

Lockhart River

Lockhart River is on the northeast coast of the Cape York Peninsula, and is approximately 500 kilometres from Cairns. The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 600 people at 30 June 2007. Lockhart River recorded an average annual population decrease from 2002 to 2007 of 0.9 per cent.

Apart from the township area which remains under the control of the Lockhart River Council, land in the Lockhart River region was transferred to the Traditional Owners in September 2001 under the Mangkuma Land Trust and the *Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (Queensland)*. Language groups in Lockhart River include Wuthathi, Kuuku Ya'u, Uutaalnganu, Umpila, and Kaanju.

Services to the community

Community services in Lockhart River include a health clinic, Home and Community Care, a women's shelter, a Community Justice Group, magistrates court services, an art centre, an Indigenous Knowledge Centre, child safety services and support, employment services and schooling to Year 12. There are four police officer positions in Lockhart River with residential accommodation infrastructure going to tender.

The Queensland Government also provides funding to support youth leadership and development programs, a Sport and Recreation Officer, playgroup and vacation care, alcohol demand reduction activities, and family and community history projects.

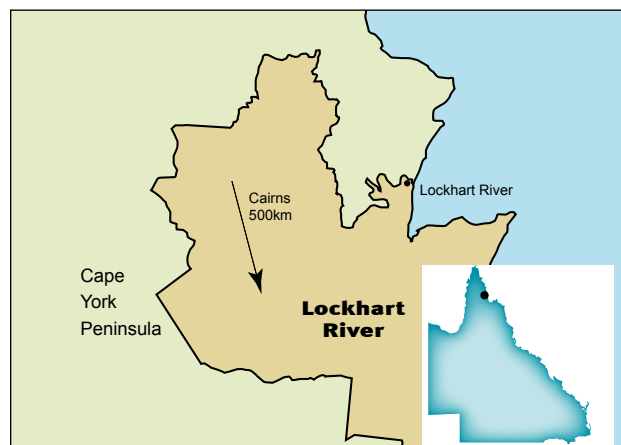
An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Lockhart River on 3 October 2003 (see table 1).

The Government Champion for Lockhart River is Robert Setter, Director-General, Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

Key initiatives

Construction of the Puuya Centre has been completed and began operation at the end of 2008. Programs to be run from the centre include cultural capacity building, leadership development, counselling and drug and alcohol free activities.

Indigenous Environmental Health Infrastructure Program waste management projects continue



with a development application lodged with the Environmental Protection Agency to facilitate the closure and rehabilitation of an existing waste disposal site at Lockhart River. Work is expected to commence early 2009.

Work commenced on the new Lockhart River Multi-Purpose Centre in mid-October 2008, it is currently on schedule with the first stage to be completed by July 2009.

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.

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

Part of the package includes funding from both the State and Australian Government to establish a men's centre to deliver appropriate men's programs that will address issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence issues, general men's group discussions, raising self esteem and men's cultural business. The men's centre is expected to be completed by August 2009.

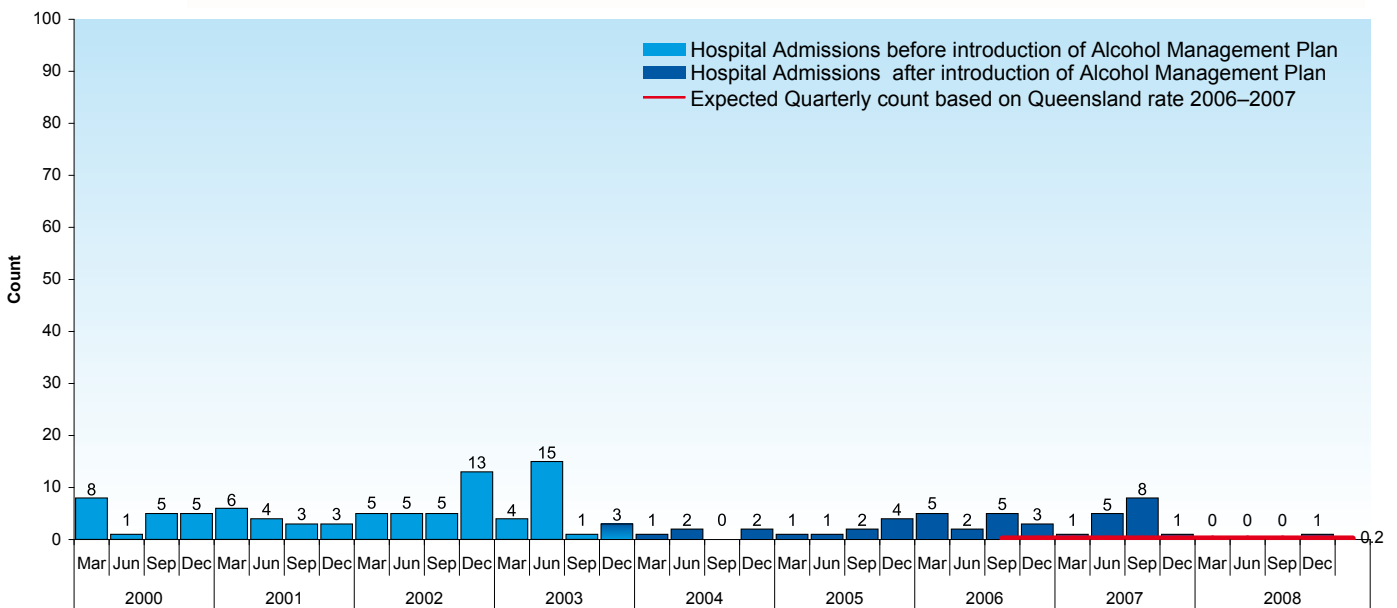
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Hospital Admissions for Assault

There was one hospitalisation for assault for people from Lockhart River reported in 2008. This is approximate to what would be expected

in a community the size of Lockhart River (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Lockhart River in 2007).

Figure 29: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Lockhart River (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 167 persons convicted of 205 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Lockhart River. In the December quarter 2008, five persons were convicted (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community).

Figure 30: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Lockhart River.



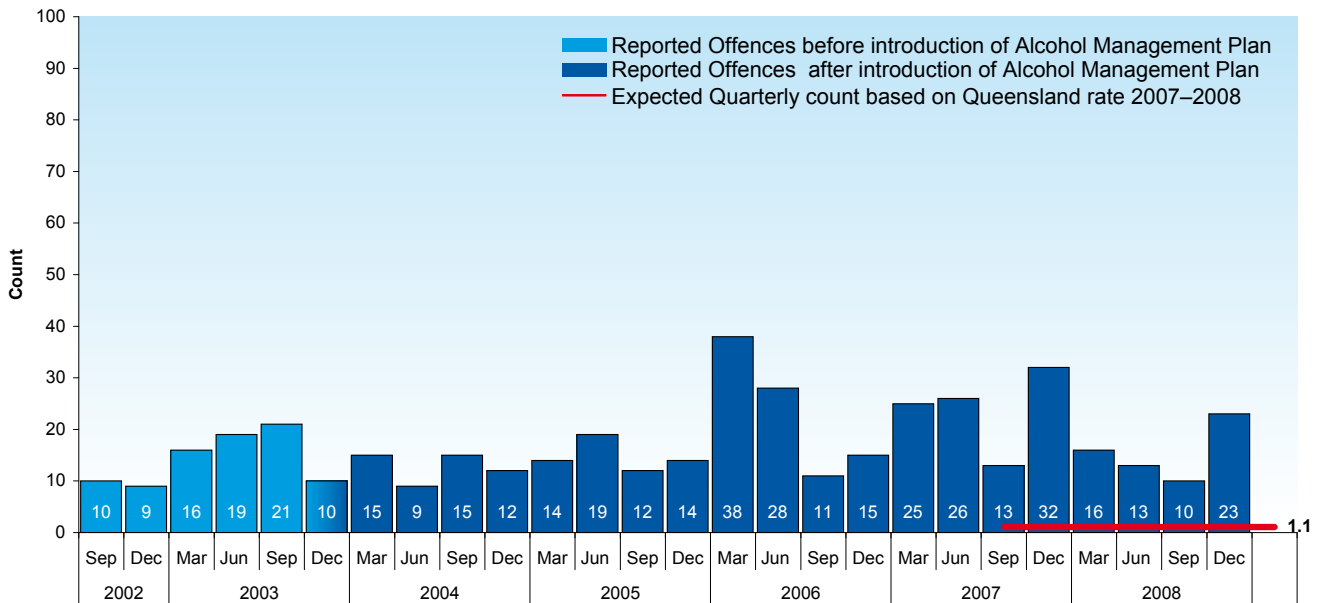
Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General unpublished data These data are limited by a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

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Reported Offences Against the Person

Since the September quarter 2002 there has been considerable variability in quarterly counts of reported offences against the person in Lockhart River. Counts ranged from 9 up to 38 per quarter with no obvious trends or patterns evident. There was an average of

15.5 offences against the person reported per quarter in Lockhart River over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 1.1 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Lockhart River in 2007).



(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

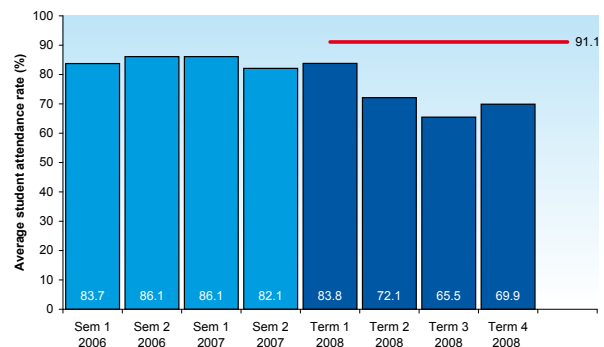
Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, less than five Lockhart River children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm. In the December quarter 2008, no Lockhart River children were admitted to a finalised child protection orders.

School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Lockhart State School was 69.9 per cent, representing a slight increase on third term but still substantially lower than the highest rate achieved in first term (83.8 per cent).

Figure 32: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 12, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Lockhart River 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