

# Doomadgee

Doomadgee is southwest of the Gulf of Carpentaria and approximately six hours drive north of Mount Isa. The estimated resident population of Doomadgee was about 1,230 people at 30 June 2007. The average annual growth rate from 2002 to 2007 was 0.8 per cent.

The community is primarily made up of Gangalidda and Waanyi people (the traditional owners of the land) as well as the tribal groups of Gadawa, Lardil, Mingginda and Garawa.

## Services to the community

Community services in Doomadgee include a hospital, a health service, an ambulance service, a child care hub, a women's shelter (currently being refurbished), Home and Community Care, an aged care hostel, a community justice group, child safety services and support, schooling to year 10 and a TAFE officer. There are ten police officer positions in Doomadgee, as well as a visiting Magistrates Court. A local Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Probation and Parole office provides sentencing support to visiting judges and magistrates and supervises court orders.

The Queensland Government also provides funding support for youth services, a Sport and Recreation Officer and recreation facilities, health and substance abuse programs, youth justice, crime prevention, child care and family support.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Doomadgee on 9 June 2003 (see Table 1).

The Government Champions for Doomadgee are Rachel Hunter, Director-General, Department of Education, Training and the Arts, and Kelvin Anderson, Director-General, Queensland Corrective Services.

## Key initiatives

The new "single agreement" Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA), a joint agreement between Australian, State and Local Governments and the Doomadgee community, was presented at the Negotiation Table on 20 October 2008. Guests and community were welcomed to the event by the Doomadgee Dancers, who had recently performed at the Australian Embassy in Canberra.

Eight participants have completed the first of three horsemanship programs, delivered onsite



in Doomadgee and at the trainer's ranch in Atherton. Participants were awarded *Certificate II in Rural Operations* and received certificates in chainsaw operation and first aid. These will prepare participants for an anticipated future contract mustering enterprise.

Construction and fit out of the Department of Child Safety Safe House is expected to be complete in early 2009. Consultation with community has occurred on the proposed management and staffing model for the house.

In November 2008, the government announced that revised alcohol restrictions have been regulated for Doomadgee. These came into effect on 2 January 2009. From this date, the maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the Doomadgee Shire is 22.5 litres (2 x 30 can cartons) of light or mid-strength beer. Homebrew has also been banned by regulation. The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in Doomadgee includes additional police, health treatment (drug and alcohol), and diversionary services. A Community Alcohol Project is scheduled to begin service delivery by March 2009. This position will provide community education, prevention and early intervention services. Weekly Men's Group meetings and a community patrol began operation early in 2009.

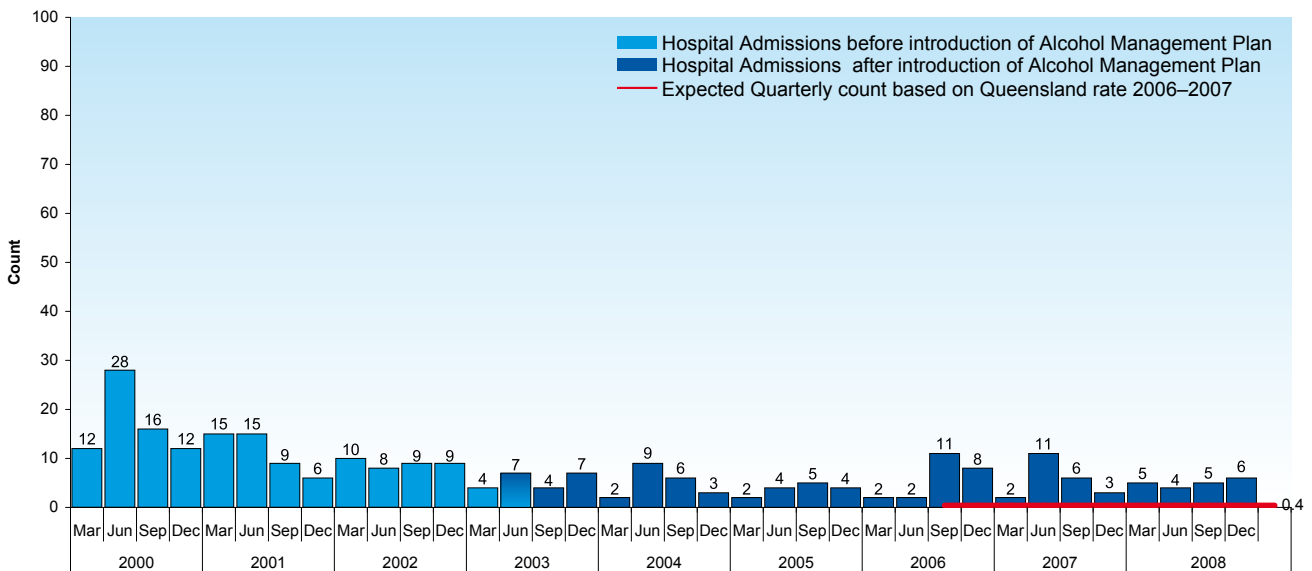
In December 2008, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation in association with Olympic swimming coach and mentor, Lawrie Lawrence, and former NRL players Steve Renouf and Rod Jensen visited Doomadgee. The tour encourages children and parents to find daily physical activity at the community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

## Hospital Admissions for Assault

In contrast to the period prior to introduction of alcohol restrictions in Doomadgee on 9 June 2003, there were five or less hospitalisations per quarter for assault of people from Doomadgee in more than half of the quarters in the post restriction period. There was an average of five

hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people from Doomadgee 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 Doomadgee in 2007).

Figure 17: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Doomadgee (a)

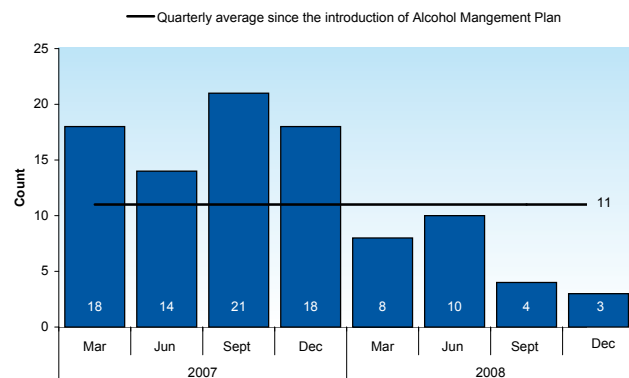


(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report. Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

## 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 244 persons convicted of 312 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Doomadgee. In the December quarter 2008, three persons were convicted (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community). The number of persons convicted in 2008 was less than half that convicted in 2007 (25 compared with 71).

Figure 18: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Doomadgee



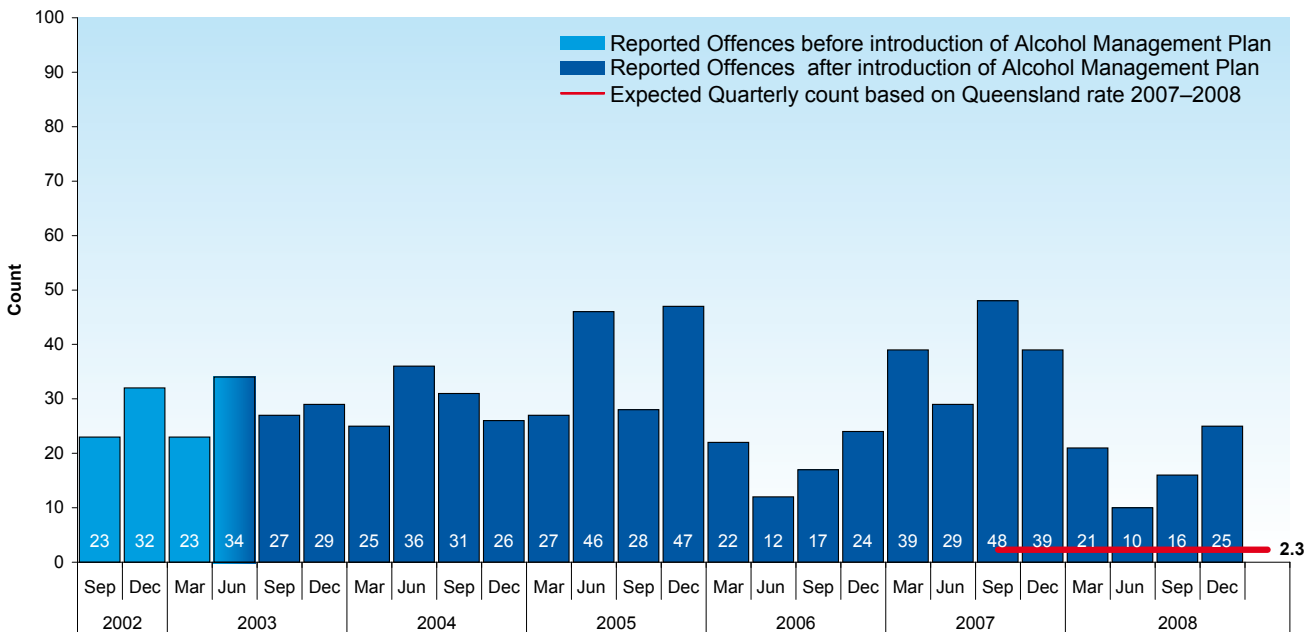
Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General unpublished data. These data are limited by a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

## Reported Offences Against the Person

Since mid 2005, there has been considerable variability in quarterly counts of reported offences against the person in Doomadgee, with counts ranging from 10 to 48 per quarter. Reported offences against the person in 2008 were around half that reported in 2007 (72 compared with 155); however, counts are still

well above expected levels. There was an average of 18 offences against the person reported per quarter in Doomadgee over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 2.3 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Doomadgee in 2007).

**Figure 19: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Doomadgee**



(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

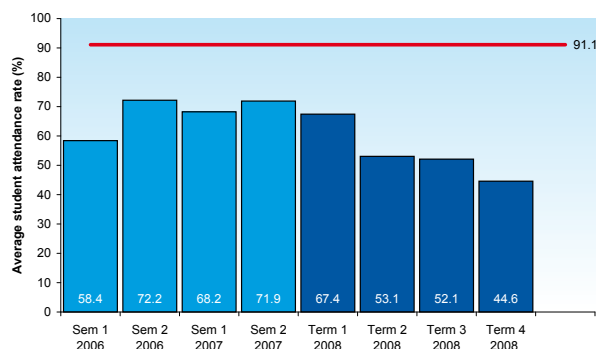
## Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, 18 Doomadgee children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm. Three Doomadgee children had more than one substantiated notification over the December quarter 2008. Seven Doomadgee children were admitted to finalised child protection orders over the same period.

## School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Doomadgee State School was 44.6 per cent, continuing the decline seen throughout the year from a high of 67.4 per cent recorded in first term. This rate was close to the lowest fourth term attendance rate recorded in the discrete communities (43.5 per cent).

**Figure 20: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Doomadgee 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