





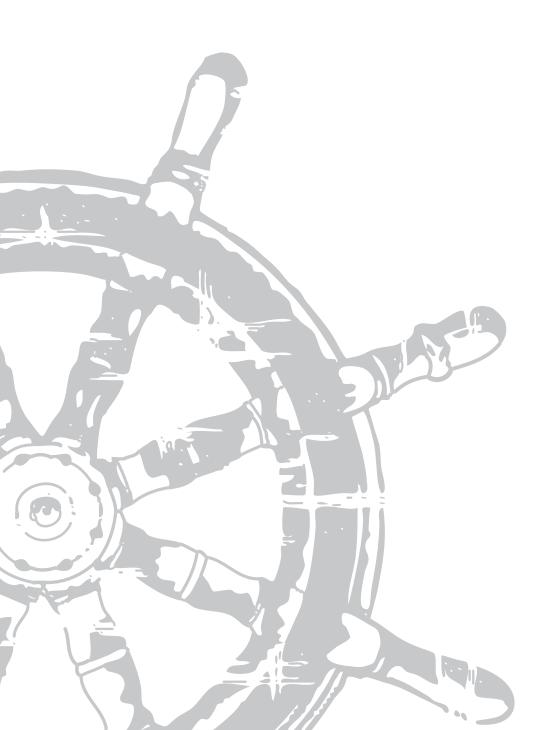
# MER COMMUNITY BOOKLET 2012

Safe Communities Schooling Economic Participation Health Early Childhood Healthy Homes Governance and Leadership



Cover illustration by Thomas Loban.

The ship's wheel illustration on the front cover represents the role this Booklet plays in guiding **Mer** towards improvement in each of the **Closing the Gap Building Blocks** and delivering on the **Regional Plan goals**.



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# FOREWORD

# I am pleased endorse the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Regional Plan 2009-2029 Community Booklet.



On behalf of the Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project steering committee, I wish to thank the seven Regional Plan Working Groups for their work over the last two years, which has enabled the publishing of ISD Booklets for each community in the Torres Strait and for the Northern Peninsula Area. I also thank the many community members who provided feedback and verified the information to enable the publishing of the Booklet.

This Booklet represents the 2012 'baseline' for your community. This baseline is a vital component of the ISD initiative for the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area and can be used by communities and government agencies working in the region to measure progress, improvement or change in the delivery of services and programs. This information will inform the decision-making and prioritisation processes of communities and government agencies. The sharing of information will contribute towards greater collaboration between agencies as they can see the bigger picture of who else is delivering services in the region.

I hope this Community Booklet will help explain the range of government services available in your community and the region, and show clearly who is responsible for those services. In fact, the Booklet serves as a directory of services. Your community can also use this booklet to monitor the progress of delivering the additional services identified for your community in the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Regional Plan 2009-2029*. I encourage community members to provide formal or informal reports to the Integrated Service Delivery Coordination Unit on changes or updates to the status of projects, programmes and services. Comments can be sent to isdcoordination@tsra.gov.au and will be referred to the appropriate area within the ISD project for action.

It is the goal of ISD that all stakeholders in the region work more efficiently and in a collaborative, constructive, open and transparent manner. This is a major step towards fostering and strengthening a spirit of genuine partnership and shared responsibility.

Let us all work together to achieve our vision of '**empowering our people**, **in our decision**, **in our culture for our future**'.

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John T. Kris Chairperson Torres Strait Regional Authority

# INTRODUCTION

In 2007 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on the need to close the gap in life **outcomes and opportunities between Indigenous and non-Indigenous** Australians.



#### The National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) lists a number of targets to end Indigenous disadvantage. To address the targets, the government has made a long-term commitment across seven key areas (known as Building Blocks).

#### The Building Blocks are:

- 1. Early Childhood
- 2. Schooling
- 3. Health
- 4. Economic Participation
- 5. Healthy Homes
- 6. Safe Communities
- 7. Governance and Leadership



In 2008, the Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA), the Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC), the Torres Shire Council (TSC), the Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council (NPARC), and Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) from the Queensland Government Department of Communities, recognised there was a need to create a plan to guide the development of the region, and identified that integrated planning and service delivery would maximise opportunities and resources in the region.

In August and September 2008, teams with representatives from the TSRA, NPARC, TSC, TSIRC and ATSIS spoke to all communities and elected leaders in the region about their needs and aspirations. In 2009, the *Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Regional Plan 2009-2029* (the Regional Plan) was developed.

#### The Regional Plan:

- 1. outlines the communities' vision for the region;
- **2.** specifies goals based on the seven COAG Building Blocks and three extra goals specific to the region;
- 3. outlines how to achieve these goals; and
- **4.** calls for a regional partnership with all levels of government working together to build a strong future for the region.



# The TSRA, TSC, TSIRC, NPARC and ATSIS realised that for the Regional Plan to be effective, all government agencies needed to meet and plan to **work more closely together** in the region.

#### **An Integrated Approach**

The TSRA, TSC, TSIRC, NPARC and ATSIS realised that for the Regional Plan to be effective, all government agencies needed to meet and plan to work more closely together in the region. This closer working relationship is embodied in the concept of Integrated Service Delivery.

#### Seven Regional Plan Working Groups were established to:

- identify all current services in the region;
- highlight gaps and duplications of services;
- prioritise community issues that need to be addressed; and
- identify short, medium and long-term goals.

#### A joint agency project management team was formed to:

- provide administrative support;
- bring all the working group
- information together for analysis;identify issues that cut across
- all working groups or Building Blocks; and
- develop a framework to support Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) and ensure that government agencies uphold their commitments.

After the information was analysed, all government agencies, as well as elected leaders, agreed to develop a document that would drive ISD. This document is called the Integrated Service Delivery Agreement (ISD Agreement). All actions that government agencies can commit to are listed in this document. The ISD Agreement commits government to complete projects in a set timeframe. These projects deliver against the objectives of the Regional Plan and address/recognise the needs of communities that were expressed in the associated 2008 consultations.

#### **Aim of Integrated Service Delivery**

- Address the needs of the communities in the region
- Make sure that all government agencies align projects with the Regional Plan
- Make sure that opportunities and resources are maximised to secure the future of the region
- Provide adequate, appropriate and coordinated service delivery to Torres Strait Island and Northern Peninsula Area communities
- Ensure government agencies talk to each other and work together more efficiently.

#### Why We Need Integrated Service Delivery

- Government is complex and difficult to understand, and there is too much red tape
- There are many different government agencies working in the region and sometimes there is duplication of services
- There has been a lot of change in the last few years, and a lot of consultation
- Communities feel disengaged
- Government funding must be used in the most effective way possible to deliver efficient outcomes for all communities.

#### The Purpose of the Community Booklet

- Provide feedback to communities, and clearly outline the issues your community talked about during the consultations in 2008 as well as what has been achieved or is in progress by 2012
- Outline what services government agencies are currently providing to your community
- Support the development and implementation of the ISD Agreement
- Provide a baseline or 'snap shot' of your community in 2012, against which progress and change can be measured in future years.

#### What You Will Find in This Booklet

This Community Booklet is arranged in seven chapters relating to the seven COAG Building Blocks. The three additional goals from the Regional Plan (Environmental Management; Art, Culture and Heritage; and Native Title) have been included within each of the chapters as they are key enabling activities that impact on one or more of the COAG Building Blocks.

At the beginning of each chapter is a section titled 'What your community wanted in 2008'. The information listed in this section has come directly from the community consultations undertaken in 2008. What your community wanted has been colour coded Red, Orange and Green.

The pie charts (right) show progress made in delivering the services requested by the community in 2008, using the same colour coding as above. All of the services identified in 2008 were initially coded red. This compares with the second pie chart (2012) and shows what has been achieved in the initial ISD period.

The second section of each chapter is titled 'What is available in your community and across the Region'. Here you can find a list of programs and services that are currently being delivered, including a description of these services. Many of these programs and services are offered on a region-wide basis and some are state-wide or nation-wide programs and services. In some cases programs are available to your community, but it is necessary that your community approach the relevant government agency to seek access, delivery or support. Others require that individuals submit applications (for example, to apply for scholarships).

Programs and services which contribute directly to more than one of the COAG Building Blocks are listed under each chapter.

At the end of the Booklet is a list of Acronyms to explain the abbreviations used. Where the acronyms stand for government agencies or programs, they are, in many cases, accompanied by contact details (email or phone or website address) to enable you to seek further information. This means the Booklet also plays the role of a 'Directory' of programs and services.



#### MER POPULATION AND HOUSING

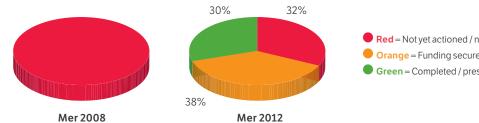
Total population: 486 (Census 2006)

Total occupied dwellings: 97 (Census 2006)

#### UPDATING YOUR BOOKLET

It is planned to review and update your Booklet as part of Integrated Service Delivery planning and implementation processes to be established. Note that when your Booklet is revisited in future years, issues will be reviewed to determine their status (they may have moved from red to orange or green). New issues may be added, and some may be removed. When issues are removed it could be that they have been addressed, or is not possible to deliver services on the ground in your community.

#### **Mer Service Request Status**



**Red** = Not yet actioned / not commenced / not feasible • Orange = Funding secured / planning in progress / underway

Green = Completed / present / established



# XX Early Childhood



- Construct a childcare centre near the school.
  Implement programs to ensure the childcare
- centre is run by Meriam people.
- Ensure local language is used in the childcare centre.
- Train more community members to become qualified childcare workers.



TOPICS	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Schooling	Preparatory Year	Full time program for 5 year olds at Tagai State College (Mer).
	Pre-preparatory Year	Part time program for 3.5-4.5 year olds at Tagai State College (Mer).







- Conduct hearing tests on all school children and provide follow up support.
- Develop initiatives/programs to improve communication and interaction between families and school staff.
- Develop culturally specific programs to improve levels of literacy and numeracy.
- Construct a student hostel in Cairns specifically for children from the Torres Strait to address issues of cultural isolation.
- Develop initiatives that encourage parents and community members to get more involved in children's education.
- Ensure parents are involved in transition/orientation programs.
- Investigate the de-centralisation of the school.
- Ensure parents and community members receive information about children's progress.

- Ensure local knowledge, culture and language is incorporated in the school curriculum.
- Develop programs to help facilitate the transition from primary school to secondary school.
- Develop programs to help overcome language barriers faced by students moving down south for school.
- Develop support programs to help students who move down south for schooling.
- Re-establish the Meriam cultural environment (tutorials, cultural activities) in Cairns to support Meriam children attending school there.
- Develop and run cooking activities, for both sexes.
- Conduct regular health checks of all school age children.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Information Hubs	Indigenous Knowledge Centre	TSIRC and State Libraries Queensland provide broadband internet access (including Skype) and free training to community members.
Infrastructure	BER Funding	Tagai State College (Mer): construction of new Primary School, refurbishment to block B (years 6 & 7), block C (language and culture classroom and library), new construction of covered outside learning area and purchase of integrated data projector/smart board.



ΤΟΡΙϹ	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Safety	Adopt-a-Cop	QPS runs the Adopt-a-Cop program at Tagai State College.
	Maritime Safety Training	MSQ has rolled out a 'boat safe program' at Tagai State College and delivers educational programs to improve boating safety.
		MSQ educates community on benefits of lifejackets, distributes materials to communities, and implements training on outboard motor maintenance.
		MSQ supports the inclusion of boating safety lessons into primary school curriculum and promotes AUSMEPA scheme throughout primary schools.
Scholarships	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme	TSRA offers ATES scholarships to eligible candidates. It assists Indigenous people within the Torres Strait to undertake undergraduate study at a mainland university campus.
	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation Scholarship Program	This DEEWR program provides boarding school scholarships and career pathways.
	Torres Strait Youth Leadership Scholarship	TSRA offers scholarships to eligible candidates to participate in a leadership course run by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. This course develops the confidence and interpersonal skills of potential leaders.
	Governor-General Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship	The Governor-General's Office offers this scholarship to Indigenous men and women undertaking tertiary teaching studies.
	Morey Scholarship	TSRA offers this scholarship, established by Senator Susan Boyce, to eligible female candidates to assist with tertiary education.
Schooling	Cairns School of Distance Education	Available throughout the region.
	Preparatory Year	Full time program for 5 year olds at Tagai State College (Mer).
	Pre-preparatory Year	Part time program for 3.5-4.5 year olds at Tagai State College (Mer).
	Primary Education Year 1-7	Tagai State College offers full time schooling (Mer).
	Quality Teaching	DEEWR program to improve teacher quality and the strength of school leadership.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Sports and Recreation	Community Sport and Recreation Officers	There is a part time Sport and Recreation Officer position on Mer.
School Transition	Choosing a Prapa Pathway	This TSIREC and Tagai State College program provides advice and support for children transitioning from primary school to secondary school, as well as career pathways for senior classes.
	Indigenous Youth Mobility Program	This DEEWR program helps young Indigenous people move away from home to gain the skills they need to get a job in their community or elsewhere.
	Pathway Coordinator Support Program for School Leavers	This DEEWR (IEP) and JSA program provides support for recent year 12 graduates.
	Transition to Secondary School	ISSU and DET offer assistance to students transitioning to boarding school outside of the region.
Tagai State College	Aboriginal and Islander Tertiary Aspiration Program	The Aboriginal and Islander Tertiary Aspiration Program is a university pathways program for students in years 4-9.
	Anti Bullying Strategy	Tagai State College has an anti bullying strategy currently in place.
	Areas of Excellence	Areas of excellence are identified and promoted through Land and Sea Sciences, Language and Culture.
	Communication Strategy	The development and instigation of a promotion and marketing strategy and establishment of a Communication Tree.
	Community Engagement	Strategy to engage parents in supporting the aspirational target of 100% students meeting minimum national standards.
	Early Years Strategy	The Early Years Strategy focuses on '2012 Early Years Centre Standards' and 'Montessori Education'.
	Education Week	Education Week includes Principal for the Day; Education Showcase; Back to School.
	Flying Start Initiative	The '2014 Flying Start Initiative' supports Year 7 students move into high school.
	Growing Our Own Strategy	This strategy incorporates an Indigenous Aspiring Leaders Program.
	Healthy Lifestyle Programs	Tagai State College has partnered with various Government agencies to achieve healthy lifestyle targets together, through such initiatives as horticulture programs, school based nurses, vaccination programs and health screening.
	Horticulture in Schools Initiative	Tagai College and TSRA partner in supporting the delivery of the Horticulture in Schools Initiative. This project provides classroom learning kits, playground and classroom activities, shade houses, raised garden beds, seeds, potting mixes, fruit tree stock and worm farms.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Tagai State College Continued	Inclusive Education	The Inclusive education program focuses on the success of all students, including students with disabilities, special needs and those at risk.
	Language and Culture Protocols	Protocols are in place.
	Language Syllabus 2012	The Language Syllabus 2012 involves a Campus Advisory Group, multi-media dictionary, campus behaviours list, and implementation of syllabus.
	Professional Development	Teachers have a Code of Conduct, and undergo Public Service Induction Programs.
	Quality Learning Timetable	This is a school policy stating there can be no interruption to learning between 9:00am and 1:00 pm.
	Reading for Success	The Reading for Success program encourages reading through recognition and champions, and includes sponsorships to promote community engagement.
	Responsible Behaviour Plan	Tagai State College has a responsible behaviour plan currently in place.
	Science Priority Program	Science priority programs include: Science Spark, PowerSavvy, Earth Smart Science and Land and Sea Science.
	Senior School Strategy	Tagai State College, JCU and TNQ TAFE have developed an employment pathway strategy for senior school students.
	Sport and Rec Program	Tagai State College has a number of sports and recreation program in place.
	Student Attendance Strategy	This strategy focuses on a community approach and incorporates the Every Day Counts program.
	Teacher Housing	Housing is provided for teachers.
	Technology Delivery Model	This model sets information and communications technologies standards for teaching.
	The Arts Strategy	The Arts Strategy includes activities such as school choirs, bands, cultural dance teams and ukulele teams.
	Yumi Curriculum Framework	The foundation of the Curriculum Framework is Torres Strait language and culture.
	Yumi Education	Yumi principles and systems are embedded into college operational and school management systems.
University	James Cook University	JCU offers various external Bachelors and Masters degrees and provides support on Thursday Island for students undertaking external courses. JCU offer tailored support on Thursday Island for students undertaking a Bachelor of Education in Early Child Care externally.
Wellbeing	'Supporting Informed Choices' Program	This DEEWR funded PaCE program helps parents and caregivers participate in educational decision making, and improve educational outcomes for children.







- Re-activate HACC services and provide a safe environment for Elders.
- Environmental Health Officer to report to TSIRC engineering services.
- Review the health treaty with PNG.
- Ensure adequate management and control of PNG nationals seeking medical treatment.
- Develop a water management system to support the community.
- Establish a community garden.
- Develop an ongoing educational program to provide information on appropriate medication (and changing labels).
- Provide a new ambulance for the healthcare centre.
- Develop programs to increase community participation in sports and recreation activities.
- Provide the general community with basic first aid training.
- Construct a playground for children.
- Develop programs that promote healthy lifestyles.
- Develop and implement a counselling training program for community members.

- Assess aged care needs and determine the level of service required.
- Develop and implement a program to revive traditional gardening methods.
- Ensure dentists regularly visit the community.
- Connect rain water tanks to houses to ensure access to clean drinkable water and decrease skin irritations.
- Implement a program of regularly monitoring tanks for mosquitoes.
- Extend the existing health care centre.
- Improve access to counselling services, i.e. regular visits by the mental health team.
- Provide clinical and operational training to staff.
- Investigate means of establishing better communication between community and healthcare workers.
- Develop positive parenting workshops and programs.
- Develop sports and recreation programs specifically for Elders.
- Assess sports and recreation facilities, especially the need for a sporting complex.
- Recruit additional health care workers with increased clinical and operational skills.

# What is available in your community and across the region:

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Aged Care	Community Aged Care Package Program	This HACC Program provides 4 Community Aged Care Packages in the Outer Islands (there are 19 in total across the Torres Strait).



**PROJECT STATUS KEY** Red: Not Yet Actioned / Not Commenced / May Not

Orange: Funding Secured /

Green: Completed / Present /

Planning in Progress / Underway

Be Feasible

Established

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Aged Care Continued	HACC	Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the Queensland Government, there are limited HACC services available for the aged and disabled on outer islands (including domestic assistance, social support).
	Torres Strait Home for the Aged	Residential Care: 19 high care and 19 low care places available on Thursday Island.
Alcohol and Drugs	AA Meetings	AA mentorship and support available on Thursday Island with phone in helpline available through Cairns.
	Liquor Accord	OLGR agreement by licensees and other stakeholders to take certain actions in local communities which aim to improve safety in entertainment areas and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, offences and violence.
	Substance Abuse	Queensland Health provides substance abuse services (family and individual counselling).
Emergency Response	Ambulance	QAS has donated a ground transport vehicle to Mer (owned by TSIRC).
		Royal Flying Doctors provides patient transport to Cairns if needed.
		Queensland Health provides a medivac service to Thursday Island Hospital.
Environmental Health	Animal Management	Queensland Health provides funding for TSIRC to employ an Animal Control Officer to register dogs/cats and impound wandering dogs. Queensland Health also provides some funding to TSIRC for visiting veterinary services.
	AQIS	AQIS traps and monitors exotic incursions and issues permits for items moving into and out of the region.
	Climate Change and Health	TSRA, Queensland Health, TSC, NPARC, TSIRC and CSIRO are working together to identify likely future health impacts associated with climate change in the Torres Strait.
	Environmental Health Services	TSIRC has an Environmental Health Worker position in the community funded through Queensland Health.
		TSIRC has a Manager and an Assistant in Environmental Health who are responsible for environmental health management in the TSIRC area.
		Queensland Health EHOs provide technical support to the Environmental Health Worker in the community.
		TSIRC has the principal legislative responsibility for mosquito control in Outer Island communities. Queensland Health assists TSIRC with mosquito control programs.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Health Services	Medication Scheme	The Commonwealth Government has a medication scheme which subsidises medication (S100).
	Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program (MSOAP)	Queensland Health provides visiting medical specialist outreach services.
	Mental Health Programs	Queensland Health has an acute mental health team that visits the region.
		Queensland Health has a family support unit on Thursday Island, which provides outreach services to support people dealing with mental health issues.
		Life Line provides phone in and online access to crisis support, suicide prevention and mental health support services.
	Primary Health Care Centres	Queensland Health runs health care centres specialising in clinical care, quality lifestyle, chronic disease, maternal and child health, environmental, mental and sexual health, GP services, acute clinical services and disaster management response.
	Primary Health and Specialist Services	The Australian Government through the Department of Health and Ageing contributes funding to support a range of primary health care and specialist services in the Torres Strait and NPA region. These include programs addressing chronic disease, maternal and child health, social and emotional wellbeing, environmental health and aged care needs. All are targeted to helping Close the Gap around Indigenous health disadvantage.
	Royal Flying Doctors Service	RFDS provides limited women's and men's health services.
	Visiting Optometrist	Queensland Health provides a visiting optometrist. The Visiting Optometrist Scheme (VOS) is also provided by the visiting optometry service provider.
Health Training	Health Traineeship	Queensland Health offers school-based and full-time traineeships and cadetships.
	Nursing Courses	JCU offers a Bachelor of Nursing on Thursday Island or externally.
Maternal and Infant Health	Healthy For Life	Provides maternal and child outreach services including ante and post natal care and child health services.
	Maternal Health Care Team	Queensland Health has small maternal health care team on each island to monitor infant health.
	Rural Maternity Initiative Project	This Queensland Health project helps mothers to become healthier mums with healthier babies.
PNG National	Health Care Agreement	The treatment of PNG Nationals at Queensland Health clinics is part of the Australian Health Care Agreement.
	Health Issues Committee	The Health Issues Committee is working towards addressing cross border health issues and improving the management of PNG health issues by PNG.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Population Health	Communicable Diseases	Queensland Health monitors for communicable diseases and conduct contact tracing when cases are identified.
	Health Lifestyle Programs	Health Promotions unit on Thursday Island with outreach service.
		TSIRC has a Healthy Lifestyle Officer position on Mer.
	IBIS Healthy Eat Program	IBIS has developed a pricing policy that offers specials only for healthy food; advises and informs the public on healthy eating; and promotes water and non-sugared drinks.
	Occupational Therapists	Queensland Health and DOC's Housing Service have visiting occupational therapists.
Safety	Domestic Violence Programs	Mura Kosker Sorority: provides Indigenous domestic and family violence counselling as an outreach service.
		Lena Passi: provides court support to victims of domestic violence (outreach service).
		Relationships Australia: provides counselling and family dispute resolution (mediation) services via phone.
		DVConnect: provides a state-wide domestic and family violence telephone service, with a 24 hour women's line, and a men's line from 9am to midnight 7 days a week.
		Domestic Violence Month: during Domestic Violence Month Queensland Police, in conjunction with Mura Kosker Sorority, delivers information sessions across the Torres Strait to educate communities about domestic violence.
		Walk Away Cool Down Program: a Queensland Police program that targets anger management and domestic violence.
	Family Support (including emergency relief)	Mura Kosker Sorority provides emergency relief funding in crisis situations.
		ICAN provides financial counselling and no interest loan schemes.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Safety of Children	Brave Hearts Program	The program is phone in and delivered through schools. It includes counselling, and the provision of information and support to children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, sexual assault.
	CAFS	DOC (CCSQ) and OECEC provide funding to Mura Kosker Sorority for CAFS workers to promote the safety and wellbeing of children through early intervention strategies, and enhance capacity of parents to care for their children.
	Child Protection	Queensland Health has a child protection and liaison officer based on Thursday Island who provides outreach services, and a child safety unit based in Cairns.
	Community Visitor Program	CCYPCG provides monthly visits for children in foster care and takes community reports on the well being of children in communities.
	Recognised Entity Worker	The Recognised Entity Worker assists and ensures children at risk and young people receive the best available, culturally appropriate advice and services (outreach).
	Safe House	DOC plans to construct a safe house for children in the Torres Strait and NPA region.
	Thursday Island Child Safety Service Centre	The Centre offers various programs relating to child protection, domestic violence, drugs, alcohol, homelessness, disability, neglect and sexual assault (outreach service).
Sexual and Reproductive Health	Clinics and Family Planning	Queensland Health runs Women's and Men's Health clinics in sexual health.
Reproductive ricution		A Public Health Physician visits and works with Torres Strait health teams to improve sexual health services and community relations.
		Family Planning Queensland provides family planning education and resources to communities and professionals, and some training (fee for service) on sexual and reproductive health.
		Family Planning Queensland's Sexual Assault Team (phone-in).
Sports and Recreation	Torres Strait Youth Recreational Sporting Association Inc	TSYRSA runs and provides funding for various sporting activities.

# Economic Participation





TORRES STRAIT AND NORTHERN PENINSULA ARE



# What your community wanted in 2008:

- Identify viable local industries and businesses that can be owned and operated by community members (i.e. aquaculture, arts and craft).
- Develop a strategy to effectively manage the Finfish quota.
- Establish a freezer.
- Develop and implement training initiatives to support community members to establish businesses.
- Develop measures to promote and preserve traditional culture.
- Establish a cultural policy for the Torres Strait.
- Develop strategies to improve the efficiency of the Ranger Program (transparency, accountability).
- Recruit rangers for Mer.

- Develop and implement initiatives for community members to own and operate sustainable enterprises.<sup>1</sup>
- Investigate options to establish sponge, trout businesses.
- Construct a work area for local artists.
- Establish an arts centre/museum with space to teach people about traditional culture and language.
- Develop initiatives to utilise traditional culture for the purpose of tourism.
- Ensure economic development programs and initiatives incorporate local knowledge.
- Develop training packages to skill community members to become rangers on Mer.
- Establish seagrass monitoring.



- Red: Not Yet Actioned / Not Commenced / May Not Be Feasible
- Orange: Funding Secured / Planning in Progress / Underway
- Green: Completed / Present / Established

#### NOTES

1 Support programs and grants offered through various agencies and organisations are available across the region.

TOPIC	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Accommodation	Guest House	Mer Guest House.
Arts and Culture	Arts (CDEP Conversion)	COAG initiative delivered through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the TSRA to transition 35 CDEP participants working in the arts and culture area into real jobs under the National Job Transitions program.
	Art Skills Workshop	TSRA, in conjunction with TAFE, have held arts skills workshops.
	Cultural Awareness	TNQ TAFE runs courses in cultural awareness.
	Torres Strait Islands Artists	TSRA provides funding to artists via its Culture, Arts and Heritage Program.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
CDEP	CDEP	TSRA, FaHCSIA, DEEWR, Centrelink, CEA, ITEC and Job Find Centre are involved in CDEP programs. TSIRC is a CDEP employer.
		Community Action Plan approved and in line with the TSRA Development Plan commencing 1 July 2011.
	Community Development	FaHCSIA, TSRA, CEA, ITEC and Job Find Centre support and develop Indigenous communities and organisations. TSIRC is a CDEP employer.
	Work Readiness	FaHCSIA, TSRA, CEA, ITEC and Job Find Centre assist jobseekers to develop their skills and improve their chances of obtaining employment outside the CDEP program. TSIRC is a CDEP employer.
Community Volunteers	Indigenous Community Volunteers	Volunteers with specific skills can be placed in a community to assist with particular projects. The community must submit a request with justification of need to Indigenous Community Volunteers.
Divestments	Opnor Bakir Atabur	Guesthouse, Canteen and Freezer. Only the canteen has been divested, the other two assets are still being negotiated.
Economic Planning	Ministerial Roundtable on Indigenous Economic Participation and Development	Currently the Indigenous Jobs and Enterprise Taskforce is negotiating a mentoring project with a major company in North Queensland to employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
Employment Services	Centrelink	Centrelink provides an outreach service to outer islands supported by TSIRC.
	ICAN	ICAN provides financial counselling, no interest loan schemes and small business training (outreach).
	Indigenous Business Hub	The NAB Indigenous Business Hub assists Torres Strait Islanders to establish their own businesses.
	Job Services Australia	DEEWR sub-contracts services to community based organisations.
Enterprises	Oprnor Bakir Atubur (TSI) Corporation	TSRA and Remote Area Performance involved in Mer Island Canteen and other future enterprises.
Fisheries	Fisheries Leasing and Quota Management	TSRA facilitates the leasing of Torres Strait Islander owned finfish quota which generates revenue that is used to provide a fisheries benefit in the community. This is reviewed annually and as the Islander sector increases its catch, the amount of quota they lease out will be reduced.
	Fishing and Hunting	TSRA and AFMA run initiatives to ensure local fishing/hunting are undertaken in a sustainable way.
	Fishing Operations	There are currently 5 active commercial Traditional Inhabitant Boat licences with endorsements to commercially catch Tropical Rock Lobster (Kaiar), Reef Line Species (i.e. Coral Trout) and Mackerel.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Grants	CEIS Grants	The TSRA offers grants for a range of economic development activities that contribute to the outcomes contained in the TSRA Development Plan.
	CEIS Grants - Mer	TSRA provided a grant to TSIRC and Opnor Bakir Atubur (TSI) Corp for divestment-capacity building and assessing and divesting TSIRC Enterprises.
		TSRA provided the funding for the Development of the Mer Dower Waier (MDW) business plan on fishing related activities.
	Indigenous Business Development Grant Scheme	DEEDI provides grants for the tourism, retail, aquaculture and mining sectors.
PBC	Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate - holders of the land on behalf of the Traditional Owners.
Rangers	Working on Country Program	Working on Country Program (DEWHA, TSRA, TSIRC) aims to develop a sustainable ranger service that is responsible for environmental management activities such as weed and feral animal control.
Training and Skills Development	Enhancing Indigenous Agribusiness	A DEEDI and Biosecurity QId program that helps Indigenous communities realise the economic potential that comes with access to and ownership of traditional lands.
	Indigenous Employment and Training Mangers	This DEEDI service helps identify and assist with the creation of sustainable employment and training opportunities for local Indigenous people.
	Indigenous Employment Program	Under this program DEEWR provide pre-employment training, work experience and mentoring.
	Indigenous Enterprise Development Officers	DEEDI officers provide assistance to numerous Indigenous businesses.
	QBuild Apprenticeship Program	This Department of Public Works program is available to eligible candidates.
	Small Business Training	TSRA in conjunction with TAFE deliver Certificate III in Micro Business Operations.
	Training Initiatives for Indigenous Adults in Regional and Remote Communities	DET in conjunction with Partec Institute and Simmonds and Bristow offer Certificate II and III in Polmer Processing and Certificate II and III in Water Operations.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Transportation	Bus Service	PVT operates a bus service.
	Charter Flights	Barrier Aviation, Cape Air Transport.
		Heli Charters, Australian Helicopters, Cape York Helicopters, Reef Helicopters.
	Commercial Airlines	West Wing.
	Sea Freight	Sea Swift.









- Connect rain water tanks to houses to ensure healthy living.
- Develop initiatives to enable home ownership.
- Investigate the possibility of establishing a housing corporation to take over community housing.
- Develop a rent-to-buy scheme.
- Ensure the response to repair and maintenance requests is swift and efficient.
- Ensure government houses are maintained to an appropriate standard.
- Develop a recycling program.<sup>3</sup>
- Develop a strategy to remove bulk waste from the island.<sup>3</sup>
- Extend the existing desalination plant.

- Upgrade houses to meet the needs of Elders.
- Develop educational programs on financial responsibilities in the home.
- Ensure houses are designed to meet the areas unique environmental requirements and community needs.<sup>2</sup>
- Ensure building materials are sourced from Badu and St Pauls.
- ldentify land for housing development.
- Construct water tanks for community use.
- Develop a waste management strategy.
- Investigate renewable energy sources.
- Assess and improve water management systems.



- Red: Not Yet Actioned / Not Commenced / May Not Be Feasible
- Orange: Funding Secured / Planning in Progress / Underway
- Green: Completed / Present / Established

#### NOTES

- 2 The Department of Communities' Housing Service uses a formula when constructing new housing to ensure it caters to tenants' needs and environment.
- 3 A Regional Waste Management Strategy is being developed.

TOPICS	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Aged Care	Community Aged Care Package Program	This HACC Program provides 4 Community Aged Care Packages in the Outer Islands (there are 19 in total across the Torres Strait).
	HACC	Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the Queensland Government, there are limited HACC services available for the aged and disabled on outer islands (including domestic assistance, social support).
Climate Change	Climate Change Programs	The Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy has been developed and is in the process of being implemented.
	Energy Saving Programs	DLGP and Ergon Energy are working together on energy saving programs.
		TSIRC runs water wise projects.



TOPICS	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Environmental Health	Animal Management	Queensland Health provides funding for TSIRC to employ Animal Control Officer to register dogs/cats and impound wandering dogs. Queensland Health also provides some funding to TSIRC for visiting veterinary services.
	Environmental Health Services	TSIRC has an Environmental Health Worker position on the community funded through Queensland Health.
		TSIRC has a Manager and an Assistant in Environmental Health who are responsible for environmental health management in the TSIRC area.
		Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers provide technical support to the Environmental Health Worker in the community.
		TSIRC has the principal legislative responsibility for mosquito control in Outer Island communities. Queensland Health assists TSIRC with mosquito control programs.
	Metal Waste	TSC and TSIRC are working on a joint project to remove metal waste from the region.
	Occupational Therapists	Queensland Health and the Housing Service of DOC have visiting occupational therapists.
	Repairs and Maintenance	QBuild provides repair and maintenance services.
	Sustainable Horticulture Project	TSRA is coordinating a sustainable horticulture project to support individuals, families and communities throughout the Torres Strait to grow fruits, vegetables and herbs through providing financial and technical support, and community education and awareness raising materials.
	Tenancy Management (Social Housing Rental Agreement)	Tenancy is managed by TSIRC.
	Upgrades to Houses	DOC (Community Property Portfolio) has targeted a number of upgrades. QBuild will carry out these projects.
	Upgrades to Steps and Handrails	DOC (Community Property Portfolio) has targeted a number of steps and handrail projects. QBuild will carry out these projects.
	Waste Management (Dumps)	TSIRC has a waste collection site.
	Waste Management (Recycling)	IBIS plans to recycle its cardboard.
	Water	Water related services will be addressed by DLGP and TSIRC.

TOPICS	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Ownership	Home Loans	Available to eligible candidates.
	Home Ownership	TSRA is planning for home ownership in the future and currently offers education packages around home ownership.
Planning	Asset Sustainability	Region wide programs include: refurbishment of water treatment/pumping facilities, establishment of sewage testing facilities, installation of emergency back-up generators for sewage pump stations, investigations of existing desalination infrastructure within the Torres Strait.
	Desalination Plants	New desalination plant upgrade, located with a new laboratory and office, was delivered 12/2010.
	Joint Torres Strait Housing and Infrastructure Committee	A collection of agencies (including TSRA, TSC, DLGP, NPARC, QT, ATSIS, FaHCSIA, RILIPO, ICC Cairns, Queensland Health, DERM, TSIRC, DTMR, DOC) make up this committee and are responsible for infrastructure projects in the region.
	New Houses	TSIRC plans to construct one new house under CCP.
	Sustainable Land Use Planning	TSRA has supported the development of a land use plan that guides future sustainable land use and identifies key environmental assets, threats and development constraints on the island.
Safety	Domestic Violence Programs	Mura Kosker Sorority: provides Indigenous domestic and family violence counselling as an outreach service.
		Lena Passi: provides court support to victims of domestic violence (outreach service).
		Relationships Australia: provides counselling and family dispute resolution (mediation) services via phone.
		DVConnect: provides a state-wide domestic and family violence telephone service, with a 24 hour women's line, and a men's line from 9am to midnight 7 days a week.
		Domestic Violence Month: during Domestic Violence Month Queensland Police, in conjunction with Mura Kosker Sorority, delivers information sessions across the Torres Strait to educate communities about domestic violence.
		Walk Away Cool Down Program: a Queensland Police program that targets anger management and domestic violence.
	Fire Safety	Operation Safe Home: a QFRS program that conducts fire audits of homes (arranged via phone in service).



TOPICS	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Safety of Children	Brave Hearts Program	The program is phone in and delivered through schools. It includes counselling, and the provision of information and support to children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, sexual assault.
	CAFS	DOC (CCSQ) and OECEC provide funding to Mura Kosker Sorority for CAFS workers to promote the safety and wellbeing of children through early intervention strategies, and enhance capacity of parents to care for their children.
	Child Protection	Queensland Health has a child protection and liaison officer based on Thursday Island who provides outreach services, and a child safety unit based in Cairns.
	Community Visitor Program	CCYPCG provides monthly visits for children in foster care and takes community reports on well being of children in communities.
	Recognised Entity Worker	The Recognised Entity Worker assists and ensures children at risk and young people receive the best available, culturally appropriate advice and services (outreach service).
	Safe House	DOC plans to construct a safe house for children in the Torres Strait and NPA region.
	Thursday Island Child Safety Service Centre	The Centre offers various programs relating to child protection, domestic violence, drugs, alcohol, homelessness, disability, neglect and sexual assault (outreach service).







- Construct a proper waiting area at the airport, including toilet block.
- Ensure the community is educated about community safety issues.
- Establish a safe house.<sup>4</sup>
- Deliver financial management training.
- Develop educational/skills programs based on cultural values.
- Investigate options to establish a dry community.
- Establish an adopt-a-cop program.
- Develop programs to help mitigate and prevent financial hardships caused by alcohol and substance abuse.
- Conduct practice fire drills in the community every three months.
- Re-establish the SES.
- Develop a community fire plan.

- Develop and implement education programs around drug and alcohol use.
- Develop initiatives to encourage reporting incidents of domestic violence.
- Develop anger management programs for men.
- Establish a youth centre or meeting place.
- Develop an agreed community alcohol management system.
- Establish a police station on Mer.
- Review the effectiveness of justice groups.
- Construct a siren large enough to warn entire community in case of an emergency.
- Develop a disaster management plan.
- Develop and implement educational programs around domestic violence.
- Ensure the SES is appropriately equipped, i.e. fire truck.



**PROJECT STATUS KEY** 

#### NOTES

4 There are plans for a Safe House to be built in the Torres Strait region.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Aged Care	Community Aged Care Package Program	This HACC Program provides 4 Community Aged Care Packages in the Outer Islands (there are 19 in total across the Torres Strait).
	HACC	Funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and administered by the Queensland Government, there are limited HACC services for the aged and disabled available on outer islands (including domestic assistance, social support).



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Alcohol and Drugs	AA Meetings	AA mentorship and support available on Thursday Island with phone in helpline available through Cairns.
	Liquor Accord	OLGR agreement by licensees and other stakeholders to take certain actions in local communities which aim to improve safety in entertainment areas and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, offences and violence.
	Substance Abuse	Queensland Health provides substance abuse services (family and individual counselling).
Border Issues	Border Patrols	Australian Customs and Border Protection Service conduct joint cross border patrols and visit Torres Strait Islands and villages in PNG's Western Province to discuss matters with communities.
	Immigration Control	The Department of Immigration and Citizenship tracks Treaty movements.
	Treaty Liaison Visits	DIAC, DFAT, Customs, AFP, QPOL and AQIS conduct Treaty liaison visits.
Conservation	Complete Land Use Planning for New Development	This TSRA, DLGP, DERM and TSIRC project will provide 26 dwellings throughout TSIRC communities. Site clearance, soil testing and site surveys completed.
	Dugong and Turtle Project	TSRA has supported the development and implementation of a community-based Dugong and Turtle Management Plan (in partnership with Traditional Owners, PZJA partners, TSIRC and researchers).
	Seagrass Monitoring	This is a DEEDI, TSRA and Tagai State College program to monitor seagrass habitat, conditions and trends at nominated sites.
	Working on Country (Ranger Program)	Ranger Group in place. Working on Country Plan drafted.
Disaster Management	Disaster Management	TSIRC is currently drafting a Disaster Management Plan.
		Disaster management training exercises are run in the Torres Strait approximately yearly.
	Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe (KOMCS)	This is a DOC and EMQ project to improve community preparedness and reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events.
	Climate Sale (NOMCS)	A KOMCS officer provides ongoing support to the SES.
	Natural Disaster Preparation	EMQ delivers announcements on issues such as cyclone preparation, storm surge and king tide safety.
		EMQ's tsunami kits are available at schools and in the community.
		EMQ evacuation kits are available. They include: non perishables, radio, pots, plates, water containers, torch, blankets, candles and bags etc.

EMQ evacuation kits are available. They include: non perishables, radio, pots, plates, water containers, torch, blankets, candles and bags etc.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Disaster Management Continued	Regional Emergency Management Plan	EMQ, TSIRC, TSC, TSRA, DOC, Queensland Health, MSQ, AMSA, QPS have a combined Emergency Management Plan.
Emergency Response	Ambulance	QAS has donated a ground transport vehicle to Mer (owned by TSIRC).
		Royal Flying Doctors provides patient transport to Cairns if needed.
		Queensland Health provides a medivac service to Thursday Island Hospital.
	First Responders	QAS is currently expanding its First Responders Group.
	SES	SES to link into Ranger Program (and TSIRC) to get active SES up and running, they have a shed available.
Environmental Health	Animal Management	Queensland Health provides funding for TSIRC to employ Animal Control Officers to register dogs/cats and impound wandering dogs. Queensland Health also provides some funding to TSIRC for visiting veterinary services.
	AQIS	AQIS traps and monitors exotic incursions and issues permits for items moving into and out of the region.
	Climate Change Research	TSRA is facilitating various research, mapping, modelling and monitoring activities to determine the current and possible future impacts of climate change in the region, through the Coastal Management Committee and Coasts and Climate Working Group.
	Community Clean Up	TSIRC conducts two community clean ups per year.
	Environmental Health Services	TSIRC has an Environmental Health Worker position on the community funded through Queensland Health.
		TSIRC has a Manager and an Assistant in Environmental Health who are responsible for environmental health management in the TSIRC area.
		Queensland Health Environmental Health Officers provide technical support to the Environmental Health Worker on the community.
		TSIRC has the principal legislative responsibility for mosquito control on Outer Island communities. Queensland Health assists TSIRC with mosquito control programs.
	Renewable Energy Alternatives	TSRA, ICC, TSIRC, TSC, NPARC, ERGON and CAT are investigating and trialling renewable energy alternatives appropriate for the region.
	Sustainable Horticulture Project	TSRA is coordinating a sustainable horticulture project to support individuals, families and communities throughout Torres Strait to grow fruits, vegetables and herbs through providing financial and technical support, and community education and awareness raising materials.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Infrastructure	Airport	DTMR plans to reseal the airstrip.
	RIBS	The RIBS facility is not operating.
	Jetty Accessibility Strategy	A strategy is currently being developed by DTMR, QT and TSIRC that conforms to accessibility standards and contains concepts for jetty maintenance.
	Marine Beacons	AMSA looks after shipping beacons and MSQ harbour beacons.
	QTRIP	QTRIP will install, upgrade or replace boat/ barge mooring facilities across various locations in the Torres Strait.
		QTRIP continues to provide training and skill development in various communities across the Torres Strait.
		QTRIP will undertake transport project planning at various locations across the Torres Strait.
	Regional Asset Renewal	This TSIRC, DLGP and FaHCSIA project is at the design report stage.
	Road and Drainage	A number of road projects have been identified by TSIRC as being high priority. This includes rectification of previously constructed roads and drainage, sealing of key gravel roads and establishing formal drainage.
	Sustainable Land Use Planning	TSRA has supported the development of a land use plan that guides future sustainable land use and identifies key environmental assets, threats and development constraints on the islands.
	Tide Gauge	A regional tide gauge network is being rolled out by TSRA, TSIRC and DERM to improve the quality of data to assist with flood risk mapping, early warnings and surveying.
Justice	Community Justice Group	The Department of Justice and the Attorney General's Department fund Community Justice Groups.
		Offenders can be referred to their Community Justice Group for cultural counselling and cultural mediation.
	Court	The Magistrates Court circuits to Mer up to 3 days per year.
	Cultural Counselling for Offenders	Offenders on outer islands can be referred to their Community Justice Group for informal cultural counselling with the support of Queensland Corrective Services, Probation and Parole Services.
	Dispute Resolution	The Dispute Resolution Centre in Cairns provides outreach mediation services.
	LawHelp	LawHelp gives corporations registered under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 access to pro-bono legal advice.



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Justice Continued	Legal Aid Queensland	Legal Aid Queensland provides advice monthly on non-criminal issues.
	Legal Representation	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (Qld) provides legal representation to Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal offenders in relation to criminal matters.
	Probation and Parole	The Department of Corrective Services – Probation and Parole Services - supervises adult offenders on court orders and delivers specific programs to address individual offending behaviours. The Probation and Parole team are situated at Thursday Island and service the NPA and Torres Strait region on a regular basis.
	Youth Justice	Youth Justice Services (DOC) is designed for young people under 17 years of age on court orders. Statutory caseworkers visit communities every month on a needs basis.
Maritime Safety	AMSA	Pacific Adventurer Response: this AMSA vessel responds to accidents and safety incidents.
		Commercial Vessel Safety: this AMSA program keeps water ways and passages safe for commercial vessels.
		Reducing Risk of Ocean Pollution: this AMSA program prevents and reduces the risk of maritime incidents polluting the ocean.
		Maritime Safety Education: this AMSA program educates the population about trip planning, engine maintenance and fuel carriage.
	Boat Licensing	MSQ provides licensing on outer islands for free.
	Maritime Safety Training	MSQ has rolled out a 'boat safe program' at Tagai State College and delivers educational programs to improve boating safety. MSQ officers also support marine studies programs at the school.
		MSQ distributes materials to communities and implements training on outboard motor maintenance.
		Promote Lifejackets: this MSQ program promotes the wearing of life jackets particularly amongst children.
		Support Grab Bag Scheme: this MSQ scheme, implemented in partnership with IBIS, allows individuals to borrow maritime emergency bags.
		MSQ supports the inclusion of boating safety lessons into primary school curriculum and promotes AUSMEPA scheme throughout primary schools.

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
Planning	Biodiversity Management Planning	Community meetings have been conducted regarding biodiversity management plan and field surveys completed. A draft report has been produced.
		DERM, AQIS, ED and TSRA are working together to coordinate and manage pests and weeds in the Torres Strait.
	Road Safety Advisory Group	Based on Thursday Island, the Advisory Group looks at issues such as road safety messages, pedestrian crossings, child restraints and L and P plates.
	Torres Strait Climate Change Strategy	This strategy will inform future work of the Coastal Management Committee and is an integrated and collaborative approach to addressing the impacts of climate change in the Torres Strait.
	Traditional Ecological Knowledge	This program aims to maintain and revitalise traditional ecological knowledge, and to integrate cultural knowledge with western scientific datasets about the region.
Safety	Adopt-a-Cop	QPS and TSIRC run an Adopt-a-Cop program.
	Australian Federal Police	AFP conducts cross border patrols with Australian Customs and Border Protection Service and QPS.
	Community Police	One Community Police Officer-In-Charge and two Community Police Officers are stationed on the island.
	Domestic Violence Programs	Mura Kosker Sorority: provides Indigenous domestic and family violence counselling as an outreach service.
		Lena Passi: provides court support to victims of domestic violence (outreach service).
		Relationships Australia: provides counselling and family dispute resolution (mediation) services via phone.
		DVConnect: provides a state-wide domestic and family violence telephone service, with a 24 hour women's line, and a men's line from 9am to midnight 7 days a week.
		Domestic Violence Month: during Domestic Violence Month Queensland Police, in conjunction with Mura Kosker Sorority, delivers information sessions across the Torres Strait to educate communities about domestic violence.
		Walk Away Cool Down Program: a Queensland Police program that targets anger management and domestic violence.
	Drivers Licence	DTMR visits the outer islands to conduct licence testing.
	Financial Family Support	Mura Kosker Sorority provides emergency relief funding in crisis situations.
		ICAN provides financial counselling and no interest loan schemes.
	Fire Safety	Operation Safe Home: a QFRS program that conducts fire audits of homes (arranged via phone in service).



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION	
Safety Continued	Police	Queensland Police have a plane with monthly air time.	
	Work Place Safety	WHSQ (JAG) promotes health and safety in the region, conduct safety week, school visits and community activities to promote workplace health and safety information and conduct workplace inspections.	
Safety of Children	Brave Hearts Program	This program is phone in and delivered through schools. It includes counselling, and the provision of information and support to children and young people who have experienced, or are at risk of, sexual assault.	
	CAFS	DOC (CCSQ) and OECEC provide funding to Mura Kosker Sorority for CAFS workers to promote the safety and wellbeing of children through early intervention strategies, and enhance capacity of parents to care for their children.	
	Child Protection	Queensland Health has a child protection and liaison officer based on Thursday Island who provides outreach services, and a child safety unit based in Cairns.	
	Community Visitor Program	CCYPCG provides monthly visits for children in foster care and takes community reports on well being of children in communities.	
	Recognised Entity Worker	The Recognised Entity Worker assists and ensures children at risk and young people receive the best available, culturally appropriate advice and services (outreach).	
	Safe House	DOC plans to construct a safe house for children in the Torres Strait and NPA region.	
	Thursday Island Child Safety Service Centre	The Centre offers various programs relating to child protection, domestic violence, drugs, alcohol, homelessness, disability, neglect and sexual assault (outreach service).	

# X Governance and Leadership



# GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP



#### What your community wanted in 2008:

- Examine the option of moving towards a more traditional form of governance.
- Develop initiatives to incorporate Elders knowledge into governance programs and training projects.
- Establish a women's support group.
- Develop programs to support, encourage and inspire upcoming leaders, particularly amongst youths.<sup>5</sup>
- Establish a support group for youths.

- Develop initiatives to encourage women and young people to run for elections.
- Ensure community is aware of leadership training opportunities, particularly those for women.
- Develop initiatives to promote women in leadership.<sup>5</sup>
- Develop initiatives to establish and maintain support networks and mentoring services.
- Hold youth leadership camps on the island.



5 Various leadership programs, including intensive short courses and longer training programs, are available to community members who apply.

#### What is available in your community and across the region:

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION	
Apprenticeships, Cadetships and	Apprenticeships and Cadetships	There are apprenticeship and cadetship vacancies across all operational areas of TSIRC, DET, DEEDI, DEEWR, QBuild, CEA, TSRA, Job Find and ITEC.	
Traineeships	Health Cadetship and Internship	Queensland Health offers school-based and full-time traineeships and cadetships.	
	Indigenous Cadetship Support	This DEEWR program improves job prospects for Indigenous Australian students. It links full-time Indigenous students undertaking a Diploma, an Advanced Diploma or first undergraduate degree with employers who can give them work placements and ongoing employment.	
Career Development	Career Trek Program	This Australian Public Service Commission program enhances access to career development opportunities for regionally based APS staff and those employed by small to medium sized agencies.	
	Indigenous APS Employees Network	This Australian Public Service Commission forum shares information and experiences, provides support and encouragement and promotes cultural awareness and respect in the APS.	
	Indigenous Mentoring Program	This DET and DOC program focuses on development and implementation of regional mentoring programs for Indigenous workers, volunteers and carers in community services.	
	Indigenous Youth Mobility Program	This DEEWR program helps young Indigenous people move away from home to gain the skills they need to get a job in their community or elsewhere.	

ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION	
Community Plans	Community Plans	TSIRC is legislated to develop a Community Plan.	
	Community Profiles	DOC (ATSIS) has community profiles which provide a description of all communities in the region.	
	Cultural Protocols	TSRA has developed a Cultural Policy and associated Cultural Protocols.	
Community Volunteers	Indigenous Community Volunteers	Volunteers with specific skills can be placed in a community to assist with particular projects. The community must submit a request with justification of need to Indigenous Community Volunteers	
PBC	Mer Gedkem Le (TSI) Corporation RNTBC	Prescribed Bodies Corporate - holders of the land on behalf of the Traditional Owners.	
	PBC Support	TSRA employs a PBC support officer	
Scholarships	AFL Scholarship	Cape AFL offers scholarship to eligible candidates.	
	Assistance with Tertiary Education Scheme	TSRA offers ATES scholarships to eligible candidates. It assists Indigenous people within the Torres Strait to undertake undergraduate study at a mainland university campus.	
	Australian Indigenous Education Foundation Scholarship Program	This DEEWR program provides boarding school scholarships and career pathways.	
	Governor-General Indigenous Student Teacher Scholarship	Governor-General's Office offers this scholarship program to Indigenous men and women undertaking tertiary teaching studies.	
	Morey Scholarship	TSRA offers this scholarship, established by Senator Susan Boyce, to eligible female candidates seeking assistance with tertiary education.	
Training and Courses	Torres Strait Youth Leadership Scholarship	TSRA offers scholarships to eligible candidates to participate in a leadership course run by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. This course develops the confidence and interpersonal skills of potential leaders.	
	Australian Rural Leadership Foundation's Training Rural Australians in Leadership	TSRA offers this scholarship to eligible candidates. This program is a short, intensive 8 day residential program for emerging rural leaders to build new skills and develop a strong network of peers.	
	Australian Rural Leadership Program	TSRA offers scholarships to eligible candidates to participate in this program. This program seeks to build resilient rural communities by developing leaders and involves up to 35 individuals in each 18 month course.	



ТОРІС	PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	DESCRIPTION	
Training and Courses Continued	Certificate IV in Local Government, Diploma in Government	TSIRC offers these courses to eligible candidates.	
	Compliance-annual Reporting and Corporate Governance Training	These ORIC programs are specifically for Directors and interested members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations.	
	Diploma of Local Government	TSIRC offers this course to eligible candidates.	
	Elected Member Training TSIRC offers this training to eligible candidates (Elected Members).		
	Executive Board Members Mentoring Initiative	TSRA offers this capacity building exercise to eligible candidates (Executive Board).	
	Good Decision Making	TSIRC offers this program to eligible candidates (Councillors and Divisional Managers).	
	Indigenous Leadership Program (Men, Women and Youth)	FaHCSIA offers this program to eligible candidates. Participants embark on a personal leadership journey to develop the skills to become strong leaders in their families and community.	
Indigenous Men's FaHCSIA offers eligible candidates support to attend this conference. Leadership Conference		FaHCSIA offers eligible candidates support to attend this conference.	
	Reporting Compliance Project	This ORIC project assists corporations with annual reporting compliance.	
	Skilled Workforce	TSIRC program specifically for Councillors and Divisional Managers.	
	Strengthening Boards	Partnership assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporations to find independent directors.	
	The Strong Voices This DOC (Office for Women) program is designed to provide Indigenous women with the knowledge, skills and confidence to and guide the development of women and girls in their communities.		
	Wal Meta Unit Leadership Program	This DEEDI program is designed specifically for Indigenous employees in the Queensland Public Sector with a focus on pro-active learning, on-the-job experience, accredited and non-accredited training.	

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS & CONTACT DETAILS

AA	Alcoholics Anonymous	Email: aacairns@bigpond.com Phone: (07) 4051 2872
AAP	Annual Action Plan	
AFMA	Australian Fisheries Management Authority	Website: http://www.afma.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4069 1990; National Switchboard: 1300 723 621
AFP	Australian Federal Police	Website: http://www.afp.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4069 1899; National Switchboard: (02) 6131 3000
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science	Website: http://www.aims.gov.au Phone: (07) 4753 4444
AITAP	Aboriginal and Islander Tertiary Aspiration Program	
AMR	Alcohol Management Reform	
AMSA	Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Website: http://www.amsa.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4090 3079; Main Switchboard: (02) 6279 5000
ANC	Australian Navy Cadets	Website: www.cadetnet.gov.au/anc Phone: (07) 4069 0510
APS	Australian Public Service	
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission	Website: http://www.apsc.gov.au Phone: Switchboard: (02) 6202 3500
AQIS	Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Website: http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4069 1185; National Switchboard: 1800 020 504
ARLF	Australian Rural Leadership Foundation	Website: http://www.rural-leaders.com.au Phone: (02) 6281 0680
ATODS	Alcohol, Tabacco and other Drug Services	Phone: Thursday Island (07) 4069 0400
ATSI	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	
ATSILS	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services	Website: http://www.atsils.com.au Phone: Cairns Office: (07) 4046 6400
ATSIS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services	Website: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/atsis Phone:(07) 4069 1243
AUSMEPA	Australian Marine Environment Protection Association	Website: http://www.ausmepa.org.au Phone: National Office: (02) 6254 2559



BER	Building the Education Revolution	Website: http://www.deewr.gov.au/Schooling/BuildingTheEducationRevolution/Pages/default.aspx
	Biosecurity	Website: http://www.daff.gov.au/ba Phone: (02) 6272 3933
	Brave Hearts Program	Website: http://www.bravehearts.org.au Phone: 1800 272 831
CAFS	Child and Family Services	Website: http://www.cafs.org.au Phone: Mura Kosker (07) 4069 1663
CCLO	Cross Cultural Liaison Officer	Website: http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/community/CulturalAdvisory/cclo.htm Phone: (07) 4069 1520
ССР	Community Construction Program	
CCSQ	Community Capacity and Service Quality	Website: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 4036 5400
CCYPCG	Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian	Website: http://www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au Phone: 1800 688 275
CDEP	Community Development Employment Program	Website: http://www.facs.gov.au/sa/indigenous/progserv/families/cdep/Pages/default.aspx
CEA	Career Employment Australia	Website: http://www.ceagroup.com.au Phone: (07) 4212 0000
CEIS	Community Economics Initiatives Scheme	Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au/the-tsra/economic-development/community-economic-initiatives-scheme.aspx
CIB	Criminal Investigation Branch	
COAG	Council of Australian Governments	Website: http://www.coag.gov.au Phone: (02) 6271 5111
COLA	Covered Outside Learning Area	
CPIU	Child Protection and Investigation Unit	Website: http://www.police.qld.gov.au Email: CPIU.ThursdayIsland@police.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 4069 1333
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation	Website: http://www.csiro.au Phone: 1300 363 400
	Cairns School of Distance Education	Website: http://cairnssde.eq.edu.au Phone: (07) 4080 9111
	Cape AFL	Website: http://www.aflcapeyork.com.au Phone: (07) 4054 5199
	Customs	Website: http://www.customs.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4083 1800; General Enquiries: 1300 363 263

DCCEE	Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency	Website: http://www.climatechange.gov.au Phone: General Enquiries: 1800 057 590
DCS	Department of Community Safety	Website: http://www.communitysafety.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 324 7881
DEEDI	Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation	Website: http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au Phone: 13 25 23 Thursday Island (07) 4069 2420
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	Website: http://www.deewr.gov.au Phone: General Enquiries: 1300 363 079; Thursday Island (07) 30 6400
DERM	Department of Environment and Resource Management	Website: http://www.derm.qld.gov.au Phone: 13 74 68
DEST	Department of Education Science and Training	Website: http://www.dest.gov.au
DET	Department of Education and Training	Website: http://deta.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3237 0111
DEWHA	Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts	Website: http://www.environment.gov.au Phone: 1800 803 772
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading	Website: http://www.dfat.gov.au Phone: (07) 4069 2188
DIAC	Department of Immigration and Citizenship	Website: http://www.immi.gov.au Phone: (07) 4069 1292
DITRDLG	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government	Website: http://www.infrastructure.gov.au Phone: (07) 3838 9991
DLGP	Department of Local Government and Planning	Website: http://dlgp.qld.gov.au Phone: 13 74 68 Cairns (07) 4039 8305
DOC	Department of Communities	Website: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au Phone: FNQ Office of the Regional Director (07) 4036 5522 Torres Strait ATSIS office (07) 4069 1243
DOHA	Department of Health and Aging	Website: http://www.health.gov.au Phone: 1800 020 103
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet	Website: http://www.premiers.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3224 2111
DPI	Department of Primary Industries	Website: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au Phone: 13 25 23
DPMC	Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	Website: http://www.dpmc.gov.au



DPW	Department of Public Works	Website: http://www.publicworks.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3227 7111
DSQ	Disability Services Queensland	Website: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/disability-and-community-care Phone: Thursday Island (07) 4069 2829
DTMR	Department of Transport and Main Roads	Website: http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3834 2011
DV	Domestic Violence	
	Dispute Resolution Centre	Phone: Cairns: (07) 4039 8742
	DV Connect	Website: http://www.dvconnect.org Phone: Women's line: 1800 811 811; Men's line:1800 600 636
EMQ	Emergency Management Queensland	Website: http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/emq Phone: (07) 3247 8511
ENT	Ear, Nose and Throat	
EQ	Education Queensland	Website: http://education.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3237 0111
EYC	Early Years Centre	Website: http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/families/early-years-centres.html
	Ergon Energy	Website: http://www.ergon.com.au Phone: General Enquiries: 13 10 46
FACs	Family and Community Services	
FAHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	Website: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au Phone: Brisbane Office: (07) 3037 4500; Switchboard: 1300 653 227
	Family Planning Queensland	Website: http://www.fpq.com.au Phone: Cairns Clinic: (07) 4051 3788
HACC	Home and Community Care	Website: http://www.health.qld.gov.au/hacc Phone: Thursday Island: (07) 4090 3885
HIC	Health Issues Committee	
	Healthy for Life	Website: http://www.health.gov.au/healthyforlife
IBIS	Islanders Boards of Industry Services	Website: http://www.ibis-ti.org Phone: Thursday Island: (07) 4050 4300
ICAN	Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network	Website: http://ican.org.au Phone: 1300 369 878 Mura Kosker (07)4069 1663

ICC	Indigenous Coordination Centre	Website: http://www.fahcsia.gov.au Phone: Cairns office: (07) 40378600; Freecall: 1800 079 098
ICT	Information & Communication Technologies	
IEP	Indigenous Employment Program	Website: www.deewr.gov.au/IEP
IKC	Indigenous Knowledge Centre	Website: http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/about/who/orgchart/ils/ikc
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area	Website: http://www.environment.gov.au/indigenous/ipa/index.html
ISD	Integrated Service Delivery	
ISSU	Indigenous Schooling Support Unit	Website: http://www.issu.com.au Phone: (07) 4044 5600
	ITEC Employment	Website: http://www.itecemployment.com.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4090 3311; General Enquiries: 132 4832
JCU	James Cook University	Website: http://www.jcu.edu.au Phone: Thursday Island Campus: (07) 4069 2670; General Enquiries: (07) 4781 4111
JSA	Job Services Australia	Website: http://www.deewr.gov.au/employment/JSA
KOMCS	Keeping Our Mob Climate Safe	Website: http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/
LIPA	Local Indigenous Partnership Agreement	
	Law Help	Website: http://www.oric.gov.au/Content.aspx?content=training/lawhelp.htm Phone: 1800 622 431
	Legal Aid Queensland	Website: http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Magistrates Court (07) 4069 1503; General: 1300 65 11 88
	Lena Passi Women's Shelter	Phone: (07) 4069 2534
	Life Line	Website: http://www.lifeline.org.au Phone: 13 11 14
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	
MSQ	Maritime Safety Queensland	Website: http://www.msq.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 3120 7462
MSOAP	Medical Specialist Outreach Assistance Program	Website: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/ruralhealth-services-msoap
	Mura Kosker Sorority	Phone: (07) 4069 1663; Freecall: 1800 811 811
NAB	National Australia Bank	Website: http://www.nab.com.au Phone: 13 22 65



NII	National Information Infrastructure	
NIRA	National Indigenous Reform Agreement	
NPA	Northern Peninsula Area	
NPARC	Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Website: http://www.nparc.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 4050 1800
NRCP	National Respite for Carers Program	Website: http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/ageing-carers-nrcp.htm Phone: 1800 052 222
OECEC	Office for Early Childhood Education and Care	Website: http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood
OLGR	Office for Liquor and Gaming Regulation	Website: http://www.olgr.qld.gov.au Phone: 13 74 68
OPAP	Older Persons in Action Program	Phone: 1800 811 811
ORIC	Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations	Website: http://www.oric.gov.au Phone: 1800 622 431
PaCE	Parents and Community Engagement program	Website: http://www.deewr.gov.au/pace
PaL	Parents and Learning program	Website: http://www.parentsandlearning.com
PBC	Prescribed Body Corporate	
PCYC	Police-Citizens Youth Club	Website: http://www.pcyc.org.au Phone: (07) 3909 9555
РКА	Port Kennedy Association	Phone: (07) 4069 2306
PNG	Papua New Guinea	
POW	Prince of Wales Island	
PZJA	Protected Zone Joint Authority	Website: http://pzja.gov.au
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service	Website: http://www.ambulance.qld.gov.au
QATSIP	Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police	Website: http://www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/community/CulturalAdvisory/qatsip.htm
QFRS	Queensland Fire and Rescue Service	Website: http://www.fire.qld.gov.au
QH	Queensland Health	Website: http://www.health.qld.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Hospital: (07) 4069 1109; Switchboard: (07) 3234 0111
QPS	Queensland Police Service	Website: http://www.police.qld.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island: (07) 4069 1520

QRAM	Queensland Remote Aboriginal Media	Website: http://www.qramac.org.au Phone: (07) 4032 5022
QT	Queensland Travel	
QTRIP	Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program	
	QBuild	Website: http://www.qbuild.qld.gov.au Phone: Cape York Regional Office: (07) 4039 8699 Thursday Island (07) 4069 1127
	Queensland Corrective Services (Probation and Parole)	Website: http://www.correctiveservices.qld.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island Office: (07) 4090 2048
RATEP	Remote Area Teacher Education Program	Website: http://www.learningplace.com.au/defaulteqa2.asp?orgid=89&suborgid=586 Phone: Thursday Island Campus: (07) 4069 2670
RIBS	Remote Indigenous Broadcasting service	
RILIPO	Remote Land and Infrastructure Program Office	Phone: (07) 4057 3865
RLCIP R2	Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (Round 2)	
RNTBC	Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate	
RRRC	Reef and Rainforest Research Centre	Website: http://www.rrrc.org.au Phone: (07) 4050 7400
RTC	Rural Transaction Centre	
	Relationship Australia	Website: http://www.relationships.org.au Phone: 1300 364 277
	Royal Flying Doctor Service	Website: http://www.flyingdoctor.org.au Phone: Cairns base: (07) 4040 0444
SES	State Emergency Services	Website: http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/ses Phone: 13 74 68
SEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	Website: http://www.environment.gov.au Phone: (02) 6274 1111
SLUP	Constain shifts I an shifts a Dian	
	Sustainable Land Use Plan	Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au/landsea-management-home/section-4.aspx
SRD	Sustainable Land Use Plan School Review and Development	Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au/landsea-management-home/section-4.aspx
SRD SWD		Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au/landsea-management-home/section-4.aspx
	School Review and Development	Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au/landsea-management-home/section-4.aspx Website: http://www.stjohnscommunitycare.org Phone: Thursday Island: (07) 4090 3666; General: (07) 4039 9700



TNQ TAFE	Tropical North Queensland Technical and Further Education	Website: http://www.tafe.qld.gov.au Phone: Thursday Island: (07) 4069 2200
то	Traditional Owner	
TRAWQ	Tamway, Rosehill, Aplin, Waiben and Quarantine Community Council	
TSC	Torres Shire Council	Website: http://www.torres.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 4069 1336
TSIRC	Torres Strait Regional Council	Website: http://www.tsirc.qld.gov.au Phone: (07) 4048 6200
TSIREC	Torres strait Islanders Regional Education Council	Website: http://www.tsirec.com.au Phone: (07) 4030 6322
TSRA	Torres Strait Regional Authority	Website: http://www.tsra.gov.au Phone: (07) 4069 0700
TSYRSA	Torres Strait Youth Recreational Sporting Association Inc	Phone: (07) 4069 2484
TRL	Tropical Rock Lobster	
	Tagai State College	Website: http://tagaisc.eq.edu.au Phone: Thursday Island Administrative Centre: (07) 4030 6333
	Tagai TAFE	Website: http://tagaisc.eq.edu.au/wcms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=365&Itemid=463
	Thursday Island Hospital	Phone: Thursday Island Hospital: (07) 4069 1109
	Torres Strait Home for the Aged (Star of the Sea)	Phone: (07) 4069 2585
VET	Vocational Education and Training	
VPG	Vocational Partnership Group	Website: http://www.vpginc.com.au Phone: (07) 4030 6334
VTS	Vessel Traffic Service	
WCCT	Western Cape Communities Trust	Website: http://www.westerncape.com.au/western_cape_trust.html
WHSQ (JAG)	Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (Department of Justice and Attorney-General)	Website: http://www.whs.qld.gov.au Phone: 1300 369 915
WPR	Workplace Reforms	
YSC	Youth Support Coordinator	
	Youth Justice Services (DOC)	Website: http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/communityservices/youth/youth-justice/youth-justice-services Phone: Rural and Remote Service Centre (07) 4048 9802













### MER COMMUNITY BOOKLET 2012

