

Mossman Gorge

Mossman Gorge is a small Aboriginal community 75 kilometres north of Cairns, 4 kilometres from Mossman (the nearest town), and approximately 25 kilometres by road from Port Douglas. It is not a discrete Aboriginal community and is part of the Cairns Regional Council area.

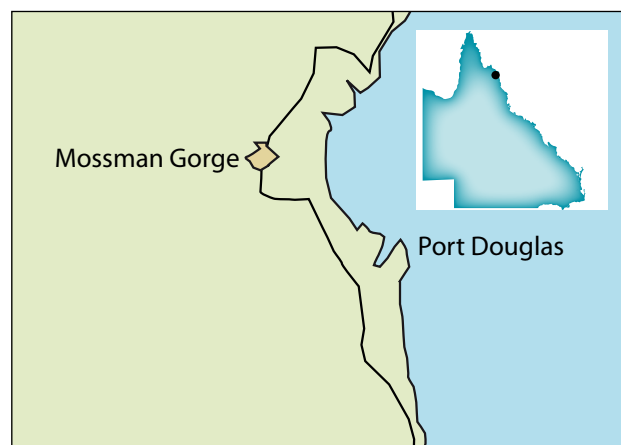
The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 160 people at 30 June 2006. The tropical rainforests, beaches, reefs, and mountain ranges stretching along the coast between Mossman and the Annan River are the homelands of Eastern Yalanji people (Bama). There are several dialects within the Yalanji language.

Services to the community

There is a small health clinic located in the Mossman Gorge community which delivers the following services:

- ♦ Apunipima provides a full-time Child/Maternal Health Worker, and six additional part time health workers
- ♦ Bamanga Bubu Ngadimunku Incorporated (BBN) provides a full-time Clinic Coordinator
- ♦ Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice provides six part time health workers on a weekly basis
- ♦ Port Doctors (a private medical practice) provides a General Practitioner and two health workers on one day each week
- ♦ The Royal Flying Doctor Service operates a Family Wellbeing Centre temporarily. A new building to house this service is due to open early 2009. This service provides a full-time Coordinator, Community Support Officer, and Counsellor
- ♦ Queensland Health provides six part-time outreach health workers, including Child Health and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Services' Nurses who go into Mossman Gorge any time during business hours Monday to Friday.

Mossman Gorge is serviced by the Douglas Shire Multi-Purpose Health Service (Mossman Hospital) which currently operates service on an outreach basis to the community.



Mossman Pre-School, and Primary and High Schools are all located in Mossman four kilometres away, and a bus service is provided to take children there. There is no police station in Mossman Gorge; police services are provided by police stationed in Mossman.

The Family Responsibilities Commission has been in place in Mossman Gorge 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 Mossman Gorge is Mr Terry Wall, Director-General, Environmental Protection Agency.

Key initiatives

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

The Queensland Government, Australian Government and Cape York Institute are currently working with the local community to develop a Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA). This will be a single local agreement that includes the agreed objectives, priorities and activities of all parties and priorities agreed to through the community's Negotiation Table process.

A Negotiation Table was held at Mossman Gorge on 3 December 2008. At this meeting the draft LIPA developed and agreed upon in July was updated and various information sessions were provided on Cape York Welfare Reform and the Mossman Gorge Gateway Project.

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Mossman Gorge has not been declared a restricted area under the *Liquor Act 1992* and is not subject to alcohol restrictions. However, residents have the ability to apply to the Clerk of the local Magistrates Court, to have their homes declared a dry place. Revised tenancy arrangements under Welfare Reform necessitate the majority of tenants to sign new leases. Until this process is completed residents cannot apply for a Dry House declaration.

While Mossman Gorge is not subject to alcohol restrictions, additional health treatment (drug and alcohol) services will be provided to support alcohol reform in the community. Funding of \$620,000 over four years will be provided for additional nursing staff at Mossman Hospital for detoxification services.

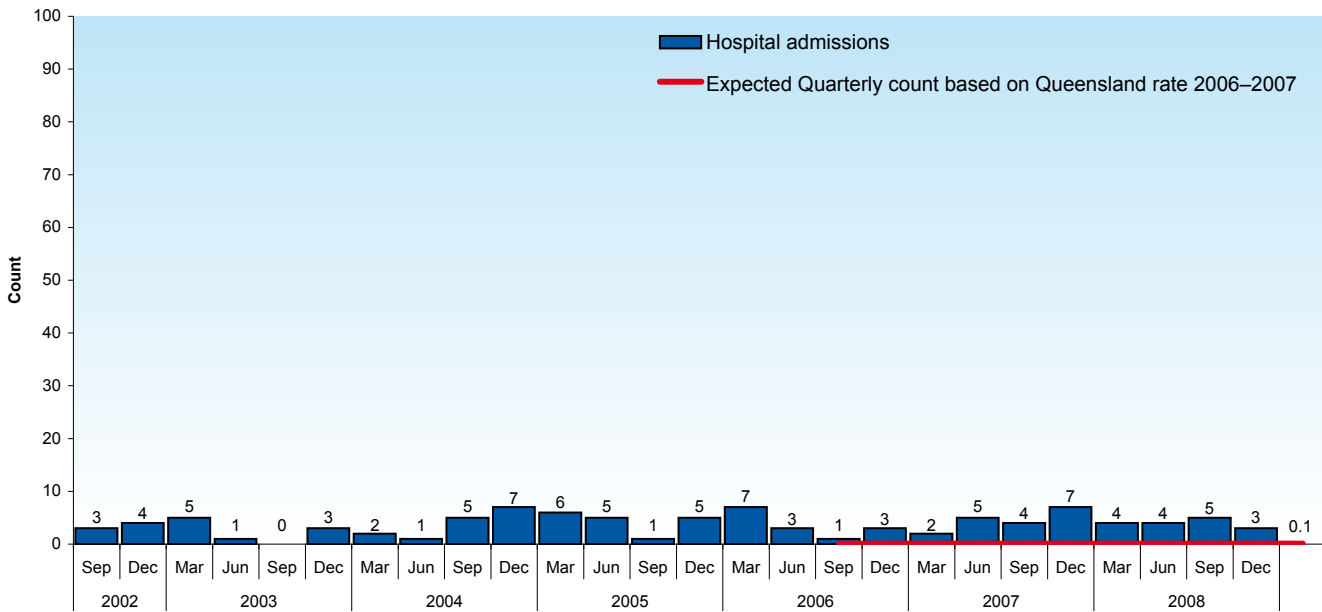
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Hospital Admissions for Assault

There was an average of 4.0 hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people from Mossman Gorge over the 12 months to

31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.1 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Mossman Gorge in 2006).

Figure 40: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Mossman Gorge (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) Data have been provided from July 2002 only.
 Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

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

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

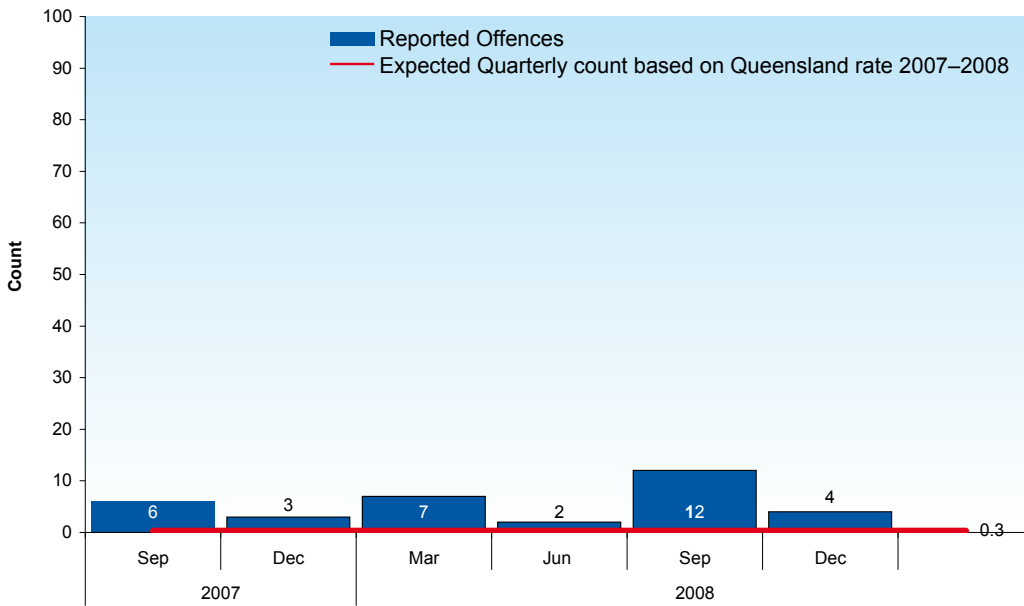
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Reported Offences Against the Person

There was an average of 6.3 offences against the person reported per quarter in Mossman Gorge over the four quarters to 31 December

2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.3 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Mossman Gorge in 2006).

Figure 41: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2003 to December quarter 2008, Mossman Gorge



(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 Mossman Gorge were not collected separately prior to 2007.
 Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data

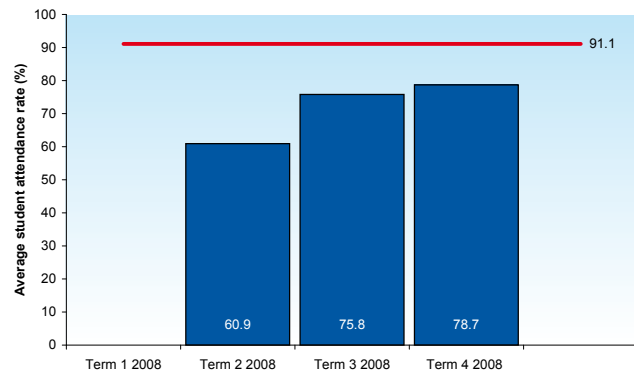
Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, no Mossman Gorge children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm or admitted to a finalised child protection order.

School Attendance

In fourth term 2008, the average student attendance rate for students from Mossman Gorge attending Mossman State School and Mossman State High School was 78.7 per cent. This represented a further improvement on the rate achieved in third term of 75.8 per cent.

Figure 42: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2008 and term 4 2008, Mossman Gorge students (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