

Kowanyama

Kowanyama is approximately 300 kilometres south of Weipa, 620 kilometres north west of Cairns, and 65 kilometres south of Pormpuraaw. The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 1,130 people at 30 June 2007. The average annual growth rate from 2002 to 2007 was 1.7 per cent.

Kowanyama includes the Kokoberra, Yir Yorant (or Kokomnjen) and Kunjen clans.

The three main language groups – defined by their relationship to the Mitchell River – are Yir Yorant, Yik Thangalkl (together comprising Kokomenjen group) Uw Oykangand and Olgol (together comprising the Kunjen group) and Kokobera.

Services to the community

Community services in Kowanyama include a health clinic, Home and Community Care, a mothers' and babies' centre, a women's shelter, a Community Justice Group, magistrates court services, employment services, child safety services and support, a community education and training centre, schooling to Year 10, and a Land and Natural Resource Management Office. There are nine police officer positions in Kowanyama with a further one to be allocated when infrastructure is completed.

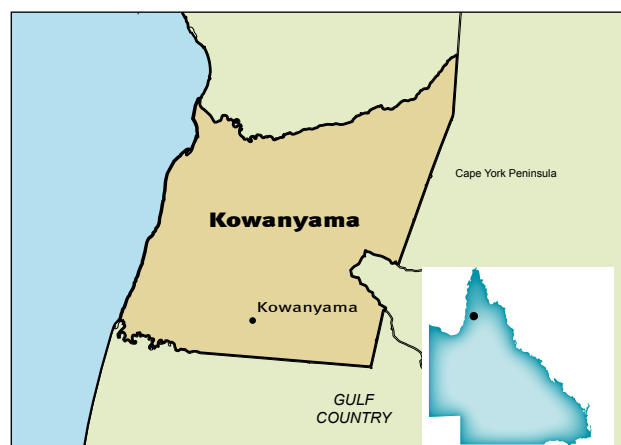
The Queensland Government also provides funding support for youth crime prevention, drug and alcohol programs, child care services, a sport and recreation officer and the construction of a multipurpose community facility.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Kowanyama on 5 December 2003 (see Table 1).

The Government Champion for Kowanyama is Ms Natalie MacDonald, Director-General, Department of Housing.

Key initiatives

The Kowanyama Cultural Mapping project has recruited personnel to work on mapping local cultural knowledge. The Land Office has also raised funds through the production and sale of a video on local impacts of climate change. The funds will enable two of its staff to attend the Climate Change Conference for Indigenous peoples in Alaska during April 2009.



Major construction has taken place within the community including the completion of nine new homes and the new women's shelter.

The Kowanyama State School has produced calico bags with an Aboriginal design which are currently being sold to help reduce the amount of plastic bag litter in the community.

In partnership with Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Queensland Health is implementing a package of key maternal and child health service enhancements, including child health checks for children in pre-prep and primary school.

The Queensland Ambulance Service conducted training at Kowanyama. 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.

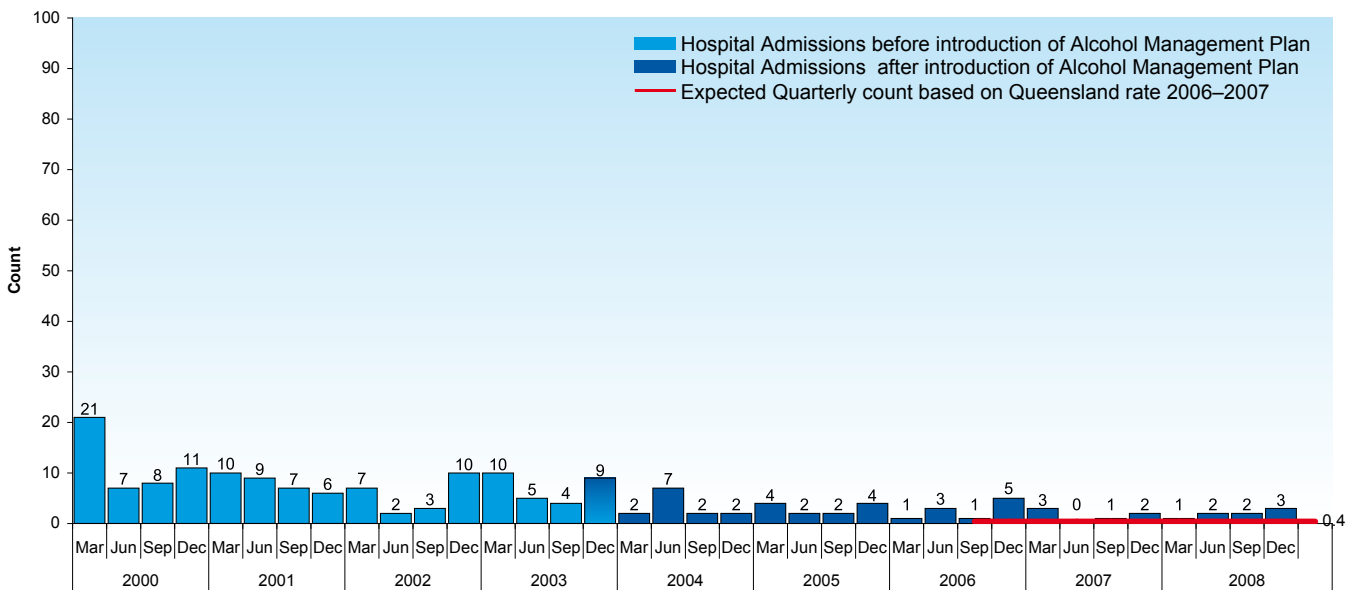
In November 2008, the government announced that there will be no change to the existing carriage limit for Kowanyama at this time. The zero carriage limit will continue which means no alcohol is allowed in the Kowanyama Shire. Home-brew is automatically banned in all zero carriage limit communities.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

Hospital Admissions for Assault

Hospitalisations for assault for people from Kowanyama ranged from zero to three per quarter over the last eight quarters. There was an average of 2.0 hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people

from Kowanyama 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 Kowanyama in 2007).

Figure 25: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Kowanyama (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

Figure 26: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Kowanyama.



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.

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

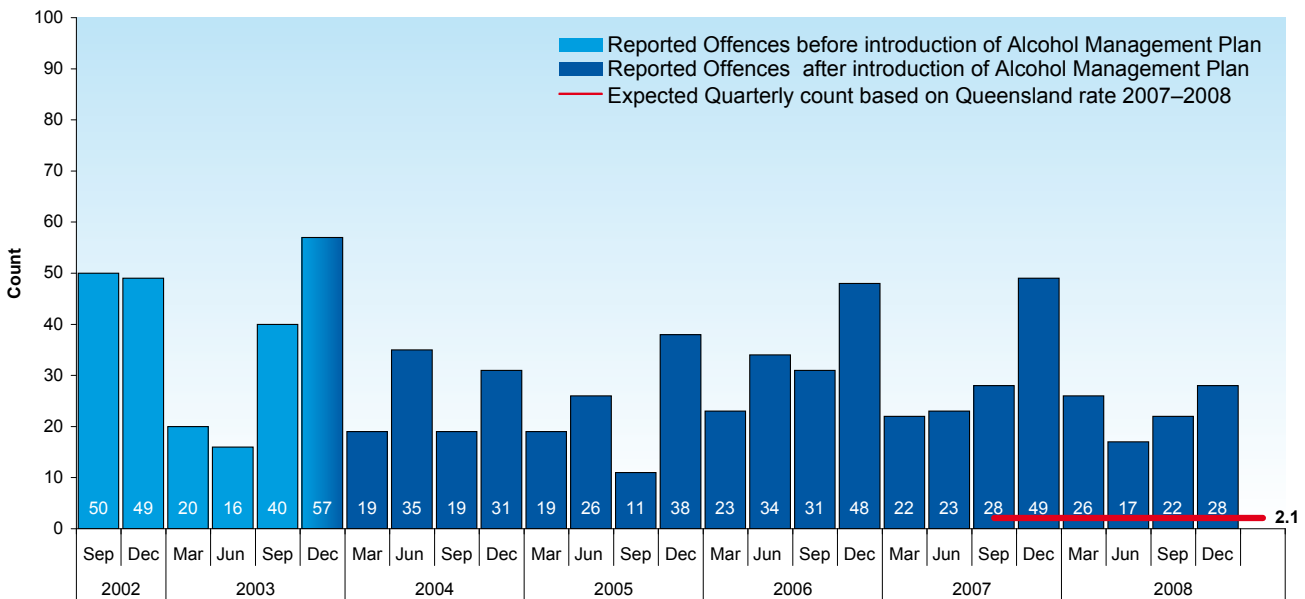
Since the introduction of the Alcohol Management Plan, there has been a total of 243 persons convicted of 327 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Kowanyama. In the December quarter 2008, six persons were convicted (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community). The number of persons convicted in 2008 was almost 30 per cent lower than in 2007 (52 compared with 72), largely due to major differences in the respective December quarters.

Reported Offences Against the Person

In the years 2003 to 2008, there were higher counts of reported offences against the person in Kowanyama in the December quarter compared with the September quarter. There was an average of 23.3 offences against the

person reported per quarter in Kowanyama over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 2.1 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Kowanyama in 2007).

Figure 27: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Kowanyama



(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

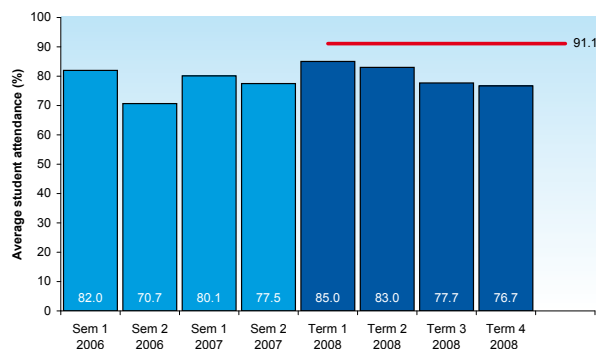
Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, less than five Kowanyama children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm. In the December quarter 2008, less than five Kowanyama children were admitted to finalised child protection orders.

School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Kowanyama State School was 76.7 per cent, a rate similar to that achieved in term three 2008. This represented a decline, however, on the rates achieved in term 1 (85.0 per cent) and term 2 (83.0 per cent).

Figure 28: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Kowanyama 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