



Annual bulletin

for Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities

2016-17

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1 Executive summary

The *Annual bulletin for Queensland's discrete Indigenous communities 2016–17* (the *Annual bulletin*) presents:

- statistical information on annual findings for each of the discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as well as the Torres Strait Region¹
- an examination of longer-term trends for offences against the person and student attendance.

Similar to previous bulletins², the five indicators examined are:

- reported offences against the person
- breaches of alcohol restrictions
- new substantiated notifications of harm
- finalised child protection orders
- student attendance.

In most communities, levels of offending and harm in 2016–17 were generally consistent with those reported for 2015–16:

- Annual rates of reported offences against the person were similar to 2015–16 levels in 15 of the 18 communities: Aurukun, Cherbourg, Coen, Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge, the Northern Peninsula Area (NPA), Palm Island, Pormpuraaw, the Torres Strait Region, Woorabinda, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah.
 - Significant decreases in the annual rate of reported offences against the person were evident in Kowanyama and Napranum.
 - In contrast, a significant increase in the annual rate of reported offences against the person was evident for Mornington Island.

Over the longer-term, trends of rates for reported offences against the person showed that Coen was the only community for which there was evidence of a downward trend over the entire reporting period from 2000–01 to 2016–17. There were also downward trends over shorter periods to 2016–17 in four communities: the NPA (from 2014–15), Palm Island (from 2012–13), Torres Strait Region (from 2009–10) and Yarrabah (from 2013–14).

Of concern however, were upward trends to 2016–17 in the rate of offences against the person in Doomadgee (from 2011–12), Kowanyama (from 2010–11 to 2015–16), Lockhart River (from 2014–15), and Mornington Island (from 2010–11).

In 2016–17, rates of harm and offending in discrete Indigenous communities remained significantly higher than the corresponding statewide rate. In each of the communities, the overall rate of reported offences against the person was at least twice the Queensland rate (7.1 per 1,000 persons).

Rates of charges resulting in a conviction for breaches of alcohol restrictions remained high in 2016–17 for the communities of Wujal Wujal and Mornington Island. Cherbourg also recorded a high rate in 2016–17; however, this was a significant decrease from the rate

¹ Torres Strait Region includes the local government areas of Torres (S) and Torres Strait Islands (R).

² Due to unavailability of data, episodes of care for assault-related conditions is no longer presented in this bulletin.

recorded for this community in 2015–16. Kowanyama, Woorabinda and Palm Island also recorded significant decreases in this rate over the period 2015–16 to 2016–17.

Over the period 2015–16 to 2016–17, annual rates of children (0–17 years) who were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm did not change significantly in 11 of the 18 communities. Significant decreases in the annual rate of children who were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm were evident in four communities: Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Pormpuraaw, and Mapoon.

- Significant increases in the annual rate of children who were subject of a substantiated notification of harm over the same period were evident in the communities of Aurukun, Lockhart River and Woorabinda.

The rates at which children were admitted to finalised child protection orders did not change significantly in 12 of the 18 communities. This was primarily due to relatively small counts being recorded in each community in both years.

- Woorabinda was the only community to experience a significant increase in the annual rate at which children were admitted to finalised child protection orders over the same period. All other communities showed either no significant change or a significant decrease.

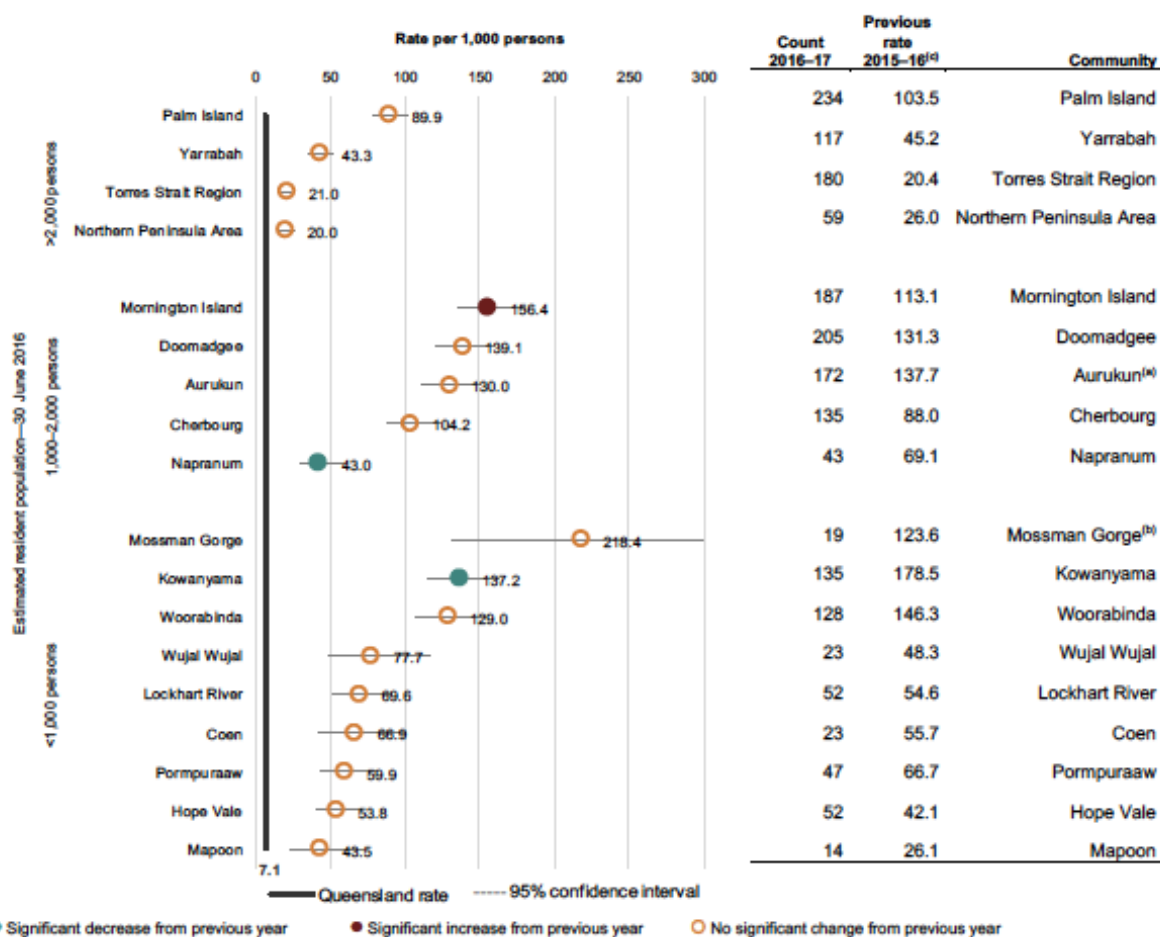
Analyses of the gap in Semester 1 student attendance data over the 11 Semester 1 periods from 2007 to 2017, between discrete Indigenous community state school students and all Queensland state school students, shows positive results for Woorabinda State School students, with a significant decline in the gap over time. In contrast, Cherbourg State School, Kowanyama State School, Lockhart State School, and Yarrabah State School each experienced a significant increase in the gap between their student attendance rates and the corresponding statewide rate.

2 General trends

2.1 Reported offences against the person

<p>2016–17 rates per 1,000 persons</p> <p>Across the communities, rates of reported offences against the person were at least two times the statewide rate (7.1).</p> <p>Relatively low rates were recorded in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Peninsula Area (20.0), and Torres Strait Region (21.0). <p>High rates were recorded in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mossman Gorge (218.4), Mornington Island (156.4), Doomadgee (139.1), and Kowanyama (137.2). 	<p>Annual rate change 2015–16 to 2016–17</p> <p>Significant decreases were evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kowanyama and Napranum. <p>A significant increase was evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mornington Island.
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Figure 1: Annual rates of reported offences against the person, 2016–17



(a) Aurukun excludes the 90 reported offences relating to the 'fake nurse'.
 (b) To maintain the scale of the graph, the upper confidence limit for Mossman Gorge has been truncated.
 (c) Rates are based on estimated populations rebased following the 2016 Census; consequently, reported rates for 2015–16 will be slightly different to rates reported in previous publications.

Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

2.2 Trends in rates of reported offences against the person

Trends 2000–01 to 2016–17 ^(a)	
Downward trends were evident for:	Upward trends were evident for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coen (from 2000–01) Northern Peninsula Area (from 2014–15) Palm Island (from 2012–13) Torres Strait Region (from 2009–10) Yarrabah (from 2013–14). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doomadgee (from 2011–12) Kowanyama (from 2010–11) Lockhart River (from 2014–15) Mornington Island (from 2010–11).

Table 1: Summary of trends in reported offences against the person^(a)

Community	Evidence of change ^(c)	
	Trend 2000–01 to 2016–17	Estimated average annual percentage change 2000–01 to 2016–17 –%–
Aurukun ^(b)	↓ ⇔ ⇔	–7.7 / –2.5 / 4.0
Cherbourg	⇔	–0.1
Coen	↓	–4.3
Doomadgee	↑ ⇔ ↑	4.3 / –7.9 / 15.5
Hope Vale	⇔	0.3
Kowanyama	↓ ↑	–10.2 / 27.8
Lockhart River	↑ ⇔ ⇔ ↑	28.2 / –0.2 / –1.0 / 40.2
Mapoon	⇔	1.0
Mornington Island	↓ ↑	–4.5 / 15.0
Mossman Gorge ^(b)	⇔	1.1
Napranum	↓ ⇔	–5.8 / 4.4
Northern Peninsula Area	⇔ ⇔ ↑ ↓	–5.8 / –3.6 / 10.3 / –21.8
Palm Island ^(b)	↑ ↓	6.4 / –5.2
Pormpuraaw	↑ ⇔ ⇔	35.6 / –8.8 / 1.3
Torres Strait Region	↓ ⇔ ↓	–18.3 / 1.0 / –8.5
Woorabinda	↑ ↓ ⇔	18.5 / –7.5 / 2.6
Wujal Wujal	⇔	–0.8
Yarrabah	⇔ ↓	–2.0 / –15.3

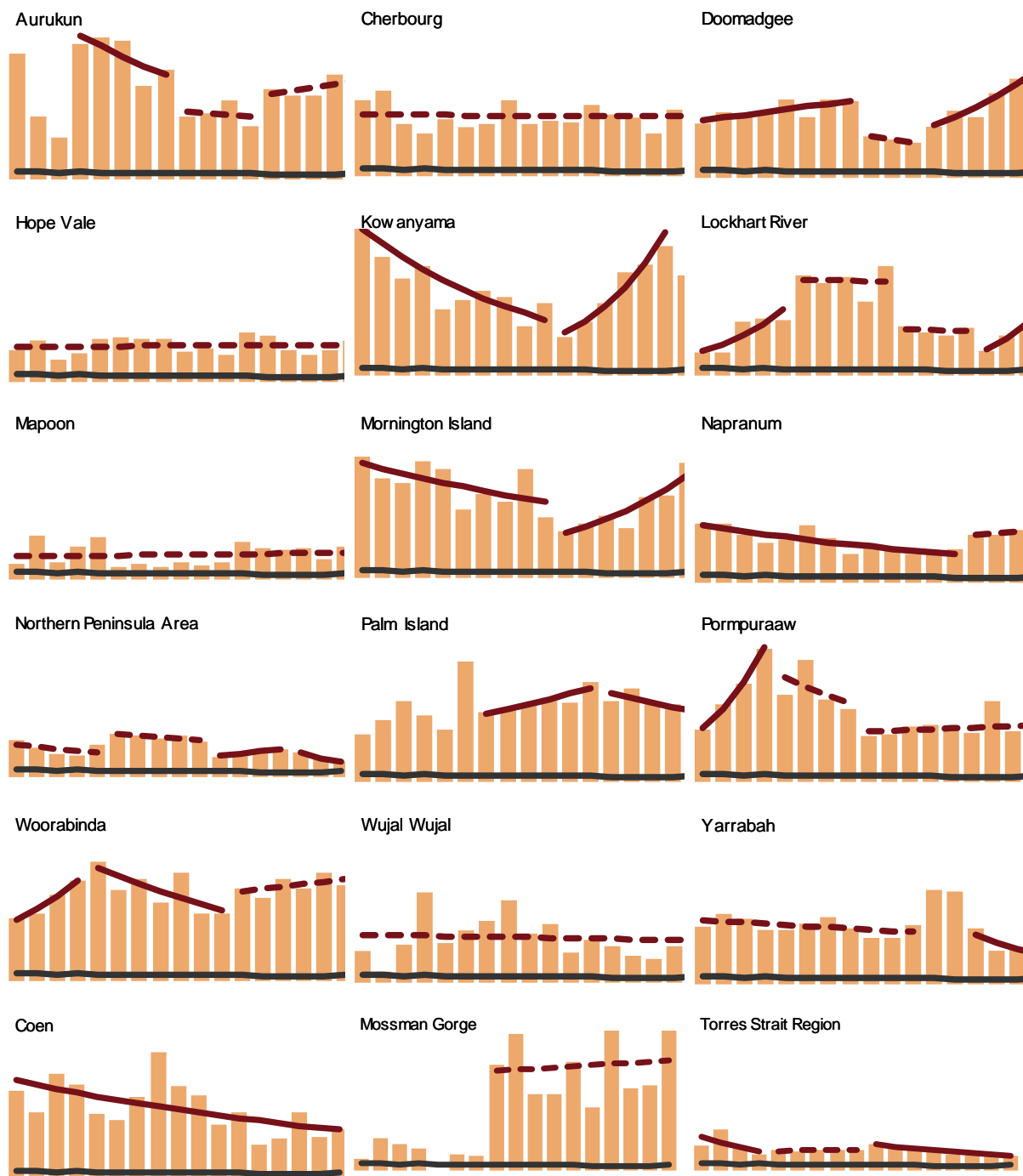
- ↑ Statistical evidence of an upward trend
↓ Statistical evidence of a downward trend

⇔ No statistical evidence of a trend

- (a) More than one arrow indicates a change in the trend during the reporting period.
- (b) Due to data quality issues, trends for Aurukun, Mossman Gorge and Palm Island commence at 2003–04, 2007–08 and 2006–07 respectively.
- (c) For communities with more than one change in the trend during the reporting period, the trends refer to:
- Aurukun: 2003–04 to 2007–08 / 2008–09 to 2011–12 / 2012–13 to 2016–17
 - Doomadgee: 2000–01 to 2007–08 / 2008–09 to 2010–11 / 2011–12 to 2016–17
 - Kowanyama: 2000–01 to 2009–10 / 2010–11 to 2015–16
 - Lockhart River: 2000–01 to 2004–05 / 2005–06 to 2009–10 / 2010–11 to 2013–14 / 2014–15 to 2016–17
 - Mornington Island: 2000–01 to 2009–10 / 2010–11 to 2016–17
 - Napranum: 2000–01 to 2012–13 / 2013–14 to 2015–16
 - Northern Peninsula Area: 2000–01 to 2004–05 / 2005–06 to 2009–10 / 2010–11 to 2013–14 / 2014–15 to 2016–17
 - Palm Island: 2006–07 to 2011–12 / 2012–13 to 2016–17
 - Pormpuraaw: 2000–01 to 2003–04 / 2004–05 to 2007–08 / 2008–09 to 2016–17
 - Torres Strait Region: 2000–01 to 2003–04 / 2004–05 to 2008–09 / 2009–10 to 2016–17
 - Woorabinda: 2000–01 to 2003–04 / 2004–05 to 2010–11 / 2011–12 to 2016–17
 - Yarrabah: 2000–01 to 2010–11 / 2013–14 to 2016–17.

Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

Figure 2: Summary of trends in reported offences against the person (2000-01 to 2016-17)



Source: Queensland Police Service, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data. Data are preliminary and subject to change.

2.3 Breaches of alcohol restrictions

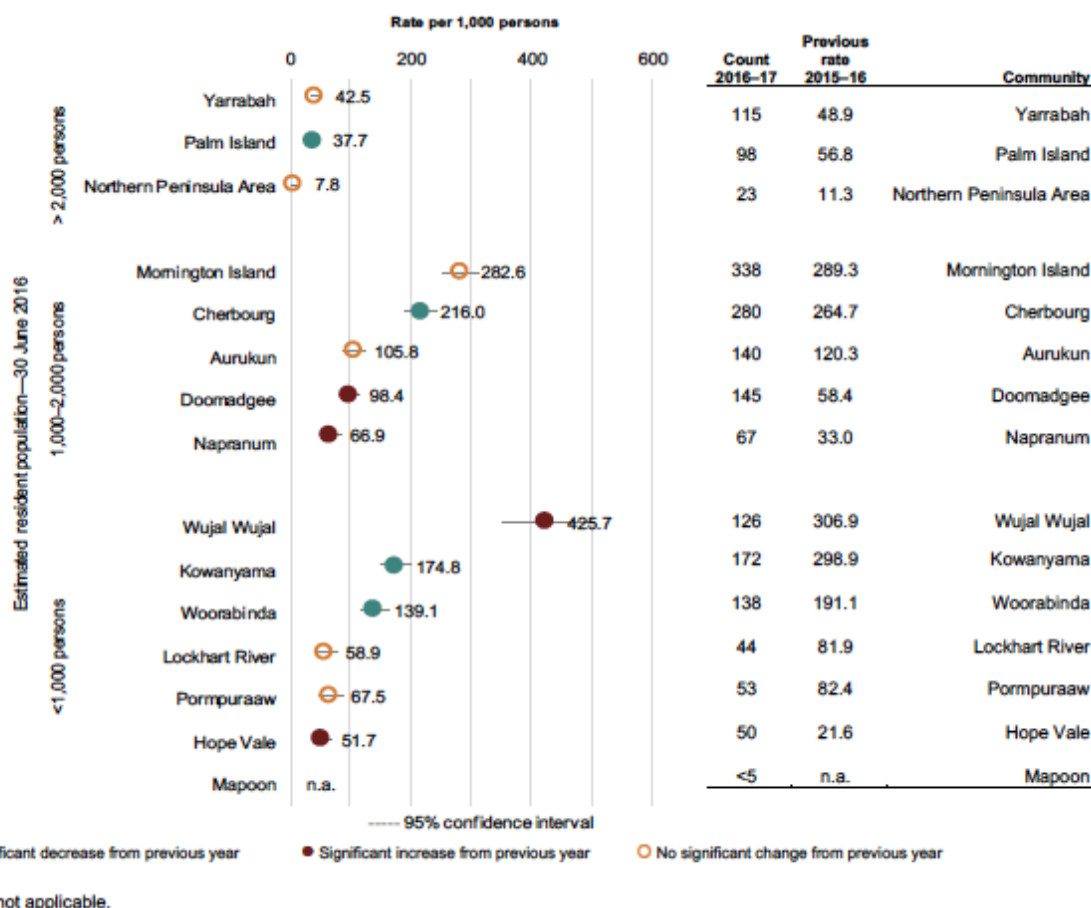
Persons convicted of breaches across all discrete Indigenous communities

Alcohol restrictions commenced at various times between 30 December 2002 and 19 June 2009 in the discrete Indigenous communities³. From when alcohol restrictions were first introduced, to 30 June 2017, 8,456 people (unique) had been convicted for breaches of alcohol carriage limits.

Charges resulting in a conviction

2016–17 rates per 1,000 persons	Annual rate change 2015–16 to 2016–17
Relatively low rates were recorded in:	Significant decreases were evident for:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Peninsula Area (7.8), Palm Island (37.7), and Yarrabah (42.5). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cherbourg, Kowanyama, Palm Island, and Woorabinda.
Less than five breaches of alcohol restrictions were recorded in Mapoon in 2016–17.	Significant increases were evident for:
High rates were recorded in: Wujal Wujal (425.7), Mornington Island (282.6), Cherbourg (216.0) and Kowanyama (174.8).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Napranum, and Wujal Wujal.

Figure 3: Annual rates of charges resulting in a conviction for breaches of Sections 168B and 168C of the Liquor Act 1992, 2016–17



Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

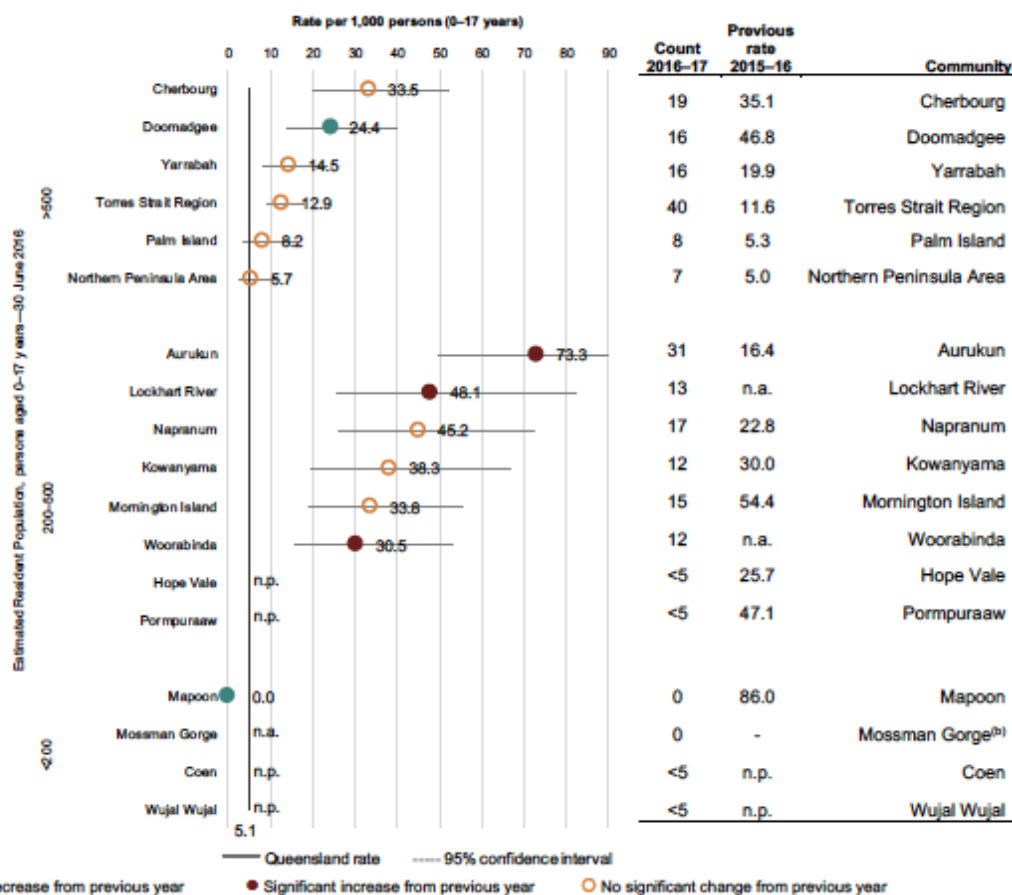
³ Alcohol restrictions are not in place in Coen, Mossman Gorge or the Torres Strait Region.

2.4 Child safety

Substantiated notifications of harm⁴

2016–17 rates per 1,000 persons aged 0–17 years	Annual rate change 2015–16 to 2016–17
<p>Relatively low rates were recorded in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Peninsula Area (5.7), and Palm Island (8.2). <p>Less than five children from Coen, Hope Vale, Pomppuraaw and Wujal Wujal were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm.</p> <p>No children from Mapoon or Mossman Gorge were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm.</p> <p>High rates were recorded in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurukun (73.3), Lockhart River (48.1) and Napranum (45.2). 	<p>Significant decreases^(a) were evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Pomppuraaw, and Mapoon. <p>Significant increases were evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurukun, Lockhart River, and Woorabinda.

Figure 4: Annual rates of children (0–17 years) who were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm, 2016–17



- (a) 2016–17 rates for Hope Vale and Pomppuraaw are not published as fewer than five children were counted.
- (b) In 2015–16 no Mossman Gorge children were admitted to finalised child protection orders. Rate comparisons with 2015–16 are not calculated because the 0 to 17 year estimated resident population is not reliable.
- n.p. – not published (fewer than five children counted).

Source: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

⁴ Children who were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm are a different cohort to those admitted to finalised child protection orders.

Finalised child protection orders⁵

2016–17 rates per 1,000 persons aged 0–17 years

A low rate was recorded in:

- Torres Strait Region (1.6)

Less than five children from Aurukun, Hope Vale, Kowanyama, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge, Palm Island, Wujal Wujal and Yarrabah were admitted to a finalised protection order.

No children from Coen, Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Northern Peninsula Area were admitted to a finalised protection order.

High rates were recorded in:

- Lockhart River (29.6), Pormpuraaw, (26.9), Woorabinda (20.4), and Napranum (16.0).

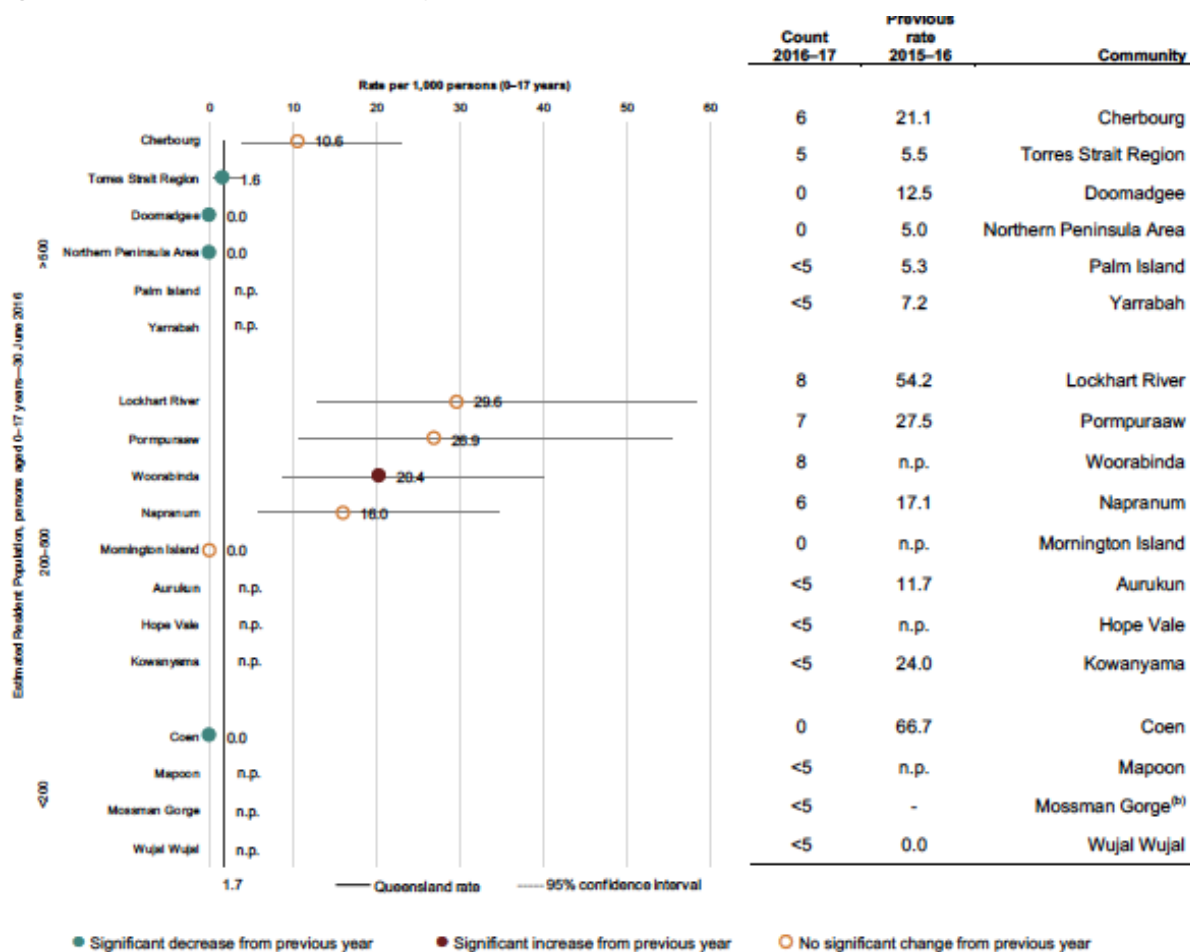
Annual rate change 2015–16 to 2016–17

Significant **decreases**^(a) were recorded for:

- Torres Strait Region, Doomadgee, Northern Peninsula Area, Yarrabah and Coen.

A significant **increase** was evident for Woorabinda.

Figure 5: Annual rates of children (0–17 years) admitted to child protection orders, 2016–17



n.p. – not published (fewer than five children counted).

(a) 2016–17 rate for Yarrabah is not published as fewer than five children were counted

(b) In 2015–16 six Mossman Gorge children were admitted to finalised child protection orders. Rates are not calculated because the 0 to 17 year estimated resident population is not reliable.

Source: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

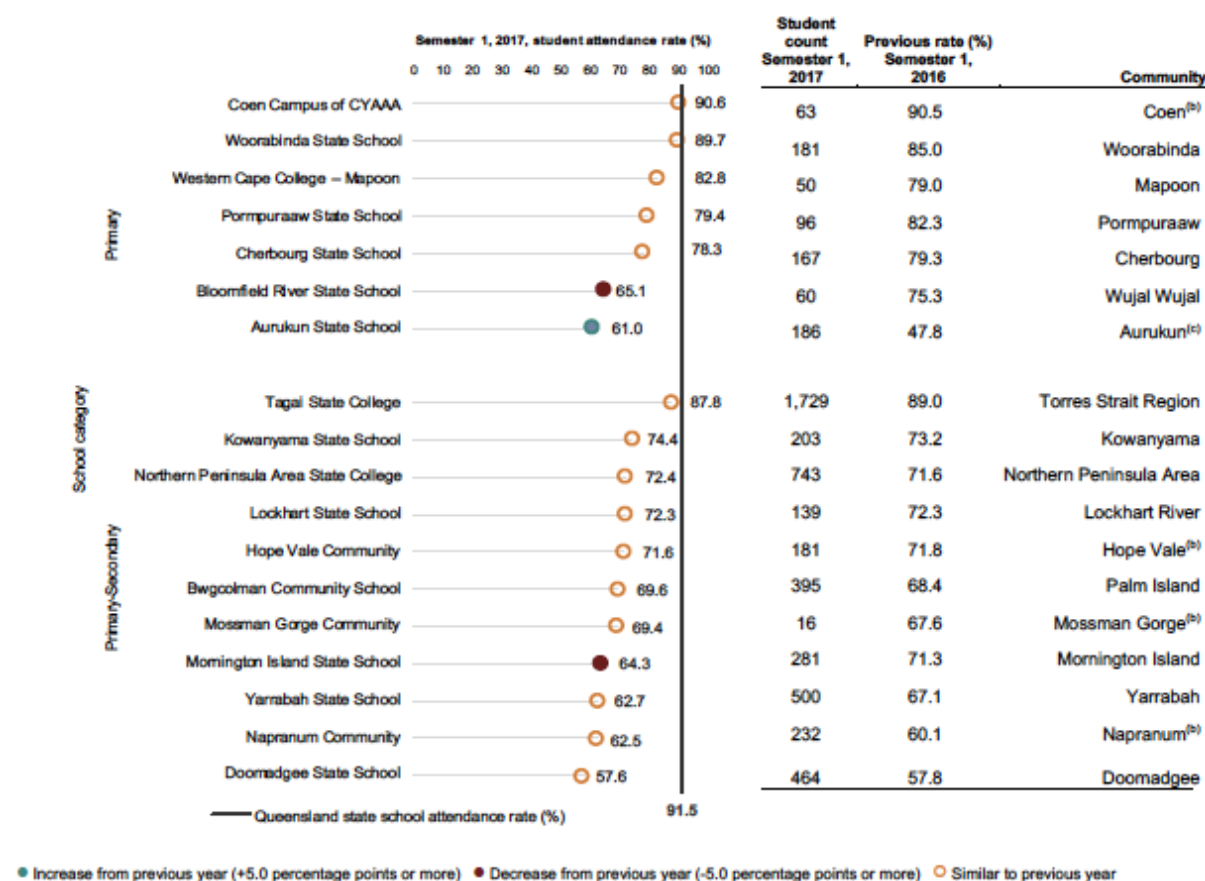
⁵ Children admitted to finalised child protection orders are a different cohort to those who were the subject of a substantiated notification of harm.

2.5 Student attendance

Semester 1 rates

Semester 1, 2017 rates	Rate change Semester 1, 2016 to Semester 1, 2017
<p>Relatively high attendance rates were recorded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coen Campus of CYAAA (90.6%), Woorabinda State School (89.7%), and Tagai State College (87.8%). <p>Low attendance rates were recorded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doomadgee State School (57.6%), Aurukun State School (61.0%), Napranum Community (62.5%), and Yarrabah State School (62.7%). 	<p>Decreases were evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloomfield River State School (-10.2 percentage points), and Mornington Island State School (-7.0 percentage points). <p>Increases were evident for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aurukun State School (13.2 percentage points)^(c)

Figure 6: Attendance rates (%) for state school students(a), Semester 1, 2017

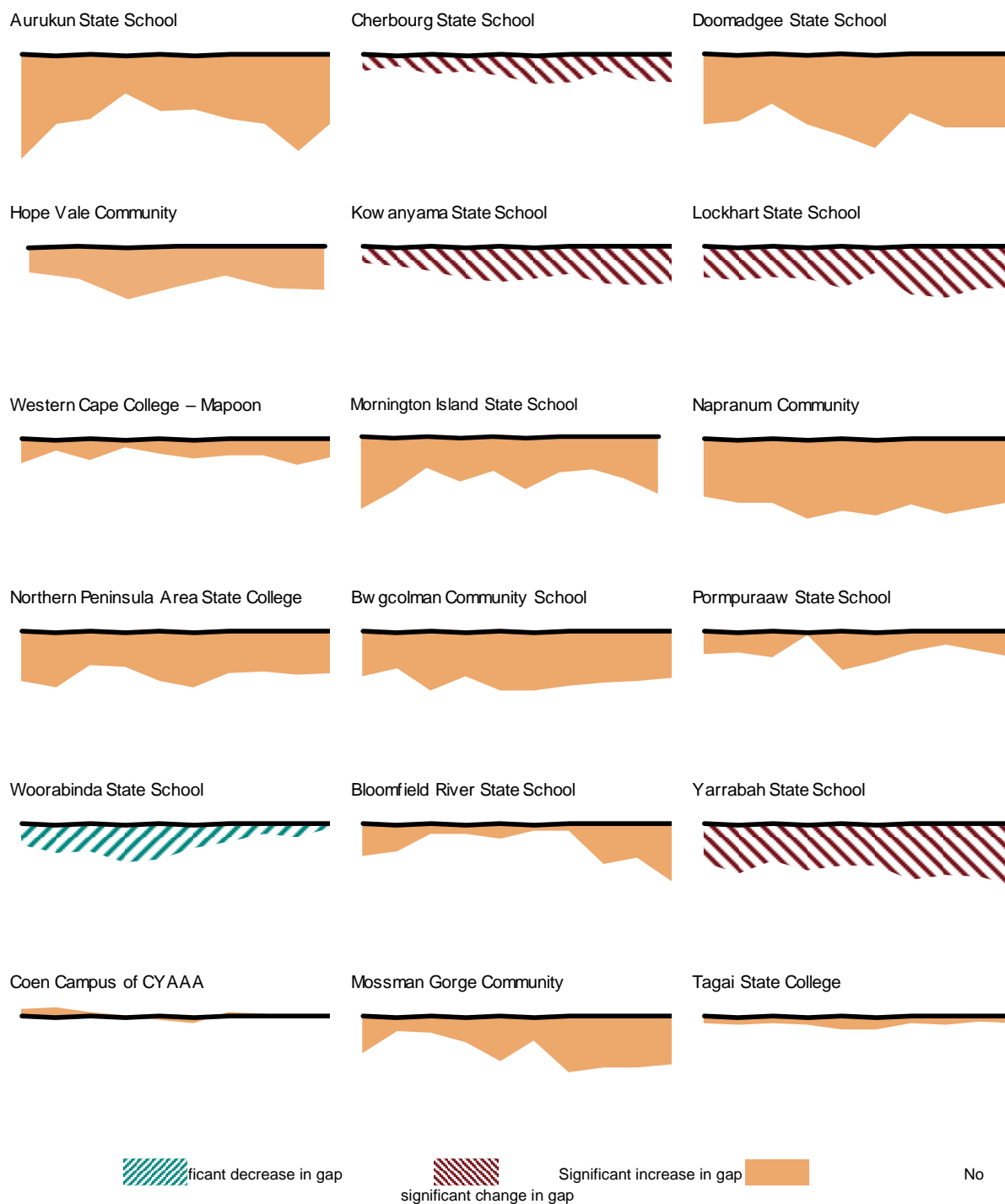


- (a) See Table 5 for year levels included in reporting for each school.
- (b) CYAAA refers to Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy. Hope Vale Community student attendance rates include student attendance for all full-time students at Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA and full-time students identified as Hope Vale residents at Cooktown State School. Mossman Gorge Community attendance rates include school identified students attending Mossman State and State High Schools. Napranum Community attendance rates include students enrolled at Western Cape College – Weipa with an address in Napranum.
- (c) In November 2016, Aurukun Campus of CYAAA became Aurukun State School. Previously, only primary school attendance rates were reported for Aurukun Campus of CYAAA. Rates reported for 2017 include primary school students only.

Source: Department of Education and Training, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

Student attendance rate trends, gap between community school and Queensland rate⁶

Figure 7: Summary of trends in student attendance rates (2008 to 2017)⁷



Source: Department of Education and Training, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

⁶ Prior to 2015, primary school attendance rates (with the exception of Western Cape College – Mapoon) included Year 7 students. In 2015, Year 7 students transitioned to secondary school and students in Special year level were reassigned to their academic or age-appropriate year level.

⁷ Hope Vale community is from 2011 to 2017. Aurukun State School is for primary school students only.

Student attendance rate ranges

Students attending 90% or more of all school days

Relatively high percentages of students attending 90% or more of all school days were recorded at:

- Coen Campus of CYAAA (63%) and Tagai State College (59%).

Low percentages were recorded for students at:

- Bloomfield River State School (7%), and Doomadgee State School (10%).

Annual change Semester 1, 2016 to Semester 1, 2017

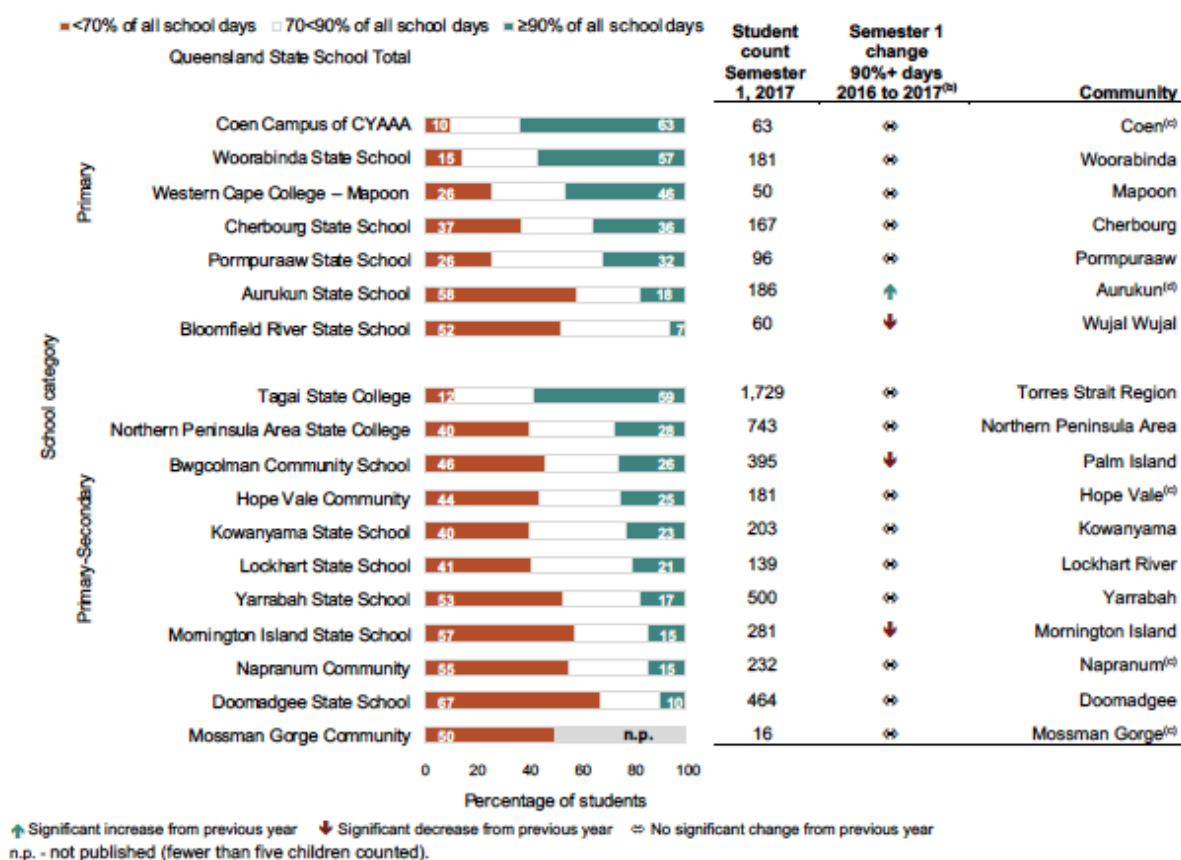
Significant **increases** were evident for:

- Aurukun State School.

Significant **decreases** were evident for:

- Bloomfield River State School, Bwgcolman Community School, and Mornington Island State School.

Figure 8: Semester 1 attendance rate ranges for state school students, Semester 1, 2017^(a)



- Rate range data includes students who were enrolled at the school but may not have arrived at the school or were enrolled for a small number of days during the semester.
- Because the two cohorts are composed of mostly the same students, reducing the likelihood that any differences are merely chance events, this should be treated as a conservative estimate of significant difference.
- CYAAA refers to Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy. Hope Vale Community student attendance rates include student attendance for all full-time students at Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA and full-time students identified as Hope Vale residents at Cooktown State School. Mossman Gorge Community attendance rates include school identified students attending Mossman State and State High Schools. Napranum Community attendance rates include students enrolled at Western Cape College – Weipa with an address in Napranum.
- In November 2016, Aurukun Campus of CYAAA became Aurukun State School. Previously, only primary school attendance rates were reported for Aurukun Campus of CYAAA. Rates reported for 2017 include primary school students only.

Source: Department of Education and Training, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

Semester 1 student attendance, Prep to Year 10, 2017

Attendance rates

In Semester 1, 2017, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school student attendance rates were lower than non-Indigenous state school attendance rates across all year levels statewide. The gap:

- in high school year levels, ranged from 5.8 (Year 12) to 11.0 percentage points (Year 10)
- in primary school year levels, ranged from 6.2 (Year 6) to 7.2 percentage points (Year 1).

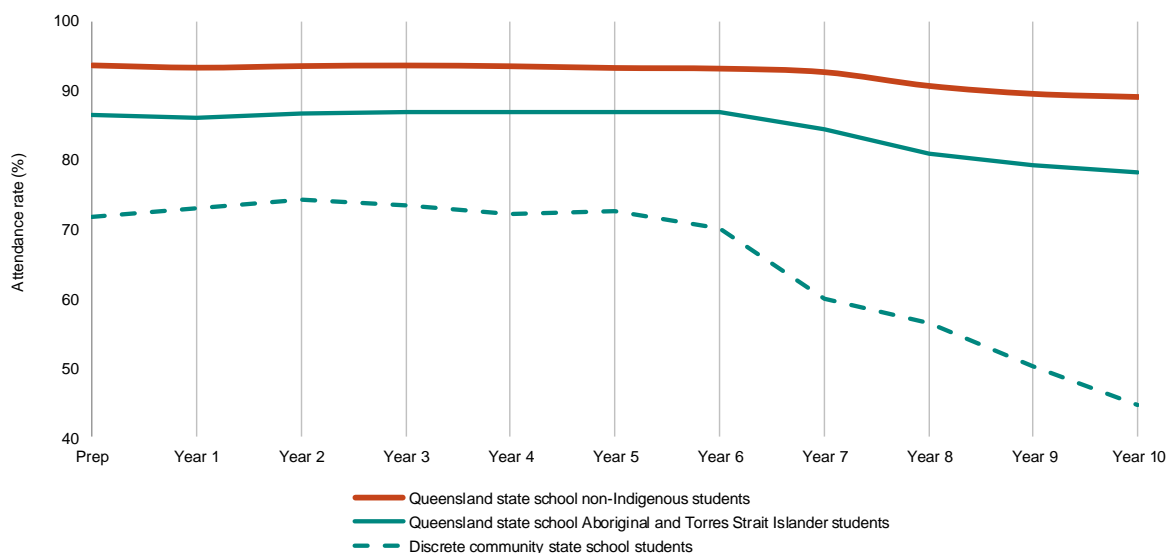
There was also a gap between the attendance rates of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school students and state school students in the discrete Indigenous communities⁸, ranging from at least 12 percentage points in primary year levels to at least 15 percentage points in the secondary year levels.

Absences

In Semester 1, 2017, 38% of the days absent attributed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school students in Prep to Year 10 were unexplained, and 5% were disciplinary absences, compared with 18% and 3% respectively for non-Indigenous students.

Across the discrete Indigenous communities, the proportion of all student absences which were unexplained ranged from 6% for students at Northern Peninsula Area State College, to 87% for students at Aurukun State School.

Figure 9: Semester 1 student attendance rates for discrete Indigenous community state school students⁸ and Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous state school students by year level, 2017



Source: Department of Education and Training, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

⁸ Excludes attendance rates for Tagai State College students. Except for Prep year, attendance rates for Tagai State College students were higher than rates for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander state school students in Queensland.

2.6 Boarding schools

Young people from the discrete Indigenous communities and the Torres Strait Region may attend schools outside their community. For example, many students from remote Indigenous communities who continue into senior secondary school leave their communities to attend boarding schools.

The attendance data described in this report are only for the children and young people from the discrete Indigenous communities who are enrolled in state schools in their communities (or near their communities, for residents of Hope Vale, Mossman Gorge and Napranum).

In 2017 (Semester 1), there were at least 274 young people from discrete Indigenous communities in Cape York and Palm Island supported by the Department of Education and Training's Transition Support Service (TSS). These students were enrolled in Years 7 to 12 at boarding schools across Queensland (see Table 2).

Table 2: Estimated number of discrete Indigenous community students enrolled in Years 7 to 12 at Queensland boarding schools, Semester 1, 2017^{(a)(b)(c)}

Community	–student count–
Aurukun	59
Cherbourg	n.a.
Coen	9
Doomadgee	n.a.
Hope Vale	9
Kowanyama	43
Lockhart River	39
Mapoon	<5
Mornington Island	n.a.
Mossman Gorge	n.a.
Napranum	zero
Northern Peninsula Area	9
Palm Island	63
Pormpuraaw	28
Woorabinda	n.a.
Wujal Wujal	15
Yarrabah	n.a.
Total	274^(d)

n.a. Not applicable. Data are not available for Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Mossman Gorge, Woorabinda and Yarrabah, as the Transition Support Service is not available for these communities.

- (a) Please note that the data provided are representative only of the number of Cape York and Palm Island students in Years 7-12, supported at TSS partner boarding schools throughout Queensland.
- (b) The data sets are not representative of students receiving Cape York Leaders Program (CYLP) Scholarships or in private board arrangements.
- (c) Excludes students from the Torres Strait Region.
- (d) Total excludes Mapoon (less than five students).

Source: Department of Education and Training, unpublished data. Please read the technical notes prior to using these data.

3 Notes to accompany data (technical notes)

3.1 Alcohol carriage limits

Community	Alcohol carriage limit
Aurukun*	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Cherbourg	11.25 litres (1 carton of 30 cans [#]) of light or mid-strength beer.
Doomadgee	22.5 litres (2 cartons of 30 cans ^{##}) of light or mid-strength beer. Home brew and home brew equipment are banned.
Hope Vale*	11.25 litres (1 carton of 30 cans [#]) of light or mid-strength beer; or 750 ml (1 bottle) of non-fortified wine.
Kowanyama	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Lockhart River	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Mapoon	2 litres of non-fortified wine, and 22.5 litres (2 cartons of 30 cans ^{##}) of light or mid-strength beer, and 9 litres [^] (1 carton of 24 cans) of pre-mixed spirits; or 2 litres of non-fortified wine and 33.75 litres (3 cartons of 30 cans ^{###}) of light or mid-strength beer.
Mornington Shire*	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Napranum	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Northern Peninsula Area*	2 litres of non-fortified wine, and 11.25 litres (1 carton of 30 cans [#]) of any strength beer; or 2 litres of non-fortified wine and 9 litres [^] (1 carton of 24 cans) of pre-mixed spirits.
Palm Island*	11.25 litres (1 carton of 30 cans [#]) of light or mid-strength beer.
Pompuraaw*	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Woorabinda	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Wujal Wujal	Zero alcohol carriage limit – no alcohol, home brew or home brew equipment is allowed.
Yarrabah	11.25 litres (1 carton of 30 cans [#]) of light or mid-strength beer; or 750 ml (1 bottle) of non-fortified wine.

* Alcohol restrictions do not apply at licensed premises operating in the community. However, specific licence conditions limiting the amount, type and availability of alcohol apply to each of the premises individually, to complement alcohol restrictions.

[^] 9 litres = 1 carton of 24 x 375 mL cans.

[#] 11.25 litres = 1 carton of 30 x 375 mL cans.

^{##} 22.50 litres = 2 cartons of 30 x 375 mL cans.

^{###} 33.75 litres = 3 cartons of 30 x 375 mL cans.

Note: For more information on licensed premises and alcohol restrictions see: <http://www.business.qld.gov.au/industry/liquor-gaming>.

4 Statistical significance

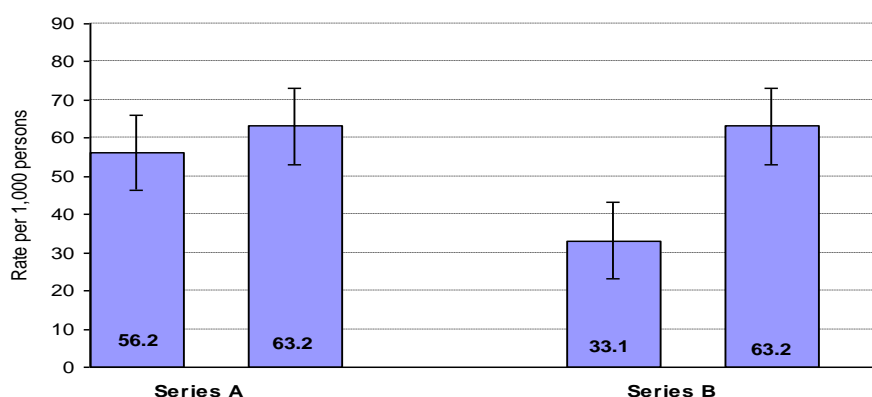
A casual comparison of two rates from the same indicator series will often appear to show that there is a difference between them. For example, 56.2 reported offences per 1,000 persons appears to be different to (lower than) 63.2 per 1,000 persons. Statistical tests of significance are used to determine whether a difference between two rates is due to randomness or a significant change in the underlying risk of the event occurring. For example, an increase or decrease in the number of reported offences resulting from the implementation of alcohol restrictions or community policing practices. A confidence level of 95 per cent has been used in this report.

For simplicity, confidence limits can also be used to approximate a statistical significance test: where the confidence intervals of two rates (from the same indicator) do not overlap, it can be concluded that an observed difference between the two rates most likely did not arise through randomness. In small populations, the confidence intervals will be wider than those of larger populations, indicating a greater likelihood of change being due to random variation.

In this report, the confidence limits are depicted in the graphs as error bars. Where the confidence intervals of two rates do not overlap for the indicators of reported offences and convictions for breaches of carriage limits, they are said to be statistically significantly different. Conversely, where the confidence intervals for rates of these indicators do overlap, the rates may be similar. More accurate statistical tests have been conducted when the error bars almost overlap, or when there is a slight overlap. In some cases these tests will indicate a significant difference between rates even if the bars overlap slightly, and vice versa.

Figure shows two series of rates, series A and series B, where the bar height represents the magnitude of the estimated rate and the vertical lines overlaying the bar represent the confidence interval around each rate. The confidence intervals in series A overlap considerably, indicating that the observed difference between these two rates is likely to be due to random variation. The confidence intervals in series B do not overlap at all. Thus it can be reasonably concluded that there has been a significant change in the underlying risk of the event occurring in series B.

Figure 2: Annual rates showing confidence limits



Trend analyses in this report were designed to assess whether there is evidence of a relationship between reported offences with time and student attendance rate gaps with time. This was achieved by examining the overall trend and its rate of change over time. Statistical evidence of trends was determined by examining the statistical strength of the test, the magnitude of change and its associated confidence interval. This allows for the assessment of both the range of plausible values for the magnitude of the true change over time and its direction. This is particularly important when using a small amount of data as undertaken in this report. Please see next page for further information on trend analysis.

4.1 Trend analysis

Trend analysis is used to detect patterns in data that may not be obvious when viewing discrete counts or rates. In this report trend analysis is used to describe the progress of each community over time against annual rates of offences against the person and the gap between the student attendance rate of each community and the overall Queensland rate.

The trend analyses in this report were initially undertaken in the Joinpoint statistical package using a spline analysis technique. This technique:

- allows the determination of change in trends over successive time periods
- will look for points where trends may change
- will calculate both the annual percentage change over time within a trend segment and the average annual percentage change over all time periods (or a pre-defined number of time periods).

Spline analysis begins with the assumption of constant change over time (i.e. no joinpoint) and then begins to test alternative models. Joinpoint will look for turning points in the data where there is evidence that the trend over time may have changed (in a statistical sense). In these analyses, for reported offences, up to three joinpoints were allowed and tested. Joinpoint will then select the simplest model supported by the data. Spline analyses was not undertaken on the student attendance gap.

The data in this report were then analysed in Stata using either a Poisson or Negative Binomial regression model (whichever provided the best fit for the data) to fit the pre-defined joinpoints as breaks and trends. Poisson regression is a useful technique for modelling data that are counts (e.g. number of hospital admissions) as a function of a predictor variable (e.g. time). The Poisson regression model uses a log transformation which adjusts for skewness in the data and prevents the model from producing negative predicted values — it is impossible to have a negative number of reported offences. Negative Binomial models are used where the Poisson model does not meet 'goodness of fit' criteria.

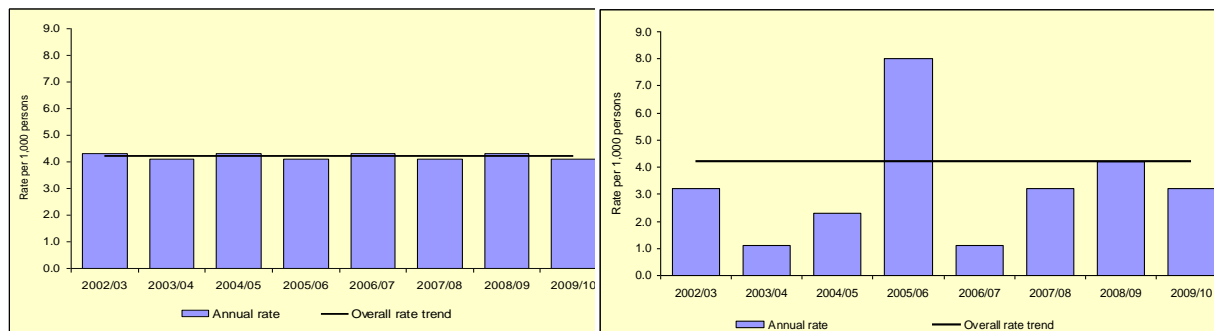
4.2 Change over time

Using offences against the person as an example: the trend line fitted to the data is measured in the same units as the original data e.g. rate per 1,000 persons. The trend line is calculated in such a way that it minimises the distance between the fitted (predicted) rates on the trend line and the observed rates. The trend line is also characterised by its slope – the slope of the line indicates the rate of change in the annual rate over time. Note that a trend line with a zero slope does not necessarily mean there was no change at all in individual annual rates between years – for example, in

Figure 1, the trend line in both time series graphs has a zero slope, however, the underlying annual rates differ markedly between the two series. The trend line is indicative of the overall pattern of change from the start of the time series to its end.



Figure 1: Annual rates with associated trend lines – zero slope



Testing for change over time using regression analysis begins with the assumption that there is no change over time in the annual rate, i.e. the slope of the trend line is equal to zero (known as the ‘null hypothesis’). Statistical tests can be conducted to decide whether the data support the assumption of a zero slope, and to determine whether changes in observed rates may be due to a real effect or due to chance variation.

4.3 Annual percentage change

A simpler and statistically more robust way of viewing the change over time in the trend is to examine the annual percentage change (APC) for a trend line and its associated confidence interval. The slope of the trend line, as mentioned above, can be represented by the APC. The trend line rates are assumed to change at a constant percentage of the rate from the previous year. For example, if the estimated APC of the trend line is ten per cent and the rate in 2007–08 is 50.0 per 1,000 persons:

- the rate in 2008–09 is $50.0 \times 1.1 = 55.0$ per 1,000 persons, and
- the rate in 2009–10 is $55.0 \times 1.1 = 60.5$ per 1,000 persons.

More generally, an APC of 10 per cent indicates that the annual rate of offences against the person is increasing on average by 10 per cent a year.

A negative APC describes a decreasing trend, and a positive APC describes an increasing trend. If Joinpoint finds a change in trend over time, each segment of the trend will have an associated APC.

A trend line with a zero slope has an APC of zero. If the confidence interval around the APC contains zero, then there is no evidence to reject the assumption that the true APC is zero. Alternatively, if the confidence limit does not contain zero, then we can assess the **strength of the evidence** indicating that there is change in the slope of the trend line over time. For example:

Trend analysis on the annual rate of offences against the person for 2002–03 to 2009–10 resulted in: APC = –13.4 per cent with a 95 per cent confidence interval of [–20.3% to –6.0%].

The confidence interval around the estimated APC in this example does not contain zero, and is also somewhat below zero, so we can confidently conclude that:

- there is evidence of a real decrease in the rate over the eight-year period examined, and
- our best estimate of this is a decrease of 13.4 per cent per year in the rate.

The simplest interpretation of the 95 per cent confidence interval is that it provides a range of plausible values for the true population change.

4.4 Estimated resident population for reported offences against the person and breaches measures

Estimated resident populations (ERP) used to define community size, and in the calculation of rates, have been sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

For discrete communities that are also local government areas (LGA) total ERPs have been taken from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) data tables – (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/index.php>)

For the communities of Coen and Mossman Gorge, the total ERPs of their corresponding statistical area level 1 (SA1) have been used. See QGSO calculations based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics' ERP by statistical area level 1 (SA1), Australia, 2011 to 2016pr, unpublished data (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/index.php>).

ERP prior to and as at 30 June 2011 are final, rebased for 2012 to 2015 (based on the 2016 Census), and preliminary for 2016. **Using these rebased ERPs to calculate rates may show a slightly different result to rates which have been calculated using non-rebased ERPs, as reported in previous years.**

Unless otherwise stated, rates have been calculated using the ERP at the beginning of the period.

4.5 Measure: Reported offences against the person

Source: Queensland Police Service (QPS), unpublished data.

These data are for reported offences against the person and are reported by the location of the offence.

- Data are preliminary and subject to change.
- 'Offences against the person' describes the number of person offences reported to police, such as homicide, assaults, sexual assaults, etc. It does not count the number of victims or the number of offenders. Many things, including where and when the offence occurred, the availability of police officers and the relationship between the offender and the victim, can impact the number of reported offences in any period. For example, offences may be reported many months or even years after they have occurred. Offences that are 'not substantiated' or 'cancelled' are not included in the offence count.
- All data used have been supplied by the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) from QPS's Crime Reporting Information System for Police (CRISP) database and the Queensland Police Records and Information Management Exchange (QPRIME) database.
- PSBA has provided QPS offence data for the periods and locations shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Queensland Police Service offence data by location, July 2000 to June 2017

Divisions	Communities
Aurukun Division	Mapoon Community
Badu Island Division*	Mossman Gorge Community
Bamaga Division*	Napranum Community
Cherbourg Division	
Coen Division	
Doomadgee Division	
Hope Vale Division	
Horn Island Division*	
Kowanyama Division	
Lockhart River Division	
Mornington Island Division	
Palm Island Division	
Pormpuraaw Division	
Thursday Island Division*	
Woorabinda Division	
Wujal Wujal Division	
Yarrabah Division	

***For the purposes of this report, Northern Peninsula Area refers to the Bamaga Division while the Torres Strait Region refers to the divisions of Badu Island, Horn Island and Thursday Island.**

PSBA has provided the following counting rules for the offence data included in this report:

- The offence is counted on the date the offence is reported to police rather than the date it occurred.
- The ABS crime statistics counting methodology in respect of the use of Australian National Classification of Offences (ANCO) states that for each victim within a distinct criminal incident, the most serious offence (MSO) per ANCO subdivision is counted. The national data set *Recorded crime – Victims* does not include 'victimless' offences such as those contained in the 'Other offences' division, nor does it include offences of fraud. The QPS counting rule for offences of this type is to count each distinct criminal act of criminal transaction per criminal incident.

The application of the MSO rule has major implications for the recording of crime statistics. By applying the MSO rule, a single criminal incident may result in a number of offences being recorded. For incidents where the same victim is subjected to multiple offences belonging to different subdivisions, one offence, the most serious, is counted within each subdivision. For example, if two offenders were to break into a house and assault the occupant, one count of assault and one count of unlawful entry would be recorded since assault and unlawful entry belong to separate ANCO subdivisions. In addition, as statistics are reported in Queensland on a victim-based counting system, a count of one offence is recorded for each major offence despite the fact that there are two offenders.

The description of a victim differs according to offence type. For most person offences, the victim is an individual person, although for some offences (robbery and extortion) the victim can be an organisation. In the case of motor vehicle theft, the victim is the motor vehicle, while for unlawful entry offences the victim is the place or premises as defined on the basis of occupation or ownership. In the example given above, there are two separate victims—the occupant (victim of assault) and the premises (victim of unlawful entry).

The exception to the counting rule is the offence division of Sexual offences. The counting rule applied by QPS in respect of this group of offences is that for each victim the MSO per

ANCO subdivision is counted on the basis of time and place. Under this rule, if a victim can remember offences taking place on a number of different occasions over a number of years, each incident is counted. For example, a victim has been subjected to the offence of incest on 12 occasions over the past five years. Although there is only one victim, QPS counts this as 12 offences. (Note that under national counting rules, this would be counted as a single offence and, therefore, **Queensland differs nationally with regard to sexual offences**).

Another exception to this national counting rule concerns 'Regina offences'. All Regina offences may be recorded regardless of whether they belong to the same ANCO subdivision. As there is no 'victim' as such (the Crown is considered to be the 'victim'), each offence committed is recorded. For example, if an offender commits the offences of disorderly conduct, obscene language, and indecent behaviour (all sub-categories of Good order offences), all offences are counted.

- Based on the reporting methodologies for reported offences, offence data do not provide a unique count of all offences, offenders or victims for victim-based offences.

Caveats

The offence data should only be used with reference to the above technical notes and the following caveats supplied by PSBA:

- Analysis of these QPS data has been undertaken by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office.
- Data produced for geographical areas other than State, Region or District are subject to inconsistency. Data are estimates only and caution should be used in their interpretation.
- Data are supplied on the condition that they not be supplied to any other person or agency without appropriate authorisation from QPS.

4.6 Measure: Breaches of Sections 168B and 168C of the Liquor Act 1992

Source: Queensland Wide Interlinked Courts (QWIC).

- The 'Number of charges resulting in a conviction' includes charges finalised where an order is made that no conviction be recorded on the defendants' criminal history.
- Data for Cherbourg include offences committed prior to the commencement date of the Alcohol Management Plan.
- A single offender can be convicted of multiple charges; as such, the rate of charges is a measure of charges not offenders.
- The entire population has been used to determine the conviction rate, rather than those aged ten years and older, in recognition that breaches are likely to impact on the entire community and may not be committed by community residents.

4.7 Measure: Child safety

Source: Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, unpublished data.

- Data were provided as counts by discrete Indigenous community and only represent new admissions in each community over the reporting period.
- Children subject to substantiated child protection notifications are all children who were subject to a notification during the financial years from 2015–16 to 2016–17 where the investigation resulted in a substantiated outcome, and who were living in the relevant community at the time of notification. If a child was the subject of more than one substantiated child protection notification in the period, the first substantiation was recorded.
- Children admitted to child protection orders are all children who were admitted to a finalised child protection order during the financial years from 2015–16 to 2016–17 and whose family residence was in the relevant community at the time the order was made. This measure is a count of the number of children admitted to a child protection order during the reference period, regardless of when the substantiation occurred.
- Children who are the subject of a substantiated notification are a different cohort to those admitted to a child protection order.
- The rate per 1,000 persons was calculated using the ERP for persons aged 0–17 years as the denominator.
- Readers should consider that annual counts by discrete Indigenous community are small and vary substantially. For this reason, they do not reliably represent sustained change in the counts of substantiated child protection notifications or child protection orders for each community. The number of children subject to substantiation can vary significantly each quarter for a range of reasons, such as the number of children per substantiated household.

4.8 Measure: Student attendance

Source: Department of Education and Training (DET), unpublished data.

These data are reported as rates percentages where:

Attendance rate = total full-time equivalent days attendance/total possible number of days of attendance*100 (%).

Attendance rate change/difference

Decision rules have been developed in liaison with DET to facilitate consistent reliable reporting on student attendance rate percentage point change/difference (see

Table). These rules have been applied in this report to assess the:

- percentage point difference in the school student attendance rate between periods
- percentage point difference between the student attendance rate at a school and the corresponding state rate.

For example, if a student attendance rate for a school in Semester 1, 2012 was 4.5 percentage points higher than the rate recorded in Semester 1, 2011, according to the rules, the Semester 1, 2012 rate would be described as 'similar to the rate recorded for Semester 1, 2011'. However, if a Semester 1, 2012 rate was 5.0 percentage points higher than the rate recorded for Semester 1, 2011, the difference would be described as 'an increase on the rate recorded for Semester 1, 2011'.

Table 4: Rules for describing differences in student attendance rates

Percentage point difference	Description
<- 5.0 to < + 5.0	Similar
+5.0 to +20.0 (inclusive)	Increase (or Higher)
-5.0 to -20.0 (inclusive)	Decrease (or Lower)
> + 20.0	Substantial increase
> - 20.0	Substantial decrease

Data quality statement

Revised student attendance data collection methodologies

- Semester 1 rates since 2013 are based on a revised collection methodology, effectively counting attendance for every student for every day of attendance in a given reference period.
- These changes are the result of an improvement in the calculation methodology which is now possible due to the increased data captured through the school management system—OneSchool. The new method is in line with the national standard for student attendance, as endorsed by the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Senior Officials Committee in 2014, which requires collection of standardised student attendance data by all state, independent and catholic education systems.
- The previous method was based only on the absences of students enrolled at the school at a specified date. Absence information about students who left the school before the specified date was not included in the attendance rate. The previous method was developed due to the constraints of the School Information Management System (SiMS). The method led to students with high mobility being under-represented in attendance rate calculations, with the exclusion of those students leading to the attendance rate being higher than it otherwise would have been.
- OneSchool does not have the same constraints as SiMS, with OneSchool allowing the capture of the attendance history of every student on every day, irrespective of enrolment history and mobility. While the transition to the new method wasn't required under the national standards until 2014, it was agreed to use this more inclusive data from 2013 given it was available.
- OneSchool began collecting the additional information required in 2012, but because time series reporting is integral to interpreting student attendance data it was not proposed to make the transition until 2013, when a consistent 2012 to 2013 view was possible.
- For the Semester 1 collection, the Semester 1, 2012 data were not revised to reflect the new methodology, due to the confounding effects of changes made to the roll-marking procedures which were implemented during Semester 1, 2013.

Changes to the roll-marking procedures

1. In Semester 1 2013, two major changes were made to the roll-marking procedures which have impacted on how full and partial-day absences are recorded:
 - Absences due to natural disasters: Under the revised procedures, a student will no longer be considered absent if they are unable to attend school due to a natural disaster.
 - Treatment of Early and Late absences: Under the revised procedures, a student who leaves (or arrives) within **two hours** of scheduled schooling is marked as either Early or Late (with no penalty). This does not count as a half day absence. Under the previous procedures, the specified timeframe was **half an hour**.

Student attendance

- The data include full and part-day absences. Only school days are counted. Local holidays, public holidays, etc. are not included.
- The data include all full-time students, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous.
- Student counts at community level are of unique students.
- Semester attendance data include full-time students in Years Prep to 12 (including special students). Prior to Semester 1, 2013, the collection was restricted to students who were enrolled for at least some period during Semester 1 and were still enrolled at the school as at August Census. From Semester 1, 2013, the rates are based on all full-time students who were enrolled at a school during any part of Semester 1.
- From 2015, Year 7 was moved to secondary schooling and students in Special year level were re-assigned to their academic or age appropriate year levels.
- From 2011 to 2012, ungraded students were recorded in their age-specific year levels.
- Prior to Term 3, 2011, Year 11 and Year 12 students on Palm Island attended Palm Island Senior Campus (hosted by Kirwan State High School). From Term 3, 2011, Bwngcolman Community School was updated to a P-12 school and all Year 11 and Year 12 students on Palm Island began attending the school.
- Mossman Gorge Community attendance is calculated by combining the attendance for school-identified students from Mossman State School and Mossman State High School.
- Napranum attendance data are for students at Western Cape College – Weipa who have an address in Napranum.
- Hope Vale attendance data are for all full-time students at Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA and full-time students identified by address from Cooktown State School
- Information for Northern Peninsula Area Community provides an integrated summary which includes students residing in Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico, as all students attend Northern Peninsula Area State College (previously Bamaga SS).
- Aurukun Campus of CYAAA became Aurukun State School in November 2016.

Table 5: Table of year levels and schools included in reporting

Community	School	Year levels attendance reported for	Students included in attendance
Aurukun	Aurukun State School	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Cherbourg	Cherbourg State School	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Coen	Coen Campus of CYAAA	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Doomadgee	Doomadgee State School	Prep – Yr 10	all full-time
Hope Vale	Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA and Cooktown State School	Prep – Yr 12	all full-time students at Hope Vale Campus of CYAAA and full-time students identified by address from Cooktown State School
Kowanyama	Kowanyama State School	Prep – Yr 10	all full-time
Lockhart River	Lockhart State School	Prep – Yr 12	all full-time
Mapoon	Western Cape College – Mapoon	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Mornington Island	Mornington Island State School	Prep – Yr 10	all full-time
Mossman Gorge	Mossman State School and Mossman State High School	Prep – Yr 12	full-time students identified by address
Napranum	Western Cape College – Weipa	Prep – Yr 12	full-time students identified by address
Northern Peninsula Area	Northern Peninsula Area State College	Prep – Yr 12	all full-time
Palm Island	Bwngcolman Community School	Prep – Yr 12	all full-time
Pormpuraaw	Pormpuraaw State School	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Torres Strait Region	Tagai State College	Prep – Yr 12	all full-time
Woorabinda	Woorabinda State School	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Wujal Wujal	Bloomfield River State School	Prep – Yr 6	all full-time
Yarrabah	Yarrabah State School	Prep – Yr 10	all full-time

Student absences

- Absences consist of full and part-day absences that contribute to the calculation of the official Queensland state school semester one attendance rates. Absence reason categories include: unexplained, unauthorised, disciplinary, holiday, illness, sorry business and other.
- An unexplained absence is where no explanation for the student's absence has been offered to the school by the parent/guardian or the student, if they are living independently.
- An unauthorised absence is where the explanation provided is considered by the principal to not be reasonable. Principals use their professional judgment to determine whether the reasons are a reasonable explanation for the student's absence.
- Disciplinary absences are defined as one of the following:
 - short suspension (a student is suspended for 1 to 10 days)
 - long suspension (a student is suspended for 11 to 20 days)
 - recommendation for exclusion (a student is suspended with a recommendation for exclusion)

Other absences: the principal may use their professional judgement to determine if an absence reason outside of the available absence categories is reasonable.

Students at boarding schools

- These figures represent the number of students who attended primary schools in discrete Indigenous communities and now attend secondary boarding schools that are supported by DET's Transition Support Service (TSS).
- The student numbers supported by the TSS do not necessarily reflect all students who attended primary schools in those communities who may be in boarding schools. They are not representative of students receiving Cape York Leaders Program (CYLP) scholarships or in private board arrangements. Nor do the numbers include students from the communities attending Western Cape College Residential Campus in Weipa.
- Not all discrete Indigenous communities are supported by the TSS. It is therefore not possible to provide data for Cherbourg, Doomadgee, Mornington Island, Mossman Gorge, Woorabinda, and Yarrabah.

5 Contact us

5.1 Disclaimer

While the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has taken all possible measures to ensure the reliability of the data and information, such data and information are provided without any express or implied warranty as to its accuracy, currency or completeness.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships expressly disclaims all and any liability and responsibility whatsoever to any person in respect of the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done by such person in reliance, whether wholly or partially, upon the data and information.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships recommends that users of the data and information exercise their own skill and care with respect to their use of the data and information, and that they carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance of the data and information for their purpose.

This report was produced by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office on behalf of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, with the assistance of other Queensland Government agencies.

5.2 Other Information

Queensland

- Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
<https://www.datsip.qld.gov.au/>
- Know Your Community profile builder
<http://statistics.qgso.qld.gov.au/datsip/profiles>

Australia

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (Data by Region)
<http://stat.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?databyregion#/>
- Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report
<http://www.pc.gov.au/gsp/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage>
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/4714.0>
- Indigenous languages
<http://www.abc.net.au/indigenous/map/default.htm>

5.3 Feedback

Your feedback is welcome on this report and can be provided by:

Email: enquiries@datsip.qld.gov.au

Phone: 13 QGOV (13 74 68)