

# Northern Peninsula Area

The Northern Peninsula Area (NPA) at the tip of Cape York is made up of the following five communities with approximate estimated resident populations of:

- ♦ Bamaga– 880 people
- ♦ Injinoo– 480 people
- ♦ New Mapoon– 390 people
- ♦ Seisia– 190 people
- ♦ Umagico– 280 people

The communities are approximately 900 kilometres north-west of Cairns. Languages spoken by people in the Northern Peninsula Area include English, Torres Strait Creole, Kriol, Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya, and Mauritian Creole. The Injinoo community is made up of five tribal groups – Anggamuthi, Atambaya, Wuthathi, Yadhaikgana, and Gudang.

The new Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council was formed in March 2008, amalgamating the five community councils.

## Services to the community

Seisia is the main port for the NPA and Bamaga is the commercial and administrative centre for government services. Community services in Bamaga include a hospital, a health centre and ambulance service, a family resource centre, a healing centre, a healthy lifestyle centre, Home and Community Care, a women's shelter, a crisis shelter, a community justice centre, justice services, magistrates and district court services, and child safety services and support. The health centre provides primary health care and general nursing service. There are Indigenous Knowledge Centres at Seisia, New Mapoon, and Injinoo.

There are six police officer positions in Bamaga, with a further four to be allocated with the completion of suitable infrastructure. Recently the presidents of the five Community Justice Groups formed an incorporated body to manage the financial affairs of all the groups. There still remain five separate Community Justice Groups, with each president a director of the incorporation. The Queensland Government also provides funding support



for sporting and recreation facilities, a “kids’ club”, child care services, domestic violence prevention, youth development programs and a Sport and Recreation Officer.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in the Northern Peninsula Area on 14 April 2004 (see table 1).

The Government Champions for the Northern Peninsula Area are Alan Tesch, Director-General, Department of Main Roads, Barry Leahy, Deputy Director-General, Department of Employment and Industrial Relations, and Phil Clarke, Deputy Director-General, Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

## Key initiatives

From 27-31 October 2008, community forums were held across the five NPA communities to enable individual community member input to the Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement (LIPA) process. The forums were well attended by a broad cross section of each of the five communities and community members made a considerable amount of effort to identify and prioritise issues for action. A draft LIPA has been distributed for comment to government departments identified as key partners.

NPA community members are working with Mensheds Australia to develop men's sheds in the region. Men's sheds aim to play a significant and practical role in addressing men's health, isolation, loneliness and depression issues.

The Department of Housing has delivered factory-built houses for New Mapoon and Seisia.

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The Aggression Replacement Training program - an intensive 10 week program that aims to reduce the risk of young people committing violent offences - is being delivered to young people in Bamaga, Umagico, Seisia and New Mapoon. In the quarter under report, six young people in Bamaga were involved.

In November 2008, the government announced that there will be no change to the existing carriage limit for the Northern Peninsula Area communities at this time. The maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the NPA will continue to be: two litres of wine (unfortified) and 11.25 litres (one x 30 can carton) of any strength beer OR two litres of wine (unfortified) and nine litres (one x 24 can carton) of premixed spirits of up to 5.5 per cent alcohol/volume. A men's program commenced in December 2008.

The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in the NPA includes additional police, health treatment (drug and alcohol), sport and recreation services, and diversionary services.

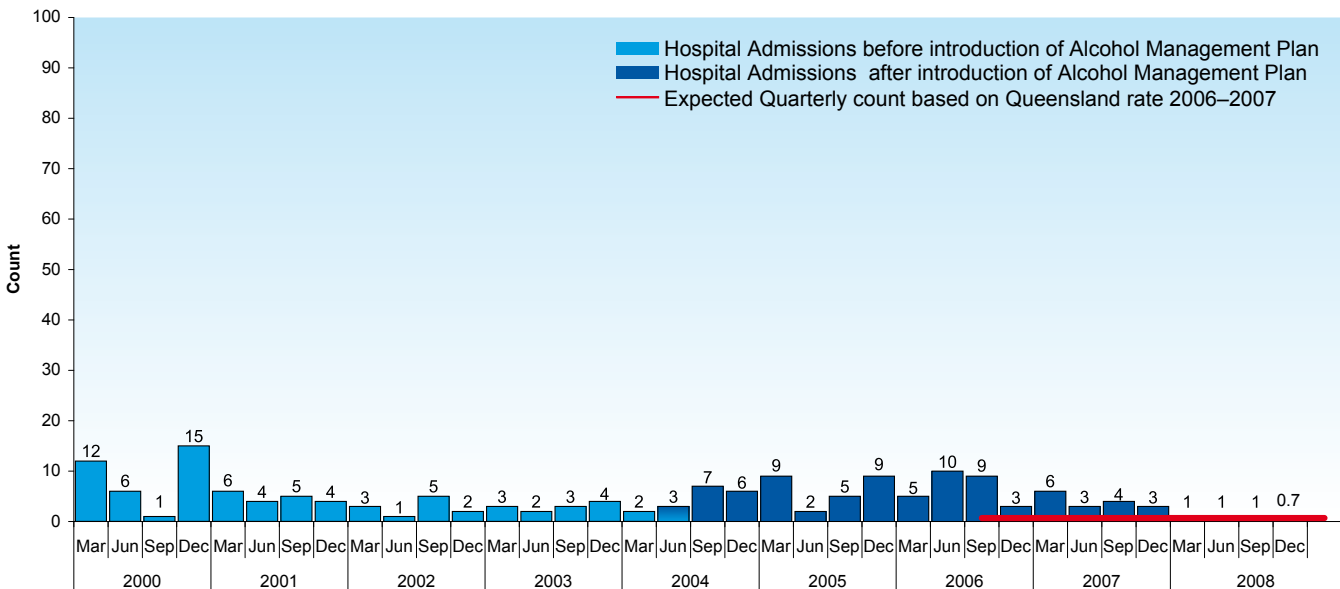
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## Hospital Admissions for Assault

At the time of publication data for 2008 were incomplete. However, there was an average of 1.5 hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people from the NPA over the 12

months to 30 September 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.7 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of the NPA in 2007).

**Figure 46: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Northern Peninsula Area (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

## 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 49 persons convicted of 49 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in NPA. In the December quarter 2008, no convictions for alcohol carriage offences were recorded (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community).

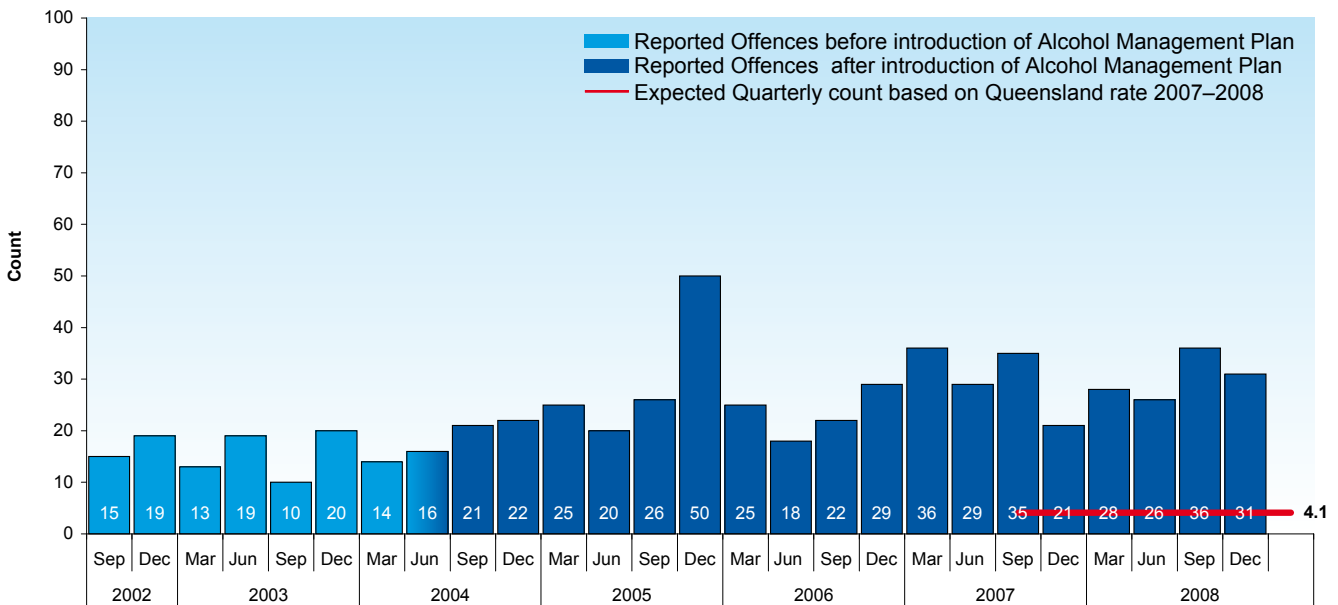
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## Reported Offences Against the Person

There was no overall change in the number of reported offences against the person from 2007 to 2008 in the NPA. There was an average of 30.3 offences against the person reported

per quarter in the NPA over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 4.1 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of the NPA in 2007).

**Figure 47: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Northern Peninsula Area**



(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

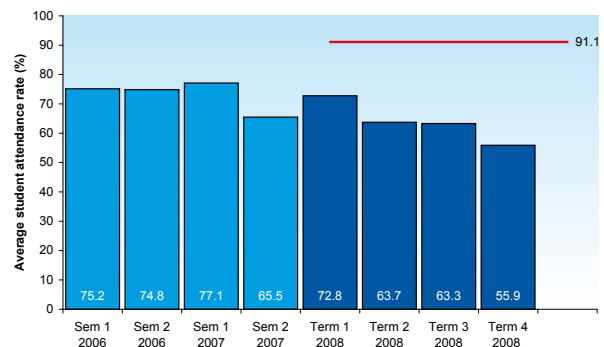
## Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, six NPA children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm and no NPA children were admitted to finalised child protection orders.

## School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Northern Peninsula College was 55.9 per cent, the lowest rate seen this year representing a decline of almost 17 percentage points on the term one 2008 attendance rate of 72.8 per cent.

**Figure 48: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Northern Peninsula Area College (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