

The township of Coen is about halfway between Cairns and the tip of Cape York. It is not a discrete Aboriginal community and is part of Cook Shire.

The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 270 people at 30 June 2006. English is the predominant language of most Coen residents, with Lamalama, Wik Mungkan, Guugu Yimidhirr, Ayapathu, Kaanju and Olkala and other languages spoken.

Historically, the Aboriginal peoples of the region comprised several language groups living in separate areas. These boundaries are still recognised by the present generation.

Services to the community

Community services in Coen include a police station with two police officers, a Magistrates Court, a primary health care centre, a primary school, a Wellbeing centre, a kindergarten and child care centre, and a rural fire brigade. Cook Shire Council (based in Cooktown) provides municipal services including rubbish collection, library, water and sewerage.

Cape York Digital Network provides public internet and computing services. The Family Responsibilities Commission has been in place in Coen 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.

The Government Champion for Coen is Dan Hunt, Director-General, Department of Mines and Energy.

Key initiatives

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

A community led organisation to manage the local sporting facility and encourage participation in sporting activity in the town of Coen is in the process of being formed. It is proposed this group will manage, in collaboration with Cook Shire Council, facility bookings and infrastructure and will link to the local Police Citizens Youth Club.



A 'pre-lit' program is underway at the Coen Kindergarten. This is an initiative arising from the Cape York Welfare Reform programs and encourages the development of reading skills in pre-school and kindergarten age children.

The Coen Wellbeing Centre is operational and staff accommodation is complete.

Coen has not been declared a restricted area under the *Liquor Act 1992* and is not subject to alcohol restrictions. However the Community Justice Group in collaboration with the proprietor of the Exchange Hotel have implemented localised alcohol management strategies. Additionally residents have the option, like the residents of the discrete communities, to apply to the Clerk of the Magistrates Court to have their homes declared a dry place.

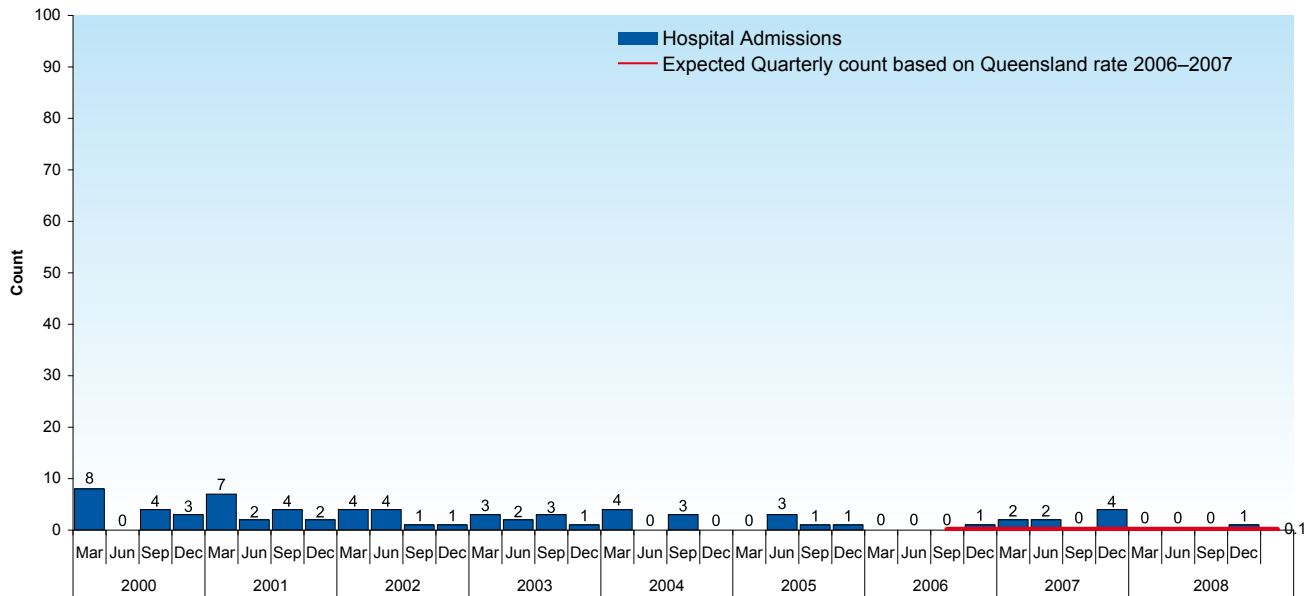
While Coen is not subject to alcohol restrictions, additional services will be provided to support alcohol reform in the community, including a wellbeing centre, diversionary services and additional support for men's activities.

Hospital Admissions for Assault

There have been very few hospitalisations for assault of people from Coen over the reporting period with annual counts ranging from one to 15. There was one hospitalisation for assault reported in the December 2008 quarter for

people from Coen and none in the previous three quarters. This is approximate to what would be expected in a community the size of Coen (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Coen in 2006).

Figure 14: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Coen (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*)

The community of Coen does not have alcohol restrictions. Residents can apply to the Clerk of the Magistrate’s Court to have their homes declared a dry place.

Child Safety

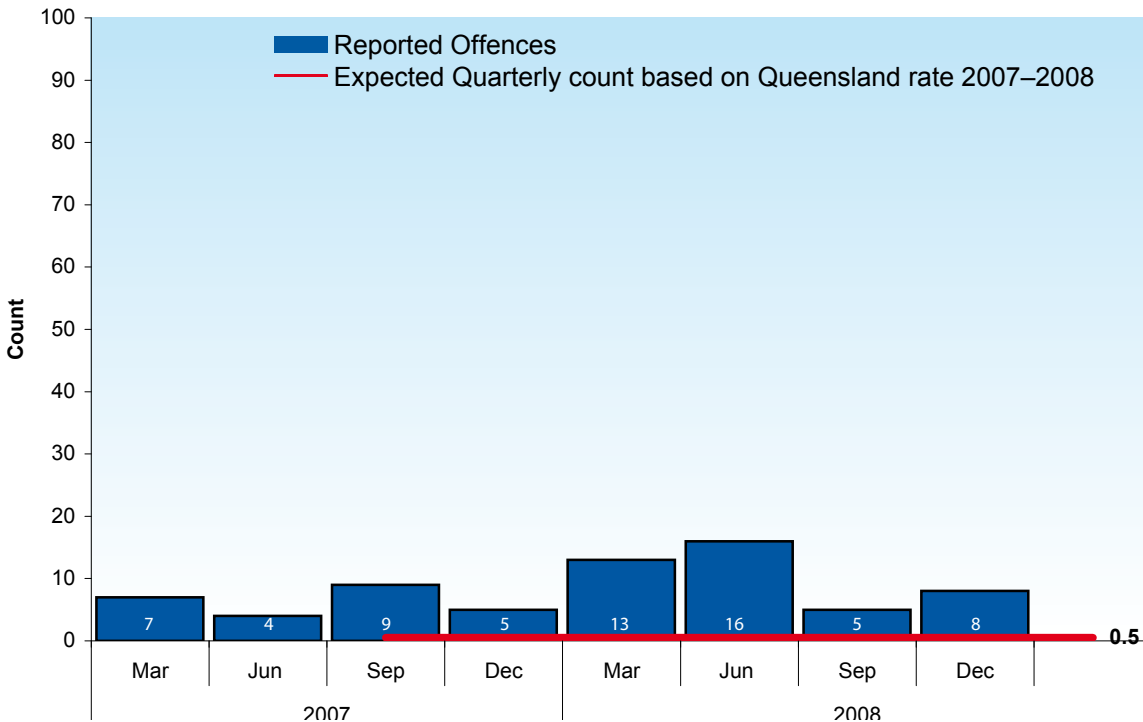
In the December quarter 2008, less than five Coen children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm and no child was admitted to a finalised child protection order.

Reported Offences Against the Person

Reported offences against the person in Coen since the first quarter of 2007 have ranged from 4 up to 16 per quarter. There was an average of 10.5 offences against the person reported

per quarter in Coen over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.5 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Coen in 2006).

Figure 15: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Coen



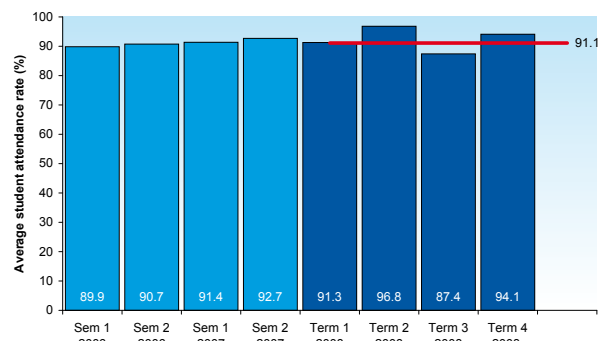
(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.
 (b) Data for Coen were not collected separately prior to 2007. Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

Figure 16: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Coen State School (a), (b)

School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Coen State School was 94.1 per cent, which represented a return to the high rates recorded in first term (91.3 per cent) and second term (96.8 per cent). This rate is above the average attendance rate recorded for all Queensland state schools (91.1 per cent for semester one 2008).

*Term 2 data have been calculated using 48 of a possible 51 school days due to incomplete attendance data at the time of collection



(a) These data are limited and must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. (b) Term two data have been calculated using 48 of a possible 51 school days due to incomplete attendance data at the time of collection.
 Source: Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts, unpublished data