competence.

The Queensland Government is currently undertaking a review of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989*. The review will take into account issues related to domestic and family violence which may have significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including connection with court processes, barriers to reporting, effectiveness of orders and penalties, conditions on orders, and alternative responses.

Improving policing

To enable better policing in Indigenous communities, the Queensland Government has contributed funding of \$3 million and the Australian Government funding of \$12 million towards the cost of housing for **29 additional police officers in Indigenous communities**. The bulk of approved positions have been filled.

On 20 November 2009, the Crime and Misconduct Commission released a report on **policing in Indigenous communities**. The Queensland Government is considering the report and its recommendations in detail.

The Queensland Police Service is also:

- partnering with Queensland Health and the Woorabinda community to progress the **Woorabinda Suicide Prevention Partnership**, an initiative to reduce adult and juvenile suicide in the community

- leading the **Domestic Violence Re-visit** project which addresses the levels of domestic violence involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the community of St George.

Indigenous Community / Police Consultative Groups (ICPCGs)

continued to operate in some communities. ICPCGs assist in building better relationships between the QPS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to enable police to serve communities in an informed and co-operative way, and where practical, resolve issues and problems at a local level.

Emergency responses

The Queensland Government has provided \$3.46 million to the **Palm Island Joint Emergency Service Facility** to enhance ambulance, fire and emergency management service delivery for Palm Island.

Equipment provided in 2008/09 ranged from emergency helicopter landing lights in the Torres Strait to road crash rescue equipment.

In addition, a total of \$5 million in funding has been allocated for the purchase of a plane, two houses for pilots, an aircraft hangar, office facilities and a tractor for towing the plane in the Torres Strait.

Alcohol management

The **Alcohol Reform** project commenced in February 2008 following the Premier's announcement of over \$100 million in Australian and state government funding (over four years) to assist the discrete Indigenous communities to go as dry as possible.

The project included strengthened legislation, including the required divestment of all council operated canteens, a review of current alcohol restrictions, and the identification and implementation of health and social services to support communities.

Support services include activities for adults and youth, programs to assist people in making healthy life choices,

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programs to support people address personal or family problems, or any service that a community believes would assist their community reduce harm from alcohol.

Services that have been established in communities include Police-Citizens Youth Club (Community Activity Programs through Education), Men's Support Groups, Women's Support Groups, community patrols, sobering-up shelters and community organised events such as BBQs and sporting events.

As part of the divestment program, council operated canteen licences lapsed in eight mainland communities between July and December 2008. The Torres Strait Island canteen divestment program commenced in 2009 and all council operated canteen licences will lapse by 31 December 2009.

From 1 January 2009 all licensees, managers and service staff in licensed premises must be trained in the responsible service of alcohol. This will assist in the education of patrons and in reducing binge drinking and associated alcohol-related harm.

Following investigations into the supply of alcohol to these communities, trading conditions are placed on licensed premises operating in and around restricted areas. The Queensland Government continues to monitor licensee compliance with these conditions.

The Queensland Government also invested in **Strong Community Life**, a grassroots community education program which promotes safer drinking cultures and healthy life choices within remote Indigenous communities. The campaign consists of locally produced radio programs and community music and sports events that provide the opportunity to talk about the responsible consumption of alcohol. Strong and positive messages are delivered by community leaders, service providers, young people and Indigenous heroes. In 2008/09, Strong Community Life events were held in 16 communities across Queensland: Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Hope Vale, Aurukun, Wujal Wujal, the Northern Peninsula Area, Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, Kowanyama, Mapoon, Napranum, Lockhart River, Mossman Gorge, Laura, Coen, and Cherbourg.

Strong Community Life events have increased:

- community morale
- involvement in community activities
- awareness and profile of sport and recreation activities and the Police Citizens Youth Club
- school attendance during the community events.

To monitor the reform process, **Quarterly reports on key indicators in Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities** (www.atsip.qld.gov.au) are published relating to community harm levels, child safety and school attendance. There are some positive signs from the data indicating alcohol-related violence may be decreasing and attendance at school is increasing. However, it is likely to take some time before the effects of alcohol service reforms are fully reflected in the indicators.

Cape York Welfare Reform trial

In December 2007, the Queensland Government committed \$40 million over four years to contribute to the implementation of the **Cape York Welfare Reform** trial, which is a collaborative partnership between the four Cape York communities of Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge, the Australian Government, the Queensland Government and the Cape York Institute for Policy and Leadership. The initiative aims to restore positive social norms, re-establish local Indigenous authority and support community and individual engagement in the real economy.

To restore social norms, the Cape York Welfare Reform trial attaches reciprocity to welfare payments. Receipt of welfare payments in the four participating communities is conditional on obligations around ensuring that children attend school, children are not abused or neglected, adults do not break the law, and adults abide by tenancy conditions in their public housing. Community and government efforts for welfare reform are focused in four areas or 'streams': social responsibility, education, housing and economic opportunity.

The **Family Responsibilities Commission** (the Commission) is an independent statutory body. The Commission works with



the communities of Aurukun, Hope Vale, Coen and Mossman Gorge to restore Indigenous authority and works with individuals to address the behaviours that brought them to the attention of the Commission, for example, through referring to community support services such as Wellbeing Centres.

The Commission's recently released Annual Report (www.atsip.qld.gov.au) states that from August 2008 to the end of June 2009 a total of 616 referrals were made by the Commission to support services, including Wellbeing Centres which have been established in each of the four communities to provide generalist and alcohol and drug counselling.

The Commission can also order that a person's welfare payment be subject to 'conditional income management' (CIM) to ensure that the priority needs of that person, their partner and their children are met. From July 2008 to the end of June 2009 a total of 89 CIM orders were made.

The use of targeted strategies by schools, in conjunction with school attendance case managers and an increased focus on attendance by the Commission, has resulted in increased school attendance in Aurukun (from 37.9 per cent in Term 2 2008 to 63.2 per cent in Term 2 2009) and Mossman Gorge (from 60.9 per cent in Term 2 2008 to 81.6 per cent in Term 2 2009), and stable school attendance rates in Coen (93.6 per cent in Term 2 2009) and Hope Vale (86.9 per cent in Term 2 2009).

In addition, to assist in addressing problem gambling in 2008/09, statewide consultations were undertaken for the development of a needs analysis of gambling help services for Indigenous Queenslanders to identify the need for culturally sensitive and accessible services. In late 2008 and early 2009, the government sponsored the development of an Indigenous specific gambling-related training program delivered in Cairns to welfare reform staff working in Wellbeing Centres.

Community safety

The **Palm Island Community Company** has been established to deliver alcohol reform programs, family support programs, diversionary services and community justice programs to the

community of Palm Island. The company has been funded with approximately \$1.47 million from the Queensland Government. By the end of June 2009, the Palm Island Community Company employed 27 people, 22 of whom were residents of Palm Island.

To reduce the health and safety risks posed by feral and domestic animals the Queensland Government has developed the **Supporting Animal Management by Aboriginal Local Governments and Torres Strait Islander Councils - Queensland Government Action Plan 2005–2009**. It provides a framework for the integrated management of feral and domestic pest animals in Indigenous communities.

Justice

The Queensland Government has provided \$36.4 million for the three year **Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program (QIADP)** pilot. The program commenced in July 2007, and provides an innovative treatment program to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who have alcohol issues and who have come into contact with the justice system in Cairns (including Yarrabah), Townsville (including Palm Island) and Rockhampton (including Woorabinda).

The **Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement** signed in December 2000 has the long-term aim of reducing the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples coming into contact with the Queensland criminal justice system to at least the same rate as non-Indigenous Queenslanders and in the shorter term to reduce the incarceration rate by 50 percent by the year 2011.

Other programs established by the Queensland Government to address justice issues include:

- **14 Murri Courts** which provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders access to justice processes supplemented by cultural advice from local Elders. Murri Court seeks to identify sentence outcomes that encourage the rehabilitation and reintegration of Indigenous offenders into their community

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- **Community Justice Groups** were established in 1993 to deal more effectively with social and justice issues in Indigenous communities. During 2008/09, \$3.6 million was committed to fund 51 community justice groups to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and offenders at all stages of the legal process. This included an expansion of the program to include small amounts of funding for nine outer islands in the Torres Strait and enabled them to support a Magistrates Court circuit which commenced during 2008/09. In 2008/09, community justice groups assisted more than 58,000 clients
- the **Statewide Community Justice Reference Group** which was established in 2008 in response to the Evaluation of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement. The group is an important avenue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to provide input to government on justice issues
- the **Remote Justices of the Peace (JP) Magistrates Court Program** which offers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples opportunities to engage in justice roles which improve the operation of the justice system within Indigenous communities
- the **Mornington Island Restorative Justice Pilot Project** (commenced in June 2008) which provides an alternative and sustainable community-based dispute resolution service that respects culture and conforms to the requirements of the formal criminal justice system
- initiatives which facilitate the **effective supervision, rehabilitation and reintegration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders** into the community, including Probation and Parole reporting centres in seven remote Indigenous communities and a new centre in Cooktown to service Hope Vale and Wujal Wujal
the provision of **Wik Mungkan language interpreters** in the Aurukun Magistrates Court.

The Queensland Government has also developed the 2008-09 **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Justice Strategy Implementation Plan**. Under this plan, seven

Indigenous Service Support Officers (working from the Youth Justice Service Centres of Mount Isa, Cairns, Roma, Mackay, Rockhampton and Inala) have been employed. In addition, 12 Indigenous Conferencing Support Officer positions have been rolled out statewide to assist with the increased participation in and completion of youth justice conferences by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.

The **'Ending Offending'** (alcohol abuse) and **'Ending Family Violence'** programs are based on best-practice offender rehabilitation models which use cognitive behaviour therapy approaches to problem-solving and behaviour change. Queensland Corrective Services funds a number of non-government organisations to deliver community-based programs and services to increase opportunities for Indigenous offenders to successfully reintegrate into their communities. Community-based initiatives include the **Aurukun Throughcare Project**. This project aims to assist Indigenous ex-offenders from communities in the Western Cape area by providing a pathway to employment in the mining sector. Indigenous offenders are provided with community-based support on a range of issues.

The **Offender Reintegration Service** assists offenders to reintegrate into the community. The service operates in partnership with the Department of Communities' Housing and Homelessness area and Centrelink to coordinate access to housing, income support and referrals to community-based services for ex-offenders.

Bail Support Programs (Youth Justice Services) in far North Queensland provide the courts and police with a viable alternative to remanding young people in custody by supporting young people in existing accommodation arrangements and facilitating new placements for those who require additional assistance. This program services all discrete communities within the Cape York region.