

Woorabinda

Woorabinda is located in central Queensland, approximately 170 kilometres south west of Rockhampton and 120 kilometres from Emerald. The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 940 people at 30 June 2007; with an average annual population decrease from 2002 to 2007 of 1.3 per cent.

Woorabinda is made up of a number of clan groups from throughout Queensland. Currently there are two native title claims over this area by the Ghungulu and Wadja peoples.

Services to the community

Community services in Woorabinda include a multipurpose health centre, a women's shelter, a state primary school and an independent high school, a childcare centre, Home and Community Care services, Anglicare services which provide support services for families and children at risk, a newly formed community organisation (Woorabinda Wellbeing Incorporated), a Community Justice Group, magistrate court services, children's activity programs, child safety services such as support and intervention for children at risk or in care, accommodation for women or children who are homeless as a result of family or other violence, an environmental health worker, employment services which include an Indigenous and Training Support Officer located in the community, and an ambulance service.

There are eleven police officer positions in Woorabinda. Police services have increased with the allocation of one Child Protection and Investigation Unit (CPIU) officer from Rockhampton.

A zero carriage limit was introduced in Woorabinda on 1 July 2008. Along with this, the following services have been established: a sobering-up shelter, an alcohol treatment resource centre, outreach support to known heavy-drinkers, medically supervised acute alcohol and drug detoxification, and an alcohol and after-care service.

The Government Champion for Woorabinda is Scott Spencer, Director-General, Department of Natural Resources and Water.



Key initiatives

The Queensland Government has established a government service hub in Woorabinda (since July 2008) to improve and coordinate the delivery of services by the State and Australian Governments. Visiting services from the Australian and State Governments are actively utilising the Government Services Hub to provide services to the Woorabinda community.

Funding is also provided through State and Australian Government partnerships for the construction of a pool, Police Citizens Youth Club (CAPE) and other sports and recreation services. A sports and recreation officer is employed by the council.

Australian Indigenous Security Services Pty Ltd (AISS) was employed within Woorabinda, between 17 December 2008 and 26 January 2009 which was extended by the Department of Education Training and the Arts until 27 February 2009. During this time locally employed security were mentored and assisted in undertaking all aspects of security. There is potential for economic development through Woorabinda implementing its own security company. AISS, now a registered training company is investigating the potential to run a six week security training course.

At the request of the Woorabinda Aboriginal Shire Council, the Government Coordinator organised a number of partnership meetings on 16 and 17 February between the Wadja Traditional Owner Group, Council and people with historical links. These meetings were facilitated by the Department of Natural Resources and Water. Other meetings will be

held with Ghungulu and Yetamali Traditional Owner Groups during April 2009. The purpose of the meetings was to start the engagement process in developing working relationships and providing information around changes to the *Land Use Agreement Act 2008*.

The Cairns South Child Safety Service Centre has recently had some parents from Woorabinda complete the 26 week Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program.

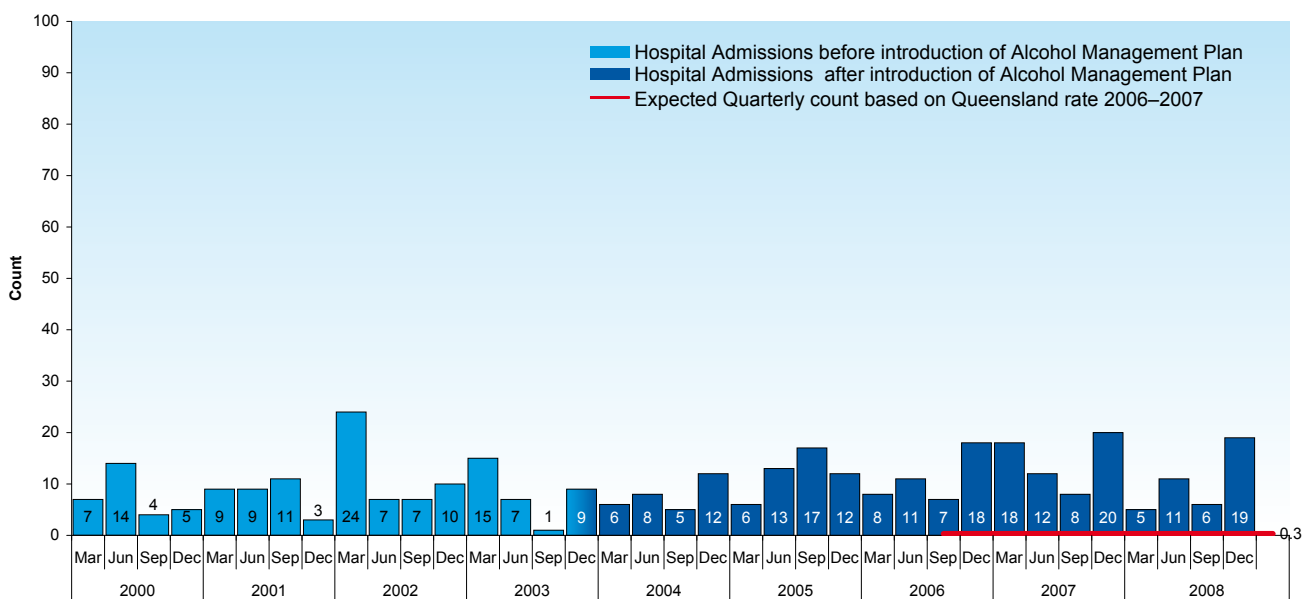
Government Coordination staff are continuing to work in partnership with Woorabinda community through the Social and Cultural Strategy Group to identify community challenges and local solutions. This process is ongoing and being led by one of the Woorabinda Councillors and a number of Elders.

Hospital Admissions for Assault

There was an average of 10.3 hospitalisations for assault reported per quarter for people from Woorabinda over the 12 months to 31

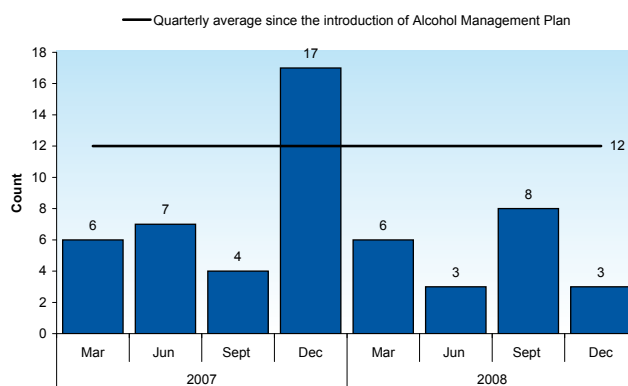
December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.3 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Woorabinda in 2007).

Figure 56: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Woorabinda (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

Figure 57: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Woorabinda.



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*)

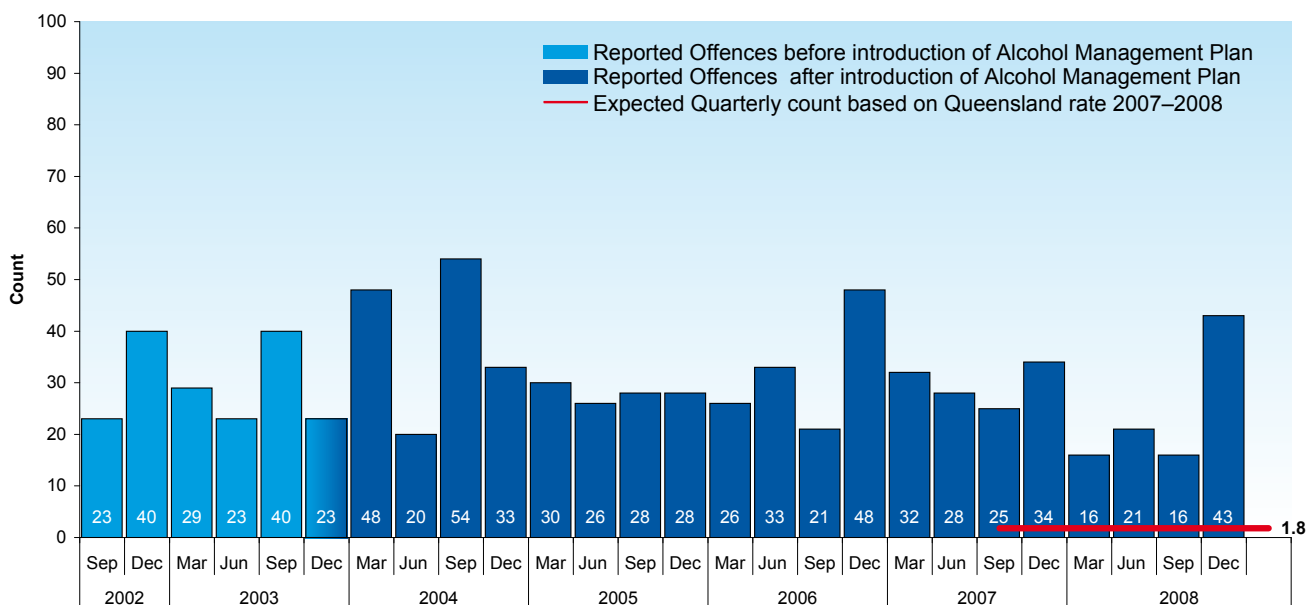
Since the introduction of the Alcohol Management Plan, there has been a total of 244 persons convicted of 381 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Woorabinda. In the December quarter 2008, three persons were convicted (individuals convicted are not necessarily residents of the community).

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 Woorabinda. Counts ranged from 16 up to 54 per quarter and no obvious trends or patterns were evident. Counts over the first three quarters reported in 2008 (ranging from 16 to 21) were slightly lower than those in

2007. However, there was a relatively large increase in offences reported in the December 2008 quarter. There was an average of 24 offences against the person reported per quarter in Woorabinda over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 1.8 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Woorabinda in 2007).

Figure 58: Quarterly number of reported offences against the person, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Woorabinda



(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

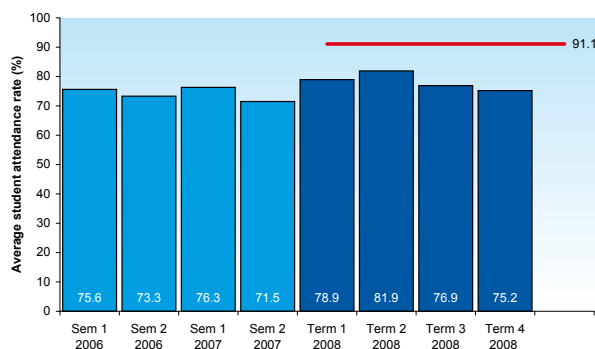
Child Safety

In the December quarter 2008, 15 Woorabinda children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm. In the December quarter 2008, less than five Woorabinda children were admitted to finalised child protection orders.

School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Woorabinda State School was 75.2 per cent. This was similar to the rate recorded in third term of 76.9 per cent.

Figure 59: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 7, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Woorabinda 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