

Yarrabah is approximately 40 kilometres southeast of Cairns. The community recorded an estimated resident population of about 2,590 people at 30 June 2007. The average annual growth rate from 2002 to 2007 was 2.2 per cent. The traditional owners of the land are the Gujanggih tribe.

Services to the community

Community services in Yarrabah include a health clinic, a child care centre, a magistrates court service, and schooling to year 10. There are ten police officer positions in Yarrabah. The Queensland Government also provides funding support for drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs, youth leadership and development, Home and Community Care, an aged care hostel, family support and early intervention services, childcare and school holiday programs, a public library, child safety services and support, an ambulance service, domestic violence prevention, Community Justice Group, and a women's refuge, and other specialist and visiting health clinics.

An Alcohol Management Plan commenced in Yarrabah on 6 February 2004 (see Table 1).

The Government Champion for Yarrabah is Mr Michael Reid, Director-General, Department of Health.

Key initiatives

A Negotiation Table on Education and Training was held in Yarrabah on 18 December 2008. Action items arising from the Table included, feasibility studies for a residential boarding school hostel and a multi-purpose centre to be incorporated into the 2008/09 Local Indigenous Partnerships Agreement (LIPA).

In November 2008, the Government announced that alcohol restrictions have been regulated for Yarrabah.

From 2 January 2009, the maximum amount of alcohol a person can have in the Yarrabah Shire is 11.25 litres (one x 30 can carton) of light or mid-strength beer or 750mls (one bottle) of non-fortified wine. The package of additional services to support alcohol reform in Yarrabah includes additional police, health treatment (drug and alcohol) and diversionary services.



Other key discussions undertaken at the Negotiation Table included:

- ♦ Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council will undertake investigations with Ergon Energy and other potential suppliers on alternative energy options for the community
- ♦ The Government Champion will facilitate a meeting between relevant Queensland and Australian Government agencies and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council representatives on economic development for Yarrabah, including negotiations relating to a shopping complex
- ♦ A community survey of transport needs is to be conducted early in 2009. These initiatives will become increasingly important with the announcement by the Australian Government of the phasing out of the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) in Yarrabah from 30 June 2009.

In December 2008, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation in association with Olympic swimming coach and mentor, Lawrie Lawrence, and former NRL players Steve Renouf and Rod Jensen visited Yarrabah. The tour encourages children and parents to find daily physical activity at the community pools, and promotes pool safety messages.

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

Yarrabah

Emergency Management Queensland (EMQ) provided Safety Course training for SES volunteers in Yarrabah.

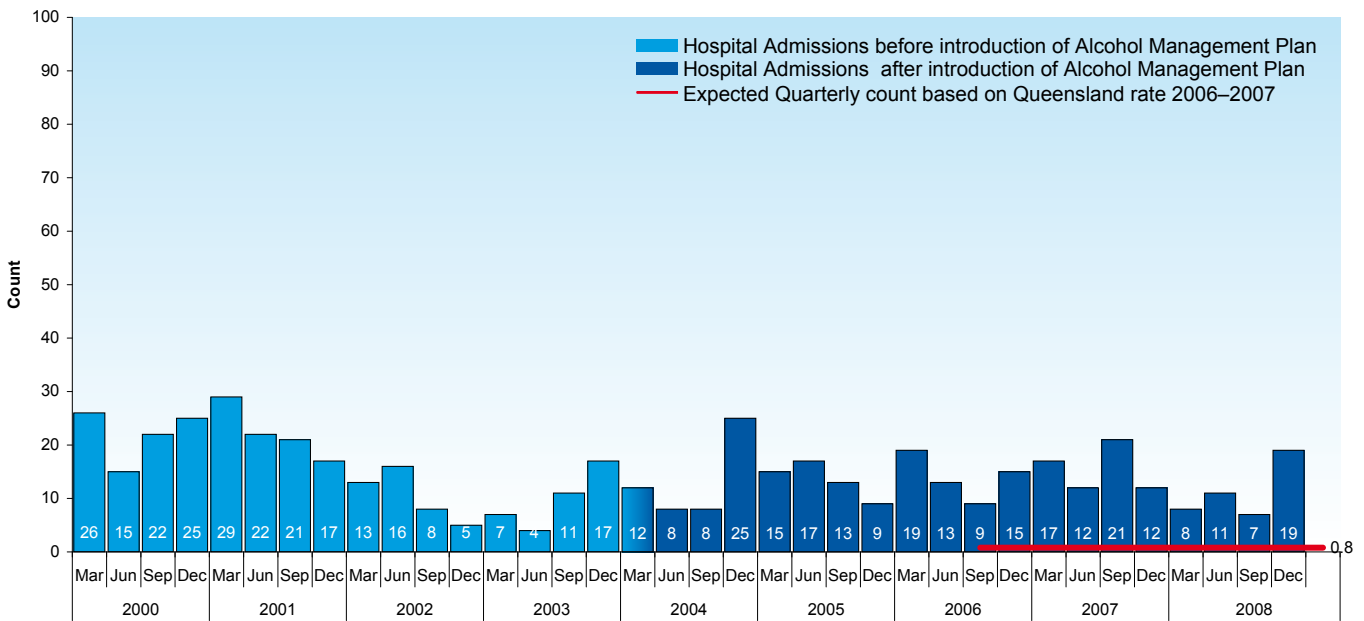
The Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program - an intensive 10 week program that aims to reduce the risk of young people committing violent offences - is being delivered to young people in Yarrabah.

Hospital Admissions for Assault

Quarterly counts of hospitalisations for assault for people from Yarrabah continue to show variability. Counts over the last two years ranged from seven up to 21 per quarter. There was an average of 11.3 hospitalisations for

assault reported per quarter for people from Yarrabah over the 12 months to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 0.8 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2006-07 Queensland rate to the population count of Yarrabah in 2007).

Figure 64: Quarterly number of hospital admissions for assault, March quarter 2000 to December quarter 2008, Yarrabah (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 235 persons convicted of 267 breaches of alcohol carriage restrictions in Yarrabah. 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 more than double that of 2007 (133 compared with 56).

Figure 65: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, March quarter 2007 to December quarter 2008, Yarrabah.



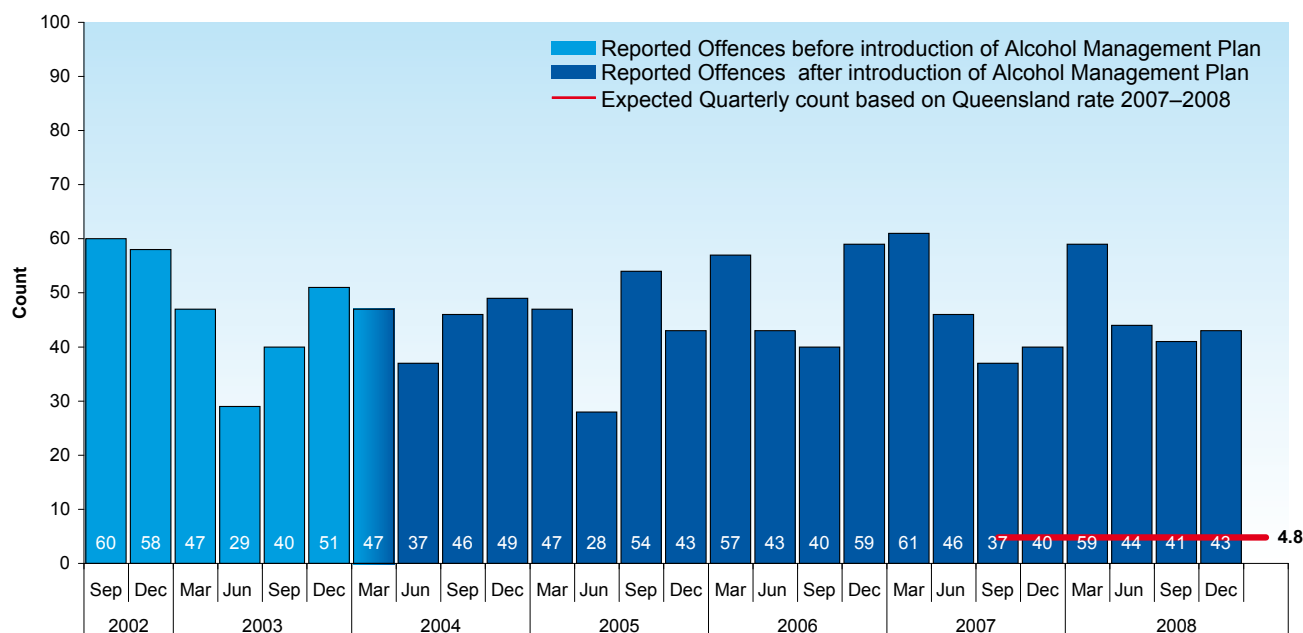
Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General unpublished data. These data are limited by a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

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 Yarrabah. Counts ranged from 28 up to 61 per quarter and no obvious trends or patterns were evident. Numbers for the last three quarters in

2008 were stable ranging from 41 to 44. There was an average of 46.8 offences against the person reported per quarter in Yarrabah over the four quarters to 31 December 2008. This compares with an expected count of 4.8 per quarter (estimated by applying the 2007-08 Queensland rate to the population count of Yarrabah in 2007).

Figure 66: Number of persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, September quarter 2002 to December quarter 2008, Yarrabah.



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.

Child Safety

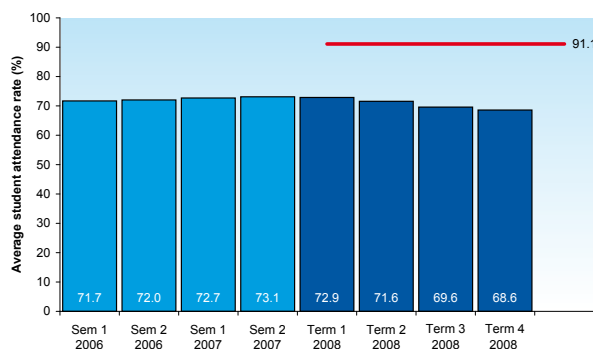
In the December quarter 2008, six Yarrabah children were subject to a substantiated notification of harm. One Yarrabah child had more than one substantiated notification over the December quarter 2008. In the December quarter 2008, five Yarrabah children were admitted to finalised child protection orders.

School Attendance

In term four 2008, the average student attendance rate at Yarrabah State School was 68.6 per cent. This was similar to the average attendance rates recorded throughout the rest of the year.

*Fourth term data have been calculated using 34 of a possible 39 school days due to incomplete attendance data at the time of collection

Figure 67: Average student attendance rate, preparatory to year 10, semester 1 2006 to term 4 2008, Yarrabah 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