

# Cherbourg

Cherbourg is 280 kilometres northwest of Brisbane and approximately four kilometres from Murgon. The estimated resident population of Cherbourg was 1,190 people at 30 June 2007. Cherbourg recorded an average annual population decrease from 2002 to 2007 of 0.6 per cent.

The community is made up of over 40 tribal groups consisting of the Wakka Wakka and Western Wakka Wakka (the traditional owners of the land) and descendants of people brought from other parts of Queensland as a result of past government policies.

## Services to the community

Community services in Cherbourg include a hospital and a health service, women's and children's shelters, a youth justice service, magistrates court services, a Community Justice Group, Home and Community Care, child safety services and support, an intensive support service for families affected by substance abuse, an Indigenous Knowledge Centre, a primary school and a TAFE college.

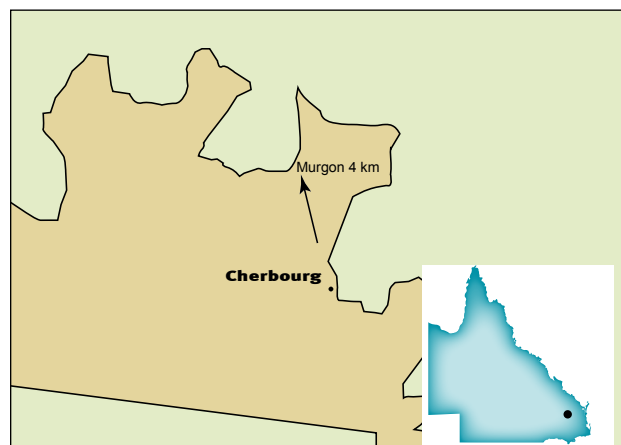
Council has agreed to land use for a new auxiliary fire station subject to successful negotiations with Traditional Owners. There are seven police officer positions in Cherbourg and 22 in Murgon. The Queensland Government also provides funding support for emergency relief, family support and youth services, a sport and recreation officer, child care and school holiday activities, family violence support and early intervention services, and programs to alleviate drug and alcohol misuse.

As of 12 March 2009, Cherbourg has been subject to alcohol restrictions declared under the *Liquor Act 1992*.

The Government Champion for Cherbourg is Norelle Deeth, Director-General, Department of Child Safety.

## Key initiatives

A community consultation meeting to address matters for inclusion in the Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA) was conducted with Cherbourg community organisations and government agencies in September 2008. A Negotiation Table was held in October 2008.



A Child Safety Day was held in Cherbourg on 16 October 2008. The event was attended by over 300 people, the majority being children from Cherbourg and Murgon. A feature of the day was a play about protecting yourself, written especially for children.

The Department of Housing has recently undertaken property assessments in Cherbourg.

South Burnett Community Training Centre (CTC) commenced recruiting to provide Indigenous domestic and family violence counselling services in Cherbourg. Counselling began at the end of October 2008 in both Murgon and Cherbourg.

The Barambah Men's Group (Cherbourg) sponsored and supported the Cherbourg Junior Cowboys to attend the Palm Island Rodeo in November 2008, in which several youth cowboys excelled.

The Queensland Ambulance Service conducted training at Cherbourg. Queensland Fire and Rescue also provided a range of fire management, bushfire preparedness, community education, road crash rescue and applied first aid training to people from the community.

The Cherbourg Child Protection Reference Group met in November and agreed to focus on strengthening partnerships within the community sector, continuing as an open communication corridor for "informal yarning" and to update the service map and directory to ensure that information is current and identifies key contact people in organisations.

# Cherbourg

The pilot prevention program of the Child Responsive Communities Project will be presented at the Cherbourg State School early in the 2009 academic year. As part of this project, a multisystemic approach to managing child sexual abuse disclosures is being developed.

The Commission for Children and Young People provided blue card training to the Cherbourg community in November 2008. In addition, a number of recent graduates from the certificate program in *Community Services* are now working in the community (while others have continued on to attain higher qualifications) to prevent child abuse.

The Changing Habits and Reaching Targets (CHART) program is being delivered in Cherbourg, with 15 young people being case managed.

The Cherbourg Service Centre is continuing to operate:

- ♦ the “In Control” program with young offenders and is also running the “Murri Chicks Talking” program based at the Annexe in Murgon.
- ♦ the CHART (Changing Habits and Reaching Targets) program has commenced with a number of young people in Cherbourg. This is a skills oriented, cognitive-behavioural focused, offending behaviour program designed specifically for young people.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council has appointed a full time Business Development Manager to work on the business/enterprises ventures in Cherbourg and advertised a Business Development Officer (training position) for a 12 month period.

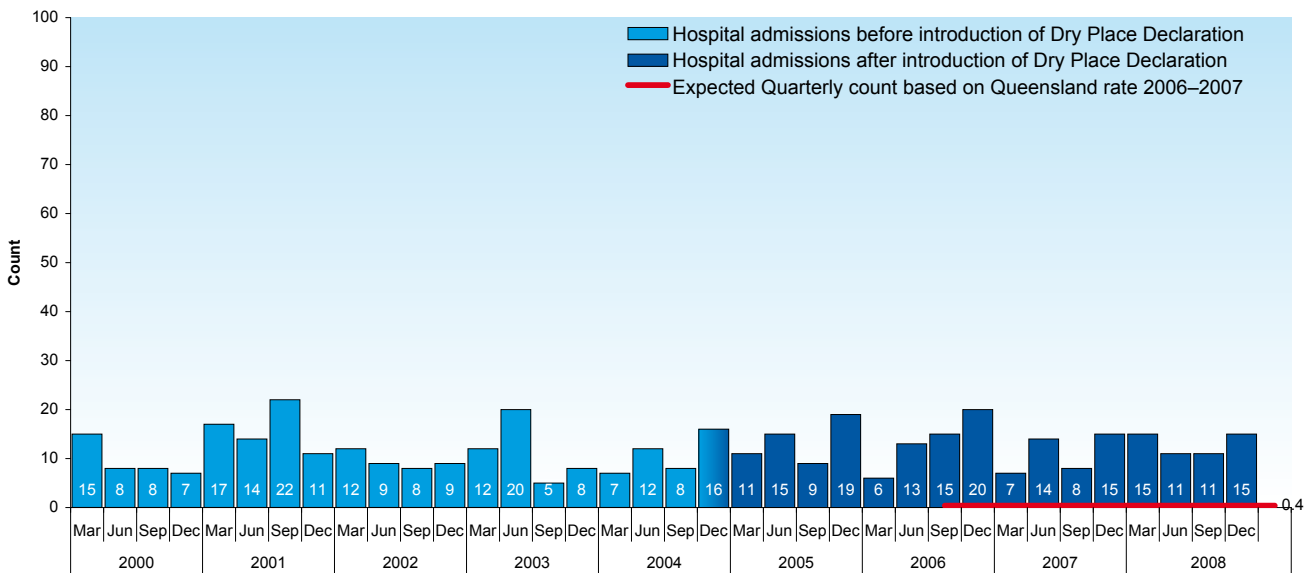
Extensive consultation has been conducted with key stakeholders regarding the introduction of a carriage limit for Cherbourg. The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in Cherbourg includes additional police, health treatment (drug and alcohol), and diversionary services.

## Hospital Admissions for Assault

The introduction of dry place regulations has had little influence on hospitalisations for assault for people from Cherbourg. The average quarterly count pre regulations was 11.2 compared with 12.9 post regulations. There was an average of 11.4 hospitalisations for assault

reported per quarter for people from Cherbourg 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 Cherbourg in 2007).

**Figure 11: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Cherbourg (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.

(b) For further information on Dry Place Declarations see Table 1 Summary of Alcohol Restrictions at the end of this report.

Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

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

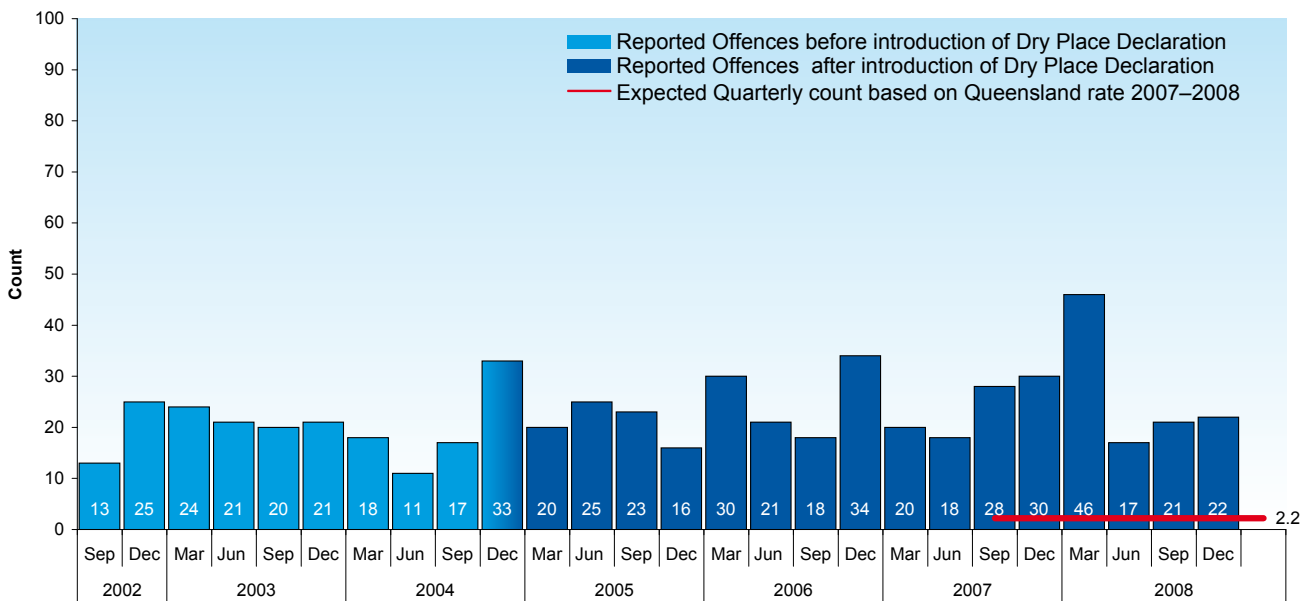
Cherbourg's Alcohol Management Plan does not have carriage limits under section 168B of the *Liquor Act 1992*.

## Reported Offences Against the Person

There was little difference between the total number of reported offences against the person per year in 2007 and 2008 (96 compared with 106). There was an average of 26.5 offences against the person reported per

quarter in Cherbourg over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 2.2 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Cherbourg in 2007).

**Figure 12: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Cherbourg**



(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.  
 (b) For further information on Dry Place Declarations see Table 1 Summary of Alcohol Restrictions at the end of this report.  
 Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

## Child Safety

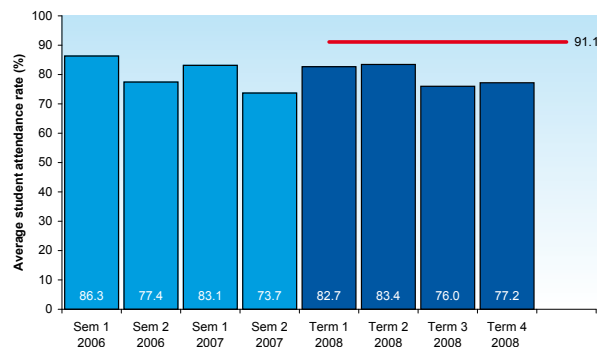
In the December quarter 2008, 14 Cherbourg children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm.

\* at the time of publication data from Cherbourg describing the number of distinct children admitted to protective orders were not available.

## School Attendance

In fourth term 2008, the average student attendance rate at Cherbourg State School was 77.2 per cent, similar to third term (76.0 per cent) but a decrease from first term and second term attendance rates (82.7 and 83.4 per cent, respectively).

**Figure 13: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Cherbourg State School (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