

# Part C

## Part C: Individual Community Outcome Reports

# Aurukun

Aurukun is on the western coast of Cape York and is approximately 900 kilometres northwest of Cairns, and about 200 kilometres south of Weipa. The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 1,150 people at 30 June 2007. The average annual growth rate from 2002 to 2007 was 0.3 per cent.

The community consists of five spiritual clan groups, Apalech, Winchanam, Wanam, Chara and Putch who comprise the Wik and Wik Way people who are the Traditional Owners of the land. Wik Munkun is the first language of most Aurukun residents, with English as the other predominant language. Some residents are fluent in four or five local languages.

## Services to the community

Community services in Aurukun include a Magistrates Court, employment services (ITEC, CEA, JobFIND), a childhood centre, a family and parenting support hub, Home and Community Care, a primary health care clinic, an art and craft centre, a Community Justice Group, an Indigenous Knowledge Centre, and schooling to Year 12. There are currently eight police officer positions in Aurukun with a further two to be allocated when infrastructure is in place, as well as Queensland Corrective Services parole and probation services.

The Queensland Government also provides funding support for youth services, a Sport and Recreation Officer, parenting education, childcare and family support programs, school holiday activities, and local history projects.

The Family Responsibilities Commission has been in place in Aurukun since July 2008, and conferences commenced in August 2008. As part of the Cape York Welfare Reform trial, school attendance case management and wellbeing services are in place.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Aurukun on 30 December 2002 (see Table 1).

The Government Champions for Aurukun are Mr Colin Jensen, Director-General, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, and Mr Jim McGowan, Director-General, Department of Emergency Services.



## Key initiatives

Aurukun is one of the communities (together with Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Coen) participating in the Cape York Welfare Reform trial over the next four years.

Together with Napranum and Mapoon, Aurukun is part of the Western Cape Regional Partnership Heads of Agreement which aims to place 50 people into jobs each year over the next five years.

The whole-of-government Aurukun Local Partnership Project (ALPP), led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Department of Communities, has been established to assist the Aurukun people in obtaining employment in the proposed bauxite mine with the Aluminium Corporation of China (CHALCO). The two year feasibility study stage, including studies on environmental, economic and social impacts, will conclude later in 2009.

In October 2008, a Blue Card (Construction Industry) training course, facilitated by Queensland's Department of Employment and Industrial Relations commenced in Aurukun. Approximately 120 people were successful in receiving their Blue Cards and 220 persons have obtained Blue Card qualifications to date.

A Wellbeing Centre, whose staff will be employed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, was constructed in October 2008.

The Aggression Replacement Training program - an intensive 10 week program that aims to reduce the risk of young people committing violent offences - is being delivered to young people in Aurukun. In the quarter under report, seven young people in Aurukun were involved.

A beautification project, overseen by the Tropical North Queensland Institute of TAFE, is making improvements to gardens, irrigation facilities, the barbecue area, handball court, bollards and concrete paths.

Justice of the Peace Courts will be held monthly for 2009. A court date list has already been developed.

In November 2008, the government announced that there will be no change to the existing carriage limit for Aurukun at this time. The zero carriage limit will continue which means no alcohol is allowed in the Aurukun Shire. Home-brew is automatically banned in all zero carriage limit communities. The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in Aurukun includes additional police, health treatment (drug and alcohol), sport and recreation services, and diversionary services. A men's program commenced in December 2008.

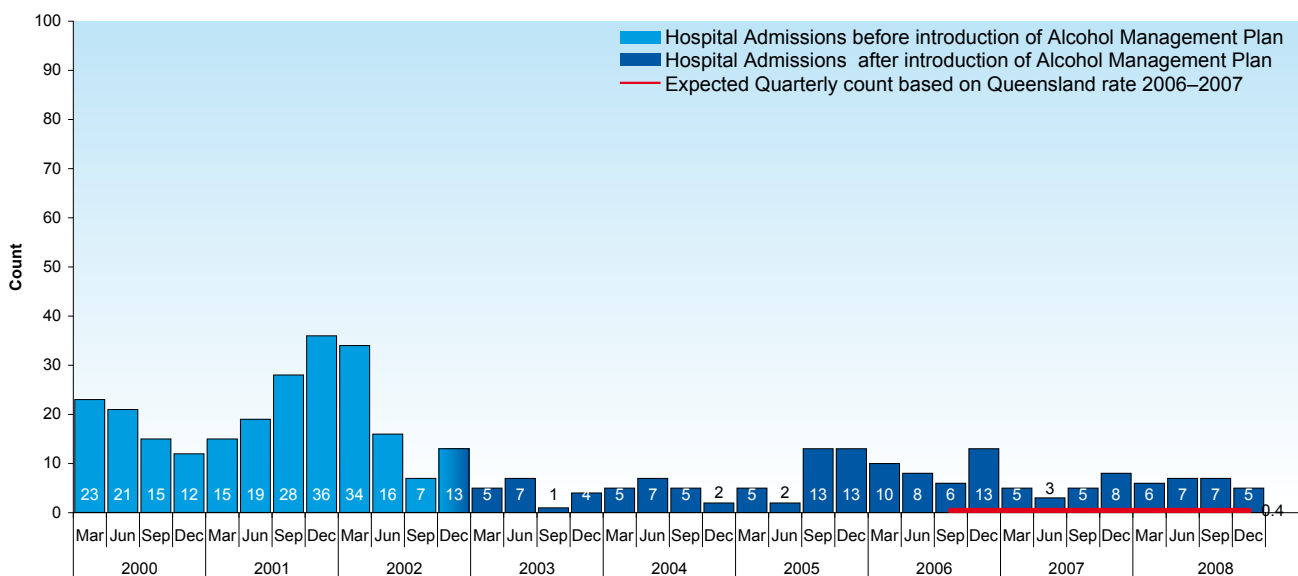
In December 2008, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation, in association with Olympic swimming coach and mentor, Lawrie Lawrence, and former NRL players Steve Renouf and Rod Jensen, visited Aurukun. The tour encouraged children and parents to find daily physical activity at the community pools, and promoting pool safety messages.

## Hospital Admissions for Assault

Since the introduction of alcohol restrictions on the 31st December 2002, quarterly counts of hospitalisations for assault for people from Aurukun have ranged from one up to 13 per quarter. There were no consistent trends in quarterly hospitalisations evident over time. Overall counts of hospitalisations for the 12 months to 31 December 2008 (25) did not

differ from the preceding 12 months. There was an average of 6.3 hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people from Aurukun over the 12 months to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.4 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Aurukun in 2007).

**Figure 7: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Aurukun (a)**



(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

## Persons Convicted (breaches of section 168B of the *Liquor Act 1992*)

Since the introduction of the Alcohol Management Plan, there has been a total of 344 persons convicted of 578 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Aurukun. In the December quarter 2008, six persons were convicted. (Individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community). As shown, there is considerable variation in the number of convictions across the quarters, with no consistent trends or seasonal patterns evident.

**Figure 8: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Aurukun.**



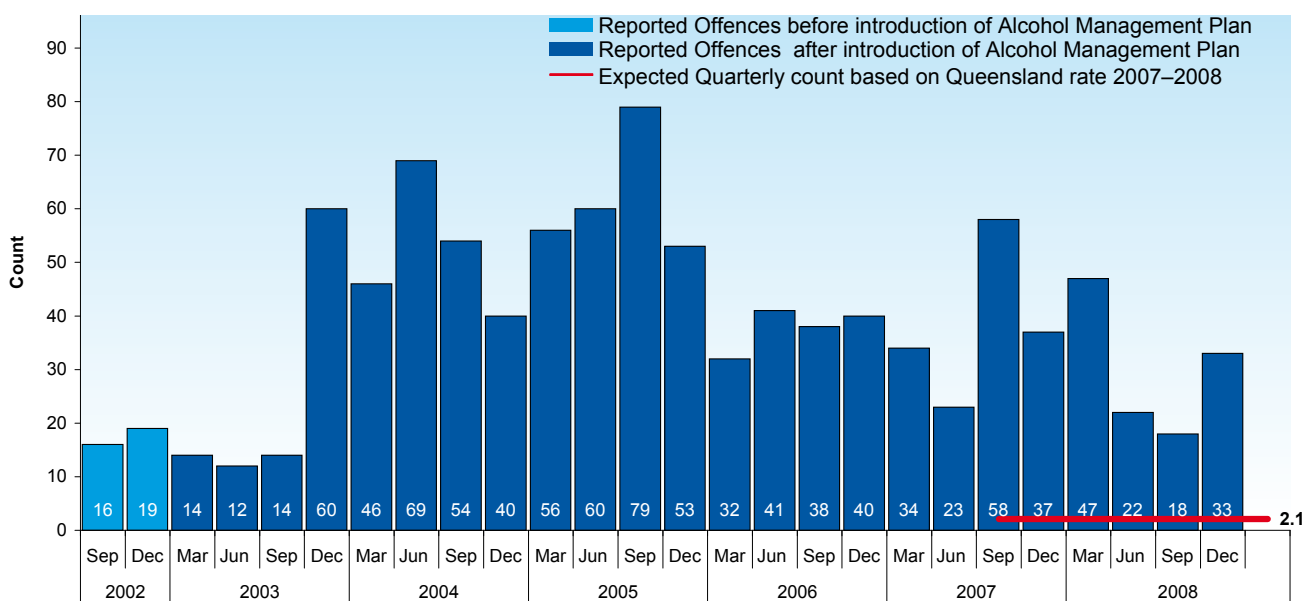
Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General unpublished data. These data are limited by a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

## Reported Offences Against the Person

Numbers of reported offences against the person continue to be highly variable in Aurukun. Since the introduction of alcohol restrictions on the 31st of December 2002, the number of reported offences against the person in Aurukun has ranged from 12 in the June quarter 2003 to 79 in the September quarter

2005. Counts of reported offences against the person for the June and September quarters were relatively low. In 2008, the overall count of offences against the person was 120 compared with 152 in 2007. There was an average of 30 offences against the person reported per quarter in Aurukun over the four quarters to 31 December 2008.

**Figure 9: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Aurukun**



(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

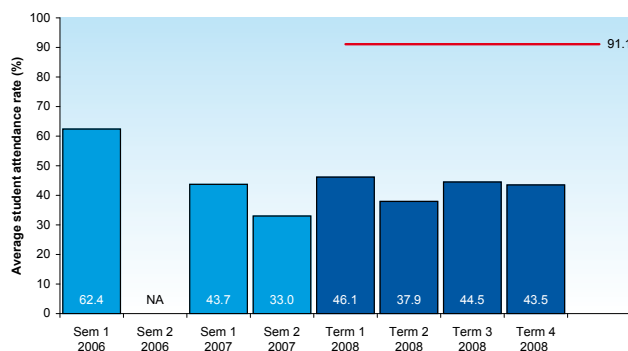
## Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, less than five Aurukun children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm and no child was admitted to a finalised child protection order.

## School Attendance

In fourth term 2008, the average student attendance rate at the Western Cape College - Aurukun was 43.5 per cent. Students from Aurukun recorded the lowest attendance rates of the discrete communities in all four terms.

**Figure 10: Average student attendance rate, years one to seven, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Western Cape College, Aurukun (a)**



(a) These data are limited and must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. Source: Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts, unpublished data