



PORT KENNEDY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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Port Kennedy Association Inc in response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Child Protection

Port Kennedy Association Inc was privileged to meet with Commissioner for Child Protection Inquiry Honorable Tim Carmody SC in Cairns on the 10th September 2012 .

The Association currently delivers the Recognized Entity Service and the Family Support Service for the Torres Strait Region funded by the State Department of Communities . NGO's offering these services in the North were invited to an informal hearing to discuss " what is working and what is not working " in regards to the Indigenous Children into out of home placement and how to reduce the children and youth over representation in the child protection system. The current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children intake in custody are now about 40% which is a large number from the indigenous communities around the State and is unacceptable . The Child Protection Inquiry is in response to the recommendations by the Forde Inquiry and the Crime and Misconduct Commission reports into child abuse.

Port Kennedy Association Inc at this meeting with Honorable Tim Carmody SC was able to negotiate further consultation to take place in the Torres Strait and allow other NGO's , community members and leaders to participate in making a decision on how to decrease 40% of children and youth in custody. What strategies would work for the future for the Torres Strait Islander children , youth and young people and families who are affected by the separation from their cultural lifestyle. The timeline given by the Commissioner Hon Tim Carmody SC was the 30th Oct 2013

Port Kennedy Association Inc jointly with Mura Kosker Sorority and Lena Passi Women's Shelter coordinated three community workshops to seek community input into the process of Queensland Children Commission Inquiry[*Discussion notes are attached to this submission.*]

The Queensland Child Commission Inquiry is an opportunity for members of the communities , NGO's and Child Safety Officers who are working in this

Serving the Community

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field of Child Protection to re evaluate what strategy for Service delivery will be able to make a difference to decrease the number of children and youth in custody.

Thursday Island community workshop discussions identified five collective themes to the solutions as the way forward.

The collective theme from the workshops were :

1. Training and Capacity Building

- Lack of skilled personal in the Torres Strait is a concern and training in children and social services is highly recommendation.

2. Cultural Awareness

- All new Child Safety staff coming into the Torres Strait must have cultural awareness and on going support for cultural inductions . Cultural protocols must to included in the case management files to respect the child's customs and traditions and lifestyles. Cultural Awareness will also enable to strengthen families and children in their cultural values and protocols.

3. Community Awareness

- Early Intervention to prevent children entering the placement services is a priority. Appropriate community education on child safety and rights and responsibility on empowering families and working towards closing the gap is essential and must be supported by funding Early Intervention programs that must be delivered by NGO's through a coordinated partnership approach.

4. Child Protection Practice & Service

- Child rearing practices in regards to Traditional Adoption is highly sensitive must be acknowledge in the legislation and should be recognized in the Child Protection Act and Child Safety Practice Manual

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5. Child Protection Legislation

- Changes to the legislative definition of a parent needs to be consistent throughout the Child Protection Act. In the general definition in section 11 island custom is recognized. However this is not recognized when matters proceed to court. Once a matter is before the court island custom is not considered which can cause significant issues for the family. The child is then considered as a biological child in a non indigenous family. For the parent under the island custom to be disregarded is disrespectful for the parent , child and community and culture. The child recognizes these adults as their parent and the Child Protection Act should recognize this also.

The way forward for Child Protection Services in the Torres Strait

Vision for the Torres Strait

Individual islands have developed a regional plan in response to “Closing the Gap” to improve the lifestyle of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the region. The individual community plans were developed in partnership with the Commonwealth , State and Local Government which further states that agencies must respect and align service delivery to the customs and culture of the Torres Strait islanders. This is to ensure that community capacity building takes place from the bottom up approach.

The workshop identified a need for *integrated service delivery* in regards to the Child Safety Protection in reference to referrals. The workshop discussed the need to prevent children and young persons entering into out of home placement which causes stress and trauma to families and extended families. The *integrated service* concept will require additional services and funding to improve service delivery .



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Recommendations from the workshops:

1. That there is a referral service with a *qualified case manager* who will refer families that have been identified through Child Concern Issues and linking them with appropriate services eg: *health, counseling service, spiritual counseling, housing, drug and alcohol, other appropriate service.*
2. That the referral service appoint a *children's clinical psychologist* to counsel children and their families
3. That the referral service appoint a *cultural advisor and trainer* to work with families extended families and staff to ensure that the island custom and family values are maintained.
4. *Early intervention* has been identified as a priority to prevent children entering child protection system .Funding is sought to promote education to families about child safety, rights and responsibilities of children. This will include developing resources to reinforce well being of families and aligning this to promote healthy and safe communities. These programs must be delivered by NGO's.
5. That *MOU's* are developed with State, Commonwealth and Local Government agencies to ensure that funding support is sought to support *prevention of child abuse and neglect* and closing the gap for safe and healthy communities.
6. The referral service will be *monitored by the NGO,s* who have agreed to monitor the Safe House .The nominated Peak Body for the Safe house is PKA Inc. Terms of reference will be developed to ensure that there is a fair and balanced agreement between the partners. [To date there is no notification from the Minister of Child Safety to state that PKA Inc is a successful tender for the Safe House] This will be at the Minister's discretion and at the *lifespan of the Service Agreement.*
7. That the *Referral Service* is closely monitored by the funding agencies to ensure that the service is meeting it's obligations and that the outcomes are making a difference to the families and their children.
8. That current funding and Service Agreement for RE FS and the Safe House will remain at the regional level and that Torres Strait remains as a stand alone region to ensure that Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal peoples living in the region are responsible and are taking responsibility for decision making at a grass root level.



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9. Futures tenders in regards to Child Protection Services must be identified for the Torres Strait region.

NGO's are willing to discuss the above further with the Minister's representative to ensure that there is clarity and that there is an action plan with costing and outcomes to ensure that tax payers dollars are not misused

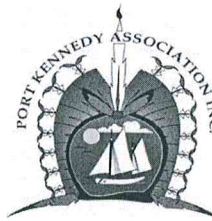
I can be contacted on 0740692306 if you need more clarification

Yours Sincerely

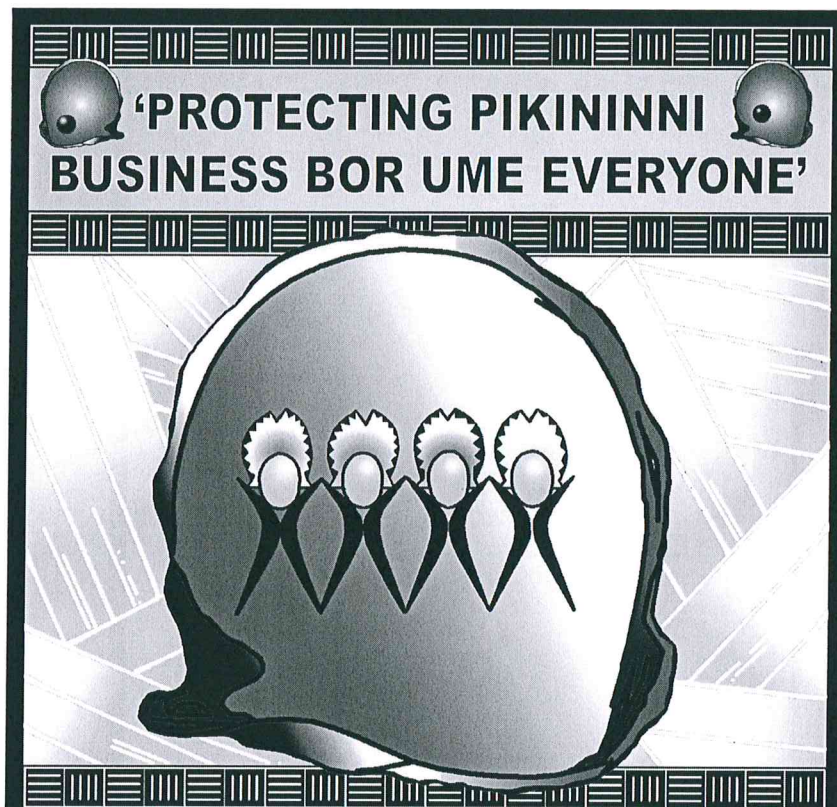
Mrs Romina Fujii
President PKA Inc
Thursday Island 4875



MURA KOSKER SORORITY INC.



PORT KENNEDY ASSOC. INC.



Protecting Pikininni Business Bor Ume Everyone Community Consultation Report

2012

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1. Introduction

1.1 General Introduction

The Queensland Government has commissioned an inquiry to review Queensland's Child Protection Systems. The Honorary Tim Carmody SC was appointed as Commissioner to provide a written report and recommendations to the Premier by 30 April 2013.

The inquiry has been established by the Queensland Government to review progress of outcomes related to the Commission of Inquiry into Abuse of Children in Queensland Institutions ¹(the Forde Inquiry) and the Crime and Misconduct Commission Inquiry² to chart a new road map for child protection for the next decade.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this community consultation process were:

- To develop a range of strategies to ensure the members of the Torres Strait community and key stakeholders have an opportunity to express their views; and
- To ensure that key stakeholders and community members ensure that their views and ideas have been considered (feedback to submitters for final comment prior to finalization of this report)
- To develop a submission that represents the Torres Strait Regions' recommendations on child protection systems
- Development of a collaborated working agreement between all key stakeholders who work towards the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

2. Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholders for the Protecting Pikininni Business Bor Ume Everyone incorporates individuals or groups who have a substantial interest in child safety. This group will be used to determine issues and assist in identifying appropriate strategies. A list of these parties is shown in Table below.

Name	Department
Vonda Moar-Malone	Torres Strait Regional Authority - Healthy & Safe Communities
Margie Cowley	Tagai College
Zipporah Gea Gea	Tagai College

¹ (<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/communityservices/community/forgotten-australians/forde-comminquiry.pdf>)

² (<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/about-us/publications/protecting-children-an-inquiry-into-abuse-of-children-in-foster-care>)

Dorothy Hogan	Tagai College
Thomas Cleary	Tagai College – Guidance Counsellor
Yancy Laifoo	QLD Health
May Laifoo	QLD Health
Cathy Cook	QLD Health – Maternal and Child Health Team
Joanne Middleton	QLD Health – Early Intervention Parenting Specialist Maternal and Child Health Team
Marsat Ketchell	QLD Health – Social, Emotional & Spiritual Wellbeing Program
Charlotte Nona	QLD Health – Primary Health Care
Agnes Fox	Thursday Island Child Care Centre - Director
Dolli Bin Tahal	Horn Island Rate Payers & Residence
Mary Rose Sabatino	Torres Strait Regional Island Council – Child Care
Kristy Wilson	QLD Police – Child Protection Investigation Unit
Alan Filewood	Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Assoc.
Agnes Bani	Torres Strait Youth & Recreational Sporting Assoc.
Chantelle Nomoa	Thursday Island Justice Group
Georgina Bin Juda	Lena Passi Women's Shelter
Pastor George Nona	Assembly of God Church - Men's Group
Charles Passi	Thursday Island Community Member
Abigail Harry	Thursday Island Community Member
John Abednego	Relationships Australia/ Torres Shire Council/Torres Strait Regional Authority
Vicky Reimann	Child Safety
Gabriel Bani	Port Kennedy Association Inc – Recognised Entity
Yuriko Nakachi	Port Kennedy Association Inc – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Island Family and Support Services
Olive Bann	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated – Child and Family Support Services
Florence Kris	Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated – Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Domestic & Family Violence Counselling Service

Consultation with the above stakeholders involved:

- identification of key information that should be utilised in the consultation process; and
- identification of key issues of concern regarding child protection systems in the Torres Strait region.

3. Community Consultation

The community target group covers a large cross-section of the community and is balanced with respect to gender & age.

Individuals or groups invited who would be likely to have an interest in the consultation include:

- Residents;
- Service Providers;
- Government Departments/Agencies;
- Non Government Management groups and organisations;

3.1 Public Meeting

3.1.1 Day 1

A Community Consultation Meeting was held on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 at the Port Kennedy Association Incorporated Community Hall.

The following are detailed in Appendix A:

- Invitation and e-mail list;
- Attendee list; and
- Agenda

3.1.2 Day 2

A Community Consultation Meeting was held on Friday, 19 October 2012 at the Port Kennedy Association Incorporated Community Hall.

The following are detailed in Appendix A:

- Invitation and e-mail list;
- Attendee list; and
- Agenda

3.1.3 Day 3

A Community Consultation Meeting was held on Wednesday, 25 October 2012 at the Port Kennedy Association Incorporated Community Hall.

The following are detailed in Appendix A:

- Invitation and e-mail list;
- Attendee list; and
- Agenda

3.2 Advertising/Notification

3.2.1 Day 1

Advertisement/notification of the Co-ordination Meeting occurred by the following:

- Email to identified stakeholders
- Flyer distribution at various locations on Thursday Island, Horn Island & Hammond Island
- News Paper Article on the 8 October 2012

3.2.2 Day 2

Advertisement/notification of the Co-ordination Meeting occurred by the following:

- Announced at the close of Day 1
- Email to Day 1 attendees

3.2.3 Day 3

Advertisement/notification of the Co-ordination Meeting occurred by the following:

- Announced at the close of Day 2
- Email to Day 2 attendees

4. Day 1: Results

The following outlines a summary of the issues and minutes of the Public Meeting:

4.1 Welcome by Facilitating Organisations' Presidents

The Presidents of Port Kennedy Association – Romina Fujii & Mura Kosker Sorority Incorporated – Regina Turner acknowledged Traditional Owners' and reinforced the significance of the Queensland Child Protection Inquiry and communitys' right to have their say to improve child safety systems.

4.2 Day 1: Community Consultation Overview

Karen Salam, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak Ltd acknowledged Traditional Owners' and discussed the following:

- Role of QATSICPP
- Benefits of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry

- What the Commission is looking at
- Making a submission
- How to contact the Commission

Luisa O'Connor from the (DATSIMA) Department of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural introduced herself and highlighted the Key Strategic Objectives for DATSIMA under the 'Safe and Resilient Queenslanders' within DATSIMAs' 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan;

- to Contribute to the new 'Forde Inquiry', particularly in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children in Care.

4.3 Day 1, Service Provider Presentations

Presenter: Child Safety - Victoria Reimann (Team Leader)

Department of Communities Child Safety Services is the leading agency for Child protection in Queensland whose aim is to protect children who have been harmed or at risk of harm.

Types of abuse explained:

1. Physical
2. Emotional
3. Neglect
4. Sexual

Child Safety Systems explained:

Intake

Receives child protection concerns from anyone, there are 3 types of responses to information received:

- Recording of general enquiry
- Recording of Child concern reports that do not meet the threshold indicating that the child is not in need of protection
- Recording a Notification that suggests that a child is in need of protection, this is then referred to the Investigation & Assessment team to action further.

Service Issues Highlighted:

Department received queries regarding child custody matters, child safety is not able to assist with this.

Investigation & Assessment (I&A)

Investigations and Assessments are conducted by the regional I&A team, based in Cairns that may result in 3 possible outcomes;

- Substantiated - in need of protection and no parent is able and willing to protect the child may result in Short term order where custody is granted to the Chief Executive and the child is placed in out of home care with an approved provider; Foster & Kinship Carers or residential care service.
- Unsubstantiated – not in need of protection may result in Intervention with Parental Agreement (IPA), child remains in home
- No investigation & assessment outcome – investigation unable to be commenced or completed due to circumstances beyond control of department and is then closed e.g. insufficient information or a family is unable to be located

Service Issue Highlighted:

Complaints received from community asking why nothing was done about the child concern they rose.

Ongoing Intervention (for short term orders or IPA's)

Case management to ensure the safety needs of the child is met. This is achieved by;

- Assess the child and parental strengths and needs
- Undertaking of participatory and inclusive case planning
- Coordinate and support the implementation of the case plan
- Review and evaluate the progress made towards the case plan goals and outcomes until case closure

Service Issues Highlighted:

Majority of Child Concern reports result in custody being awarded to the Chief Executive

State Statistics:

Significant increase in child concern reports; ¼ of the State's child population is known to the Department.

Queensland has the 4th highest number of children in out of home care.

Torres Strait Statistics:

Approximately 50 I & A's carried out in the Torres Straits in the last 12 months

70 Children subject to ongoing intervention services from the Torres Strait

48 children subject to Child Protection orders (2 are still in home care)

44 in Out of Home Care

18 placed away from the islands (in Cairns or on the Tablelands)

13 children are not in Kin placements

Service Issues Highlighted:

Children need to be kept in community

Lack of licensed residential care facility in the Torres Strait

Insufficient number of approved Foster & Kin carers in Torres Straits

The department is child focused only, other organisation are required to provide support services for parents and are often insufficiently resourced.

Service Issues/Barriers

Department of Child Safety is mandated

Being able to gathering of appropriate information quickly to be able to make a decision on safety

Keeping children in community – few carers

Financial

Seen as the “Big Stick”

Speaker from the floor: Community Member

Shared her experiences as a mother whose family has suffered as a direct result of being involved in the child safety system/processes, highlighting the following issues;

- Disempowerment
- Misinformation
- Removal processes needs to demonstrate sensitivity, especially when removing from schools in remote communities

- Support structures within families needs to be looked into prior to removal of children

Presenter: Gabriel Bani – Recognised Entity (Program Manager)

The RE assists Child Safety, through provision of relevant cultural and family information & advice, to make the best decisions possible about Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children.

- Provide cultural information and advice to Child Safety to assists with
 - Determination of appropriate response to child protection concerns received at intake
 - Making decisions regarding the type of order required to ensure safety of child.
 - The placement of a child
 - With decision of information obtained and whether it constitutes a matter of concern
- Accompany Child Safety when conducting investigations and assessments
- Participate in SCAN team meeting when an ATSI child is being discussed
- Participation in Child Safety case planning activities for an ATSI child

Service Challenges:

Operating under the Legislation/Act

Cultural Lore vs Mainstream Law

Family Confrontation/Shame

Suggestion Solutions:

Building Capacity through;

- Awareness of Child Protection issues in the community
- Community Empowerment /Responsibility

Speaker from floor: Abigail Harry

We must be on the same page and the National focus that reflects this. Department of Communities – Child Safety, there must be a process for parents. Policy must be reflective of cultural sensitivity.

Issues Highlighted from the floor:

How influential is RE when making recommendations on processes for removal of children

Lack of Privacy and additional trauma/shame experienced by child and family due to removal processes e.g. when children are removed from schools.

Community needs to take ownership

Information on organisations areas of responsibility needed to ensure referrals occur

Foster & Kinship application process to rigorous and capacity to support training requirements of an approved carer is required.

Presenter: Olive Bann – Child and Family Support Service (Program Manager)

Child & Family Support (CAFS) Services explained:

An early intervention service assisting family; those who are parenting, whole families and community groups in relation to family with children ages from 0-12 Years and young people who find themselves in vulnerable situations.

The program promotes safety and wellbeing of children & young people. Support, assistance, information and advice can be provided to parents, families and communities within the Torres Strait helping them to care for their children and provide a safe environment.

- Once referral is received initial contact will be made with the client and an appropriate appointment time scheduled that is convenient to both parties
- Upon engagement an assessment of clients strengths and needs is conducted and appropriate support to build their parenting skills and confidence
- The client is able to receive support for as long as required and can cease participation at their discretion

Service Achievements:

- Well established working relationships with Child Safety and RATSICC
- Annual promotion and coordination of Nationally supported issues including
 - Foster and Kinship week
 - Child Protection Week
 - National Families Week
- Successful recruitment and retainment of cluster base CaFS Outreach Workers (Central, Near Western and Eastern Cluster) resulting in local people providing services
- Ability to deliver Triple P Parenting Program at a local level
- Successful lobbying resulted in access to Court Support for Child Victims of Crime (Thursday Island support group)

Service Barriers:

Isolation – Limited access to social services

Stigma/Shame attached to access of self help services

Funding for travel and training

Telecommunication

Cultural Beliefs

Access to other vital support services

Suggested Solutions:

Improved strategies' for intergrated service delivery that result in better outcomes for our family, children and community

More presence in community to ensure consistency in delivery and access to early intervention services

Sufficient funding

5. Day 1 - Discussion

Discussion Group – CARER (Kinship & Foster)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Children placed with Kin Carers, outside of Foster Care (not with Foster Carers who are unrelated)
- Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander Kinship Care, is keeping children with their community
- Keeping children safe from harm
- Keeping children alive

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Children already traumatised are being re-traumatised by being placed in different community with unrelated people	Child trauma to be recognised as a disability, child to be assessed and then provided with necessary support e.g. counselling for trauma
Lack of support currently from Non Indigenous Departmental Foster Carer Worker	Have a funded position filled by an Indigenous Support Officer
Not enough access to family and community	Video link with family
Lack of funding for regular visits for children to visit family	

Children taken from their familiar environment	
Not enough community Carers	Promote employment opportunities for Kin and Foster Cares, particular recruitment strategy for Outer Islands. Info sharing and support
Lack of support for family and children and Carers	Support for Carers with high school students Cert II for 2hrs, and develop and implement 'Adopt a Grandparent' Acknowledge existing community persons/groups – council of elders, cultural groups, kin carers, women groups, then help keep supporting them
Regulations need to suit environment	
Checklist on case management	
Making sure procedures that are in place are followed through with	
Having Day Care available for children in care	
Lack of training for Carers (money, training in dealing with traumatised kids)	Provide training for Carers (traumatised kids), cultural awareness training eg. lore & law for non-Indigenous carers
Regulation constraints – extended family members sharing accommodation	More housing to resolve over crowding, and options 'Safe House' for temporary short term placements of children
Lack of communication	
Perpetrators of harm remaining in the community	Removing perpetrators from communities, not the children
Cultural needs of children not being met	Cultural Support Plans developed with RE & Family for each Indigenous child

Discussion Group – NON GOVT ORGANISATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auspicing - Port Kennedy Association the Recognised Entity • Networking Services – All stakeholders • Community Driven response • Flexibility to implement Child Safety Services when discussing Cultural Protocols 	

CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Limited funding & resources	Fund to resource & support inner & outer islands
Cultural awareness – Induction, Protocols	
Cultural barriers – Lore verses Law	
Policies for both Government & Non Government – legislation	Change policies
Lack of Access to Early Intervention	
Language barrier	
Professional training/development and up-skilling	
Lack of specialist support services for children and their families	Fund specialist support services eg. child counsellor, psychologist
Separation of responsibilities eg. RE Work and Cultural Advisor	
Non acknowledgement of community intelligence/networking	*Regular forums/feedback for & from the community providing networking, consistency
Lack of staff/human resource	More funding
Lack of appropriate representation – regional	Regular forums/feedback for & from the community providing networking, Consistency. Regional summit
Apasin (ailan pasin? Family caring/protecting family)	Walk the talk
Lack of support from Govt – funding towards local initiatives	Fund local initiatives
NGO's accountability & transparency in the work they do	Accountability to community by sharing & promoting NGO services
	Community to support NGOs by promoting to families

Discussion Group – GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

HIGHLIGHTS

- Events held to share information, responsibilities and promote stakeholders – Child Protection Week, National ATSI Children's Day
- Professional relationships between Education and Child Safety have improved
- Schools being proactive in sharing the responsibility and ownership of tasks related to children and protecting children
- Processes have improved within the school with regard to support for children in care via role clarification
- Outer Island Community Police is a valued resource for both Qld Police and Child Safety
- Professional relationship between Qld Police and Community Police are positive, working together information sharing from local level
- Some of the students who are young people in care are achieving well in their education
- Generally a higher number of students of the Torres Straits and NPA are remaining engaged with schools
- Tagai Education at Risk Student Meetings occur monthly, and involves NGO stakeholders to

<p>ensure appropriate support for students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Support Program for YP has been implemented, ensuring YP do not leave TI and are supported locally 	
CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Language used by QPS & ChS in the I&As is not understood by child or adult	Include children known to the child for support in the process
QPS are limited by the ICARE interview process, to include support for child	Have Community police trained in ICARE, to be involved but not to contaminate the evidence gathering
Early intervention for children and families not commonly known and accessible for families	Increase referral sources including self referral eg. Community Education Counsellor at the school can refer to FSS
Non reporting of harm by community people	Promote like the 'DV is not Our Way' campaign, provide real examples of what members of the community can do to protect kids, and locally develop a program to take responsibility in reporting offenders of harm to children to protect children & YP
Removing the child from the community for their safety	Remove the offender from the community instead of the child, to keep child connected to their family and community
Child Safety's I&A Team is based in Cairns, visiting fortnightly limiting their time to develop meaningful/successful less intrusive responses, and build professional relationships with local stakeholders etc	Child Safety's I&A team to be based on Thursday Island
CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Young people dropping out of school	Integrated/culturally appropriate response collaboratively locally developed providing life skills and local options for the YP
Child Safety's I&A team is not available in the Torres Straits the QPS's CPIU apply for TAO (child is usually removed from the community), or conduct Welfare check to monitor the situation	Child Safety's Investigation & Assessment team to be based locally on Thursday Island
Lack of understanding amongst agencies and community members of different organisations/programs/services and roles and responsibilities	Regular interagency meeting and community information sessions to share referral pathways, and service/program details, pooling of resources
Not enough Early Intervention and Prevention programs/services available, which is non existent to families of the Outer Islands	Build the capacity of local service workers (servicing Outer Island) via training and multi-tasking, provide new or increase current funding for local parenting support provided in

	home communities
No psychologist or counsellor available in the Torres Straits for the child or their parent/family for support, although Medicare do fund up to 6 sessions to those meeting the criteria	Fund positions for such services to be available to the locals of the Torres Strait, look at existing funding at various agencies – creatively pool resources to create such positions

Discussion Group – COMMUNITY (Children, Parents, Families)

HIGHLIGHTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised Entity Workers • Aboriginal & or Torres Strait Islander people in positions – RE Workers • Community Driven • Practice Principles • Placements within the Community 	
CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS
Lack of resources	More Recognised Entity Workers for the Torres Strait region
Miscommunication	Review child protection roles, responsibilities and processes
Separation of powers	More powers for Recognised Entity Workers
Moral ethics & ethical obligations	Education, full cultural awareness program provided
Timeframes for Investigation & Assessment	I & A Team based locally
Cultural Sensitivity beliefs and values & protocols	Education, full cultural awareness program provided
Removal processes (traditional)	Acknowledge Traditional Adoption in CP Act & CP Practices, to ensure this cultural practice is acknowledged, respected and adhered to – which is likely to provide placement options.
Foster & Kinship Carers	More support for Foster & Kinship Carers
Support under resourced staff	Child Concern reports that are deemed as low risk needs to be referred to appropriate early intervention service e.g. Child & Family Support Services. Upgrade telecommunication systems in the Torres Strait for better mobile and internet coverage. 24 hour emergency phone lines based at Police

	Stations, Council Offices and Health Centres. Self service phones for access to social service providers e.g. Lifeline, DV Connect, Mura Kosker Sorority Inc., Parent Help Line, Kids Help Line, Legal Aid, Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, Child Safety, PKA's Recognised Entity etc.
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6. Day 2 – Results

The following outlines a summary of the issues and minutes of the Public Meeting held on the 19 October 2012.

6.1 Welcome by Yuriko Nakachi –Facilitator

Yuriko Nakachi welcomed all participants and invited Guest Speaker – Ivy Trevallion to speak

6.2 Guest Speaker – Ivy Trevallion (Social Worker for Queensland Health)

Ivy Trevallion, Social Worker of Queensland Health's Social Emotional and Spiritual Well-Being Program introduced herself and spoke about her experiences of involvement in the Kupai Omasker – A Torres Strait Islander Solution for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Rearing Practices³ and the conflicts between Western Society Law and Cultural Lore reaffirming the need for better integration of services to ensure the needs of children and families within the Torres Strait Region are met.

6.3 Outstanding issue (Journey since 2008) – Romina Fujii

Romina Fujii, President of Port Kennedy Association Incorporated (PKA) spoke about a previously coordinated community consultation hosted by PKA in 2008, alerting the audience to the fact that issues raised 4 years ago are still apparent today stating "This is the time for change and we need to think about how we as a community can make a difference towards the well being of our children".⁴

³ <http://www.ag.gov.au/Documents/28%20FEB%20ATSI%2022%20Dec%2004.pdf>

⁴ PKA Conference Report 2008

6.4 Outcome from Meeting with Commissioner for Child Safety Inquiry – Gabriel Bani

Gabriel Bani, Recognised Entity worker for Port Kennedy Association provided a brief statement about the Port Kennedy Association's meeting with the appointed Commissioner for the Child Safety Inquiry.⁵ The following topics were highlighted by PKA;

- Cultural Lore vs Western Law – The Legislation is not consistent with Traditional systems
- Family Systems are not clear cut
- Networking and Partnership with focus on early intervention
- Need for additional RE Workers – Previous trials held by PKA where voluntary workers were appointed to act as RE Workers but were not recognised as such by the Department.

Gabriel stated that there is lack of Leadership in the area, a driving force to take on integrated solutions that can address the over representation of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander children in the system.

6.5 Summary of Outcomes from Day 1: 10 October 2012 – Karen Salam, QATSICPP

Karen Salam presented summary of suggested solutions from the discussion groups on Day 1.

Suggested solution distributed of discussion

Qld Child Protection Inquiry

Suggested Solutions – Thursday Island, Torres Strait

Community (Parents & Families)

- Review child protection roles & responsibilities between government and non government agencies, to prevent miscommunication and provide clarity amongst stakeholders and for the community
- Lack of support/resource for children and families throughout the Torres Strait; increase the number of Recognised Entity Workers e.g. a worker to service each cluster of communities, ensuring RE Workers actively participate at decision making points, and the department are to justify why RE advice is not accepted and followed
- To fulfill moral and ethical obligations to Torres Strait Islander children and their families, workers in the field of child protection must successfully complete a cultural awareness program developed and delivered by local Torres Strait Islanders

⁵ Port Kennedy Associations response to the Commission of Inquiry into the Queensland Child Protection System.

- Trauma and shame associated with removing children from classrooms, in front of fellow students
- Traditional Torres Strait Islander Adoption and its practice to be recognised in legislation – Child Protection Act, and Adoption Act, and in Child Protection Practice. This is to ensure the practice is acknowledged, respected and adhered to when child protection stakeholders are working with Torres Strait Islander families. Opportunities shall arise for placement options, information for cultural support plans, genograms and ecograms
- Child and family support service, is also an appropriate place for referral of CCR case clients
- Upgrade telecommunication system in the Torres Straits for better mobile and internet coverage. 24 hour emergency phone lines based at Police Stations, Council Offices and Health Centres. Self service phones for access to social service providers eg. Lifeline, DV Connect, Mura Kosker Sorority

Carers – Kinship and Foster

- Child trauma, caused by re-traumatising from placing child outside of community with persons unknown to them, should be recognised as a disability, child to be assessed and then provided with necessary support eg. trauma counselling
- Support required for Carers (Indigenous & non Indigenous) of Indigenous children to be supported by an Indigenous Carer Support Officer (being a new created position)
- Very limited if not at all visits/regular visits between children in care with their siblings and family, contact could be arranged via video link
- Children being taken from home island communities, many times due to lack of Kin/Carers in the island communities. A Safe House Service for the Torres Straits is required to provide short term temporary placements, and a funded locally based Foster & Kinship Care Service.
- To increase the number of Kin, Foster Carers and Respite Carers promote as employment opportunities for caring for kids, with a recruitment strategy for across the Torres Strait
- Support for Carers with high school aged children in their care undertaking Cert II studies for
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Acknowledge existing community person/groups, such as council of elders, cultural groups, kin carers, women/men/youth groups to assist also in supporting children/family/carers
- Regulations of Care to be reviewed for its appropriateness/application in remote communities with overcrowding etc, advice provided by an Indigenous Working Group
- Provide training for Carers (Kin and Foster), as well as training for Carers to support traumatised children, cultural awareness training (including impacts of lore & law)
- Alleged perpetrators/known perpetrators to be removed from the community rather than the child. To explore if local Council By-Laws could be useful to implement
- Ensuring cultural needs of our children in care are met, by undertaking to have for every Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander child a – Cultural Support Plan, Genogram and Ecogram

Non Government Agencies

(PKA, Mura Kosker Sorority, Lena Passi Women's Shelter)

- Appropriate resourcing/support across the Torres Strait, including the Outer Islands eg provide a travel budget and cluster based positions of the ATSI Family Support Service

- Source the local development and delivery of Cultural Awareness Information and Training (induction & refresher) for child protection workers, to include explanations of lore and law, local protocols, language barriers etc
- Invest in more prevention and early intervention programs to be available locally
- As specialist support services such as psychologist and child/family counselling, sexual assault counselling support for children, provide funding for such services to be available across the Torres Straits
- Hold regular forums/feedback sessions for community stakeholders, encouraging networking, strengthening professional relationship
- Provide regular information sessions for community, providing opportunity for community to understand programs/services that are available and ensuring accountability to community
- Hold a Regional Summit annually for networking and showcasing
- Develop a deliver a campaign 'Caring & Protecting Our Children is Our Way', for families to walk the talk by learning the responsibilities of how to care and protect

Government Agencies

(Education – Tagai College, Qld Police, Health, Child Safety – Thursday Island)

- Child Safety's Investigation & Assessment Team to be based on Thursday Island, to maximise resources to ensure appropriate planning (inclusive of RE participation, appropriate cultural practices etc) and processes are undertaken for the best outcomes for children of the Torres Straits – cultural practices are acknowledged and used when working with families and placing children when required
- During Child Safety's & Qld Police - Investigation & Assessment processes, these parties are to include persons known & understood by the child, through the Investigation, to prevent language becoming a barrier to asking and obtaining evidence. Community Police based in each community could be the position involved, and shall require training in ICARE (to prevent contamination of evidence)
- Remove the offender of harm to children from the community, rather than remove the child
- Increase the sources of referrals, including self referral to prevention/early intervention services eg. Indigenous Family Support Service eg referrers such as High School Community Education Counsellor, RE Service
- Develop a local campaign similar to 'DV is not our way', providing examples of what and how members of the community can protect children including reporting offenders of harm
- Develop locally an integrated, culturally appropriate and collaborative program for young people who have dropped out of school, that includes healthy local options and life skills
- Regular interagency meeting and community information sessions that share referral pathways and processes, allows enhancing of professional relationships, pooling of resources and wrap around supports for children
- Build the capacity of local service workers (including the servicing of Outer Island communities) who are trained and mentored by existing (visiting/local based) professionals
- Increase parenting support programs to be available for all island communities
- Psychologist, Counsellor (child, family), sexual assault counsellor to be funded to make available in the Torres Straits

GENERAL THEMES OF SOLUTIONS

- Training & Capacity Building
- Cultural Awareness
- Community Awareness
- Child Protection Practice & Services
- Child Protection Legislation

Karen Salam presented solutions identified by the "Community" working group.

Recommended changes to Solutions:

Recommendation for the term "traditional child rearing practices should be used in place of traditional adoption

Speaker from the floor:

Agreed with the use of the term "traditional child rearing practice" and made the following statement; "Families have forgotten structure of Cultural LORE! Families are turning on each other.

Statement made with regard to use of language and that language appropriate to this area should be used when conducting consultations. An explanation was sort for the words, Genogram and Ecogram.

Definitions provided by Vicky Reimann;

Genograms is graphic representation of a family tree with detailed data on relationships among individuals.

Ecograms are a map of formal and informal supports. e.g. services

Speaker from the Floor:

A Grandparent shares his experience of someone who has not had any contact with his Grandchildren since removal. The Grandparent is disappointed that his families' support structures were not considered prior to removal recommends that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children are kept in community and with Family.

Speaker from floor:

Investigation & Assessment teams need to check validity of information from family members to ensure there are no disputes occurring.

The I & A team must be based on the Island so they have more time to ensure; adequate and accurate investigations are conducted.

Speaker from Floor:

This speaker shared her experience as a mother who is a victim of the Child Safety System. She is a mother who works to provide for her family, doesn't drink or smoke. Her children removed without any explanation.

The children were placed with her brother who had no previous contact with her children. It took her 5 months to regain custody of her children. She travelled to Cairns to appeal the decision creating unnecessary financial stress and depression and still emotionally scared by this ordeal today.

Her Godchild is now a victim of the system, their father has custody of the children and her case is closed.

She highlights the following concerns:

- Why are Non Indigenous workers conducting interviews – (CPIU)
- Where the support is for the mothers who have their children removed.

Suggested solutions:

- Police Liaison Officer and Community Police Officer to be involved in CPIU interviews
- MKS to establish Women's support group for mothers who have had their children removed

Karen offered support to prepare individual submission showcasing the experience of mothers affected by Child Safety Systems.

Recommended changes to Solutions:

Separate dot point 5 to read

- Traditional Torres Strait Islander Adoption and its practice to be recognised in legislation – Child Protection Act, and Adoption Act, and in Child Protection Practice. This is to ensure the practice is acknowledged, respected and adhered to when child protection stakeholders are working with Torres Strait Islander families.
- Opportunities shall arise for placement options, information for cultural support plans, genograms and ecograms

Recommended additions to Solutions:

- RE Workers MUST actively participate at decision making points, and the department are to justify why RE advice is not accepted and implemented
- RE MUST be the lead agent for child protection with regard to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- Child protection office to be run by Traditional Owners
- RE Worker positions MUST remain identified positions
- Investigation & Assessment Team MUST be based on Thursday Island
- The department MUST work with respect/openness/honesty/transparency with families for better outcomes and responses for children and their families
- Children taken by force, the white man way happened back in the 'Protector Days', now days this should not happen. Instead there must be consulting and listening to family suggestions, our way
- The taking of our children away from our communities, and placing with people who are not family MUST stop, and the department work together with families and community

- Decisions about the safety and wellbeing of children, MUST keep in mind any long term effects for the child
- Children interviewed by Child Safety/Qld Police, during Investigation & Assessment, MUST not conduct interviews without a support person/translator for the child (where English is not the first language) and RE, PLO or Community Police of the appropriate gender MUST also be present

Karen Salam presented solutions identified by the “Carer” discussion group

Recommended changes to Solutions:

In reference to dot point 2, Children should be placed with a carer who has the same cultural heritage as the child.

Karen stated that there is a clause within the Child Safety Act that supports the placement of indigenous children with indigenous carers.

Speaker from floor:

Families should be included in interview processes.

Questions from floor:

Question: Is there a Safe House?

Answer: Not yet, but funding for a Safe House was approved in the State’s Budget

Question: Was there Community Consultation?

Answer: Yes a Community Consultation was undertaken in the 2008 & 2009 years on Thursday Island and the Outer Islands.

Question: Is the Safe House being built?

Answer: There are proposals to utilise a refurbished State Building in the interim and possible plans to build at a later stage.

Recommended additions to Solutions:

- Foster and Kinship Care Support Officer MUST be Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander, for Foster & Kinship Carers of Indigenous children, as the current person in the position is non Indigenous and is not appropriate
- Mentor/school buddies for Indigenous children in care could be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander school students (undertaking their Cert II) who could assist with homework in the home/school and be buddy at school
- Review processes and campaigns to recruit carers, to make suitable for recruitment of Kin & Carers in the Torres Straits
- Work with local people across the Torres Straits for local information/advice for children and families
- More commitment and work put in to maintain children being connected with family and country, by placements being made within the Torres Straits

- 'Significant Other' as stated in the Child Protection Act, for placement of children MUST be better defined, as this may conflict with placement per the Child Placement Principle and its intent
- Adopt a Grandparent – a grandparent providing support for the child in care by sharing their stories and culture, teaching hobbies, being their grandparent
- Kaziw Meta the local School Boarding facility could be regarded as another placement place/option on Thursday Island
- When considering placement of children, work with families to seek advice on appropriate family/community based placement options
- When placement is being considered, Torres Strait Islander Child Rearing Practices to be acknowledged, respectfully adhered to

Vicki Reimann highlighted the following sections in the Child Safety Act S11, S23, S37, S51AA, S51F, S52, S117(3), S205 which all refer to the definition of parents. Whilst recognition is given to cultural practices at the beginning of the Act definition of a parent is all other clauses disregard the initial recognition.

There are so many problems with this, one of which means the birth parents could end up with a CP history for a birth child they have culturally adopted (i.e. if we have to do an assessment and they say they cannot care for the child for cultural reasons, they could potentially be seen as not willing and able).

Child Safety has a great working relationship with Port Kennedy Associations Recognised Entity Program. RE has successfully assisted with cultural connection knowledge for placement of children.

Speaker from the floor: Helen Halford

There are restrictions with the budget for RE to accompany Foster and Kin Support Officers on community visits. There are limits with time to gain an understanding of family structures.

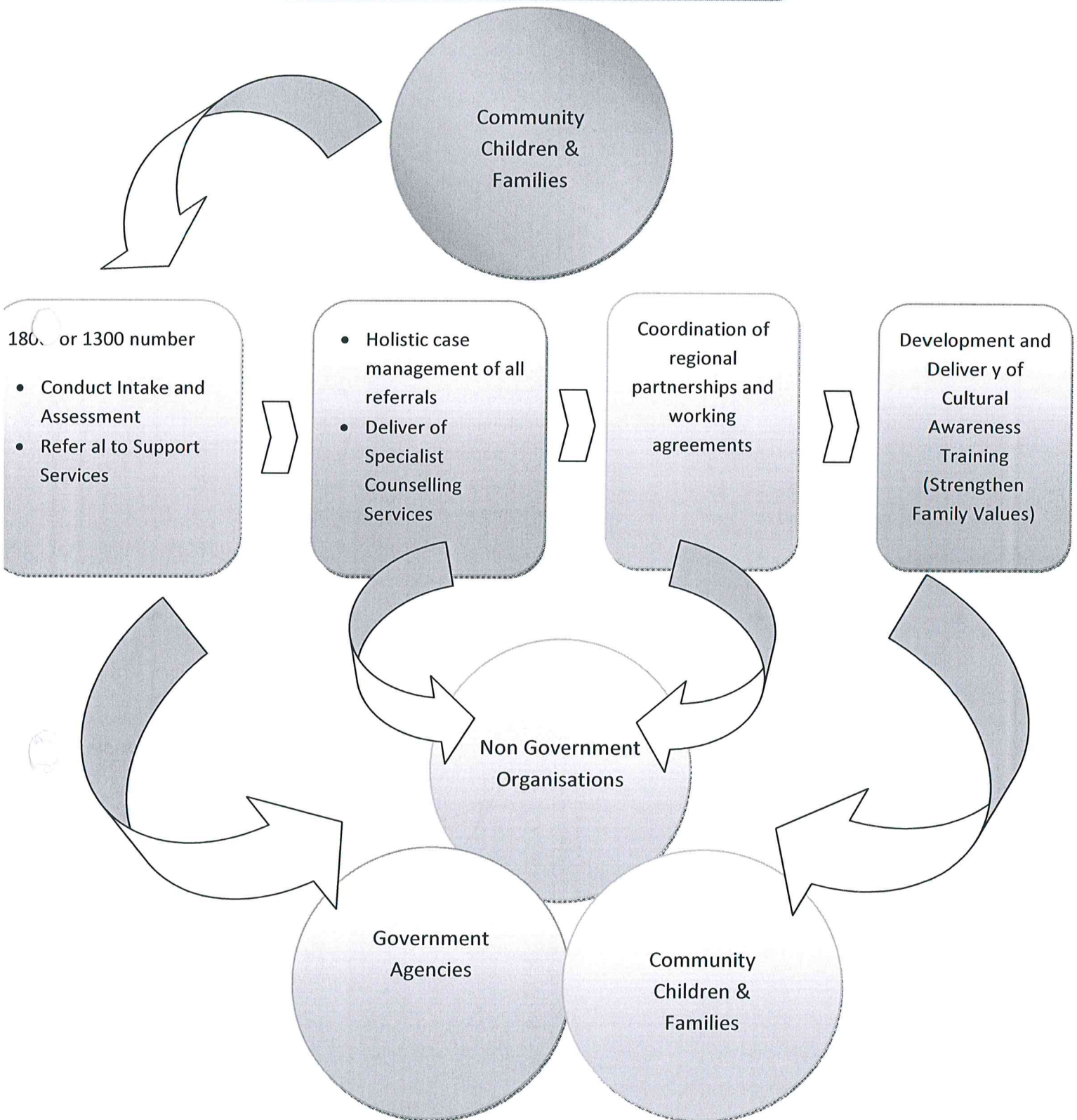
6.6 Model for the Torres Strait on Child Safety

Romina Fujii presented a proposed solution for a Ngarpun Kazil Parunu Wanayk (Children First) Service that would meet the information, referral, support and advocacy needs of vulnerable families using a one-stop approach in which the client receives the service he/she needs either directly or through referral to other service providers.

The Ngarpun Kazil Parunu Wanayk (Children First) Service would be responsible for:

- coordination of integrated working agreements/regional plans to address common social issues experienced by Torres Strait Residences.
- holistic case management
- delivery of specialist Child Counselling Services and
- provide cultural awareness training.

Ngalpun Kazil Parunu Wanayk (Children First) Service



7. Day 3: Results

7.1 Guest Speaker – Lynn Ridgeway (Queensland Health – Mental Health Unit)

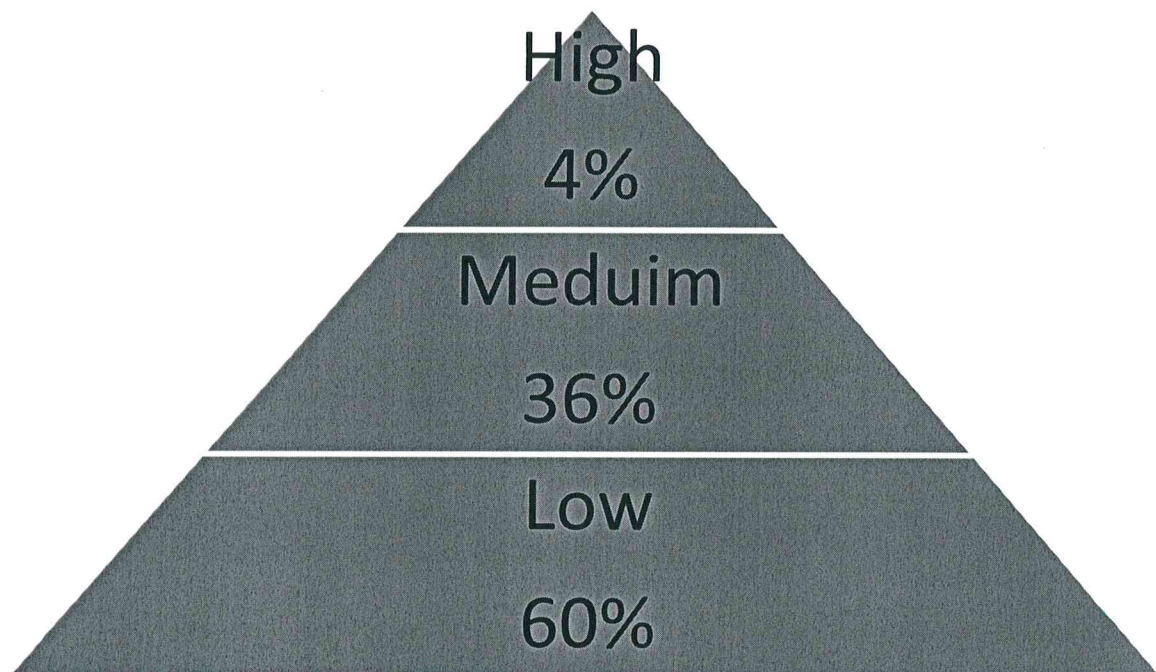
Questions invited from the floor:

How does the service categorise client issues?

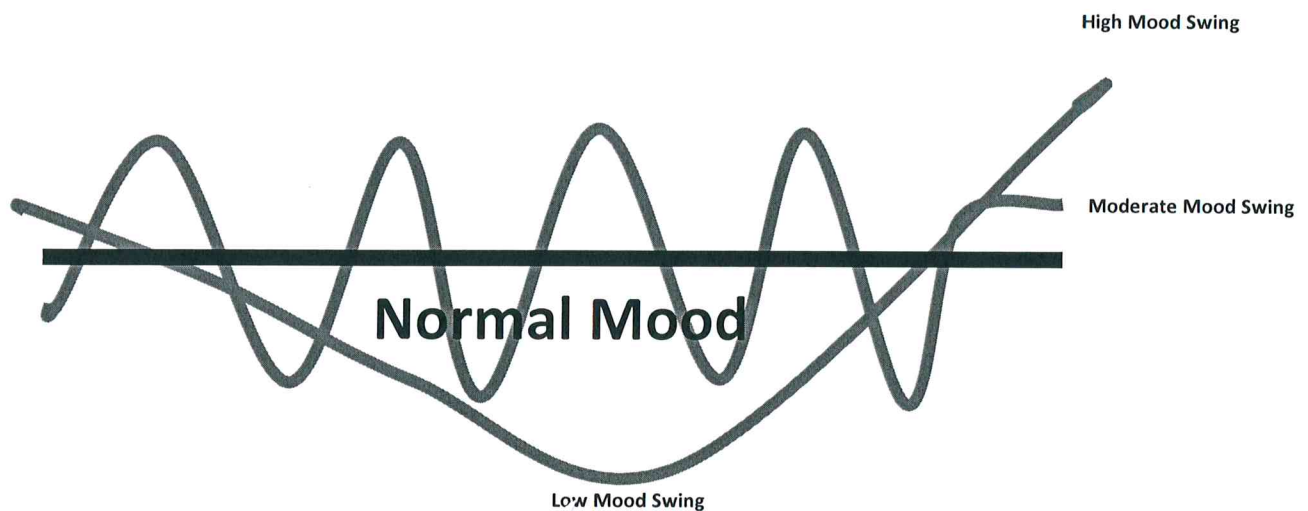
Answer:

There are 3 categories; High, Medium and Low risk. Mental Health assists clients who are assessed as having High risk. Those who are assessed as having Medium to Low risk are referred/directed to other appropriate counseling services.

Lynn highlighted World Health Organisation Statistics;



Mental Health Depression explained;



Where an individual experiences significant mood swings from low to high or vice versa it recommended that treatment be obtained.

Where there no significant change between high's and low mood swings (moderate) the individual is often able to resolve depression issues on their own.

Bipolar is an example of a mental illness with extreme changes in mood swing. Some people with Bipolar also have symptoms of psychosis. These include;

- Hallucination
- Delusions
- Paranoia

Underlying issues that may contribute to depression:

- Alcohol/Drugs
- Financial Stress
- Overcrowded Homes
- Over worked
- History of colonization
- High unemployment rates
- Health issues
- Homelessness

Speaker from Floor:

Luisa O'Connor – DATSIMA stated that there is much need for a child psychologist in the Torres Strait Region.

Olive Bann stated that statistics specific to Torres Strait Region is required to demonstrate the need for a child psychologist. e.g. For children who do not meet the eligibility criteria of Queensland Health Mental Health program.

Lynn stated that trauma can be experienced by anyone at any time, not necessarily in homes e.g. watching the news.

95% sexually abused victims will suffer severe emotional abuse and neglect.

Lynn stated that "Mental Illness is not a reason that makes someone commit abuse".

Question from the floor:

What if we were unable to detect signals of Suicidal ideation?

Answer:

I encourage more education and awareness on the prevention of suicide.

7.2 Model for the Torres Strait

Romina Fujii stated that the recommendation for a locally based child psychologist will be included in the submission to the Commissioner on the 30 October 2012.⁶

Romina referenced to the suggested model for integrated service delivery that aims to strengthen working relationships between service providers and bridge any gaps experience by client who access support services with the Torres Strait Region.

Speaker from the floor:

Stated that there was a lack of Youth Programs in the Torres Strait and we really need to look at services that address youth issues within the region.

Youth related statistics can be obtained from the Department of Youth Justice in Cairns.

Question from the Floor:

Where does the community fit into the model?

Answer:

Case manager is needed to best manage service map. The community will also play a support role through use of cultural family structures and church support groups.

⁶ Evidence of need for Psychologist in Torres Strait Region

Speaker from the Floor:

More cultural awareness is needed for non- indigenous employees within the Torres Strait Region.

8. Conclusions and Recommendations

Thursday Island community workshop discussions identified five collective themes to the solutions as the way forward.

The collective theme from the workshops were:

1. Training and Capacity Building

- Lack of skilled personal in the Torres Strait is a concern and training in children and social services is highly recommendation.

2. Cultural Awareness

- All new Child Safety staff coming into the Torres Strait must have cultural awareness and on going support for cultural inductions. Cultural protocols must be include in the case management files to respect the child's customs and traditions and lifestyles. Cultural Awareness will also enable strengthening of families and children in their cultural values and protocols.

3. Community Awareness

- Early Intervention to prevent children entering the placement services is a priority. Appropriate community education on child safety and rights and responsibility on empowering families and working towards closing the gap is essential and must be supported by funding Early Intervention programs that must be delivered by NGO's through a coordinated partnership approach.

4. Child Protection Practice & Service

- Child rearing practices in regards to Traditional Adoption is highly sensitive and must be acknowledge in the legislation and should be recognized in the Child Protection Act and Child Safety Practice Manual

5. Child Protection Legislation

- Changes to the legislative definition of a “parent” needs to be consistent throughout the Child Protection Act. In the general definition in section 11 island custom is recognized. However this is not recognized when matters proceed to court. Once a matter is before the court island custom is not considered which can cause significant issues for the family. The child is then considered as a biological child in a non indigenous family. For the parent under the island custom to be disregarded is disrespectful for the parent , child and community and culture. The child recognizes these adults as their parent and the Child Protection Act should recognize this also.

The way forward for Child Protection Services in the Torres Strait

Vision for the Torres Strait

Individual islands have developed a regional plan in response to “Closing the Gap” to improve the lifestyle of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the region. The individual community plans were developed in partnership with the Commonwealth , State and Local Government which further states that agencies must respect and align service delivery to the customs and culture of the Torres Strait islanders. This is to ensure that community capacity building takes place from the bottom up approach.

The workshop identified a need for *integrated service delivery* in regards to the Child Safety Protection in reference to referrals. The workshop discussed the need to prevent children and young persons entering into out of home placement which causes stress and trauma to families and extended families. The *integrated service* concept will require additional services and funding to improve service delivery .

Recommendations from the workshops:

1. That there is a referral service with a *qualified case manager* who will refer families that have been identified through Child Concern Issues and linking them with appropriate services eg: *health, counseling service, spiritual counseling, housing, drug and alcohol, other appropriate service.*
2. That the referral service appoint a *children's clinical psychologist* to counsel children and their families
3. That the referral service appoint a *cultural advisor and trainer* to work with families extended families and staff to ensure that the island custom and family values are maintained.
4. *Early intervention* has been identified as a priority to prevent children entering child protection system .Funding is sought to promote education to families about child safety, rights and responsibilities of children. This will include developing resources to reinforce well being of families and aligning this to promote healthy and safe communities. These programs must be delivered by NGO's.
5. That *MOU's* are developed with State, Commonwealth and Local Government agencies to ensure that funding support is sought to support *prevention of child abuse and neglect* and closing the gap for safe and healthy communities.
6. The referral service will be *monitored by the NGO,s* who have agreed to monitor the Safe House .The nominated Peak Body for the Safe house is PKA Inc. Terms of reference will be developed to ensure that there is a fair and balanced agreement between the partners. [To date there is no notification from the Minister of Child Safety to state that PKA Inc is a successful tender for the Safe House] This will be at the Minister's discretion and at the *lifespan of the Service Agreement.*
7. That the *Referral Service* is closely monitored by the funding agencies to ensure that the service is meeting it's obligations and that the outcomes are making a difference to the families and their children.
8. That current funding and Service Agreement for RE FS and the Safe House will remain at the regional level and that Torres Strait remains as a stand alone region to ensure that Torres Strait Islanders and Aboriginal peoples living in the region are responsible and are taking responsibility for decision making at a grass root level.
9. Futures tenders in regards to Child Protection Services must be identified for the Torres Strait region.

Appendices

A. Public Meeting Documents

Agenda

Day 1: 10 October 2012

Time	Activity	Content
9:00am – 9:30am Romina Fujii Facilitators: Karen Salam & Luisa O'Connor	Welcome & Acknowledgement to Traditional Owners Housekeeping Aims of Consultation	Background information about enquiry Program Outline Expectations of consultations
9:30am – 10:30am	Guest Speaker Presentations: 1. Child Safety – Victoria Reimann 2. Port Kennedy Association Inc. – Gabriel Bani (Recognised Entity & Family Support Services) 3. Mura Kosker Sorority Inc. – Olive Bann (Child & Family Support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services explained • Current trends • What's working • What's not
10:30am – 11:00am	Morning Tea	
11:00am – 1:00pm	Focus on solutions	Break into working groups to brainstorm solutions to address identified issues
	Where to from here	Group Presentations and discussions
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30pm – 3:00pm	Session feedback	Summary of discussions

	Close	Evaluations
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Day 2: 19 October 2012

Time	Activity	Content
9:00 am	Welcome Yuriko Nakachi	
9:10am	Journey since 2008 – Outstanding issues Romina Fujii	
9:20am	Meeting with Commissioner for Child Safety Gabriel Bani	Issues presented to the Commissioner
9:30am	Feedback Karen Salam	Summary of discussions from working groups
10:00am	Guest Speaker Ivy Trevallion – QLD Health Social Worker	Traditional Adoption: Kupai Omasker
10:15am	Question & Answer	
10:30am	Morning Tea	
11:00am	Guest Speaker Presentation Lyn Ridgeway – QLD Health Psychologist	Child Psychology Services in the region.
11:15am	Model for the Torres Strait on Child Safety Romina Fujii	Suggested solution for improved service delivery in the Torres Straits.
11:30am – 12:30pm	The way forward	Open discussion time based on recommendation.

Day 3: 24 October 2012

Time	Activity	Content
7:00pm	Welcome & Prayer	

	Yuriko Nakachi	
7:05pm	Guest Speaker Lynne Ridgeway – Director of Special Mental Health	Mental Health Service Explained
7:15pm	Model for Torres Strait	Opportunity members to provide feedback on proposed solution (model for the Torres Strait)
7:30pm	Break – Light refreshments	
8:00pm	Model for Torres Strait	Opportunity members to provide feedback on proposed solution (model for the Torres Strait)
9:30pm	Close	

Community Consultation – Distribution List

Day 1: 10 October 2012

Speaker Invites:

Name	Department	Contact details
Vicky Reimann	Child Safety	
Gabriel Bani	PKA – RE	
Yuriko Nakachi	PKA – FSS	
Olive Bann	MKS - CAFS	

Participant Invites

Name	Department	Contact details
Vonda Moar	TSRA	PO Box 261 Thursday Island QLD 4875
Margie Cowley	Tagai College	PO Box 1000 Thursday Island Q 4875
Zipporah Gea Gea	Tagai College	PO Box 1000 Thursday Island Q 4875
Dorothy Hogan	Tagai College	PO Box 1000 Thursday Island Q 4875
Thomas Cleary	Tagai College	PO Box 1000 Thursday Island Q 4875
Yancy Laifoo	QLD Health	PO Box 624 Thursday Island QLD 4875
May Laifoo	QLD Health	PO Box 624

		Thursday Island QLD 4875
Cathy Cook	QLD Health – Maternal and Child Health Team	PO Box 624 Thursday Island QLD 4875
Joanne Middleton	QLD Health – Early Intervention Parenting Specialist Maternal and Child Health Team	PO Box 624 Thursday Island QLD 4875
Marsat Ketchell	QLD Health – Social, Emotional & Spiritual Wellbeing Program	PO Box 624 Thursday Island Q 4875
Charlotte Nona	QLD Health – Primary Health Care	PO Box 624 Thursday Island Q 4875
Agnes Fox	TICCC	Victoria Parade Thursday Island Q 4875
Dolli Bin Tahal	HIRPR	Horn Island Q 4875
Mary Rose Sabatino	TSRIC	PO Box 501 Thursday Island Q 4875
Kristy Wilson	QLD Police – CPIU	Douglas Street Thursday Island Q 4875
Alan Filewood	TSY&RSA	PO Box 309 Thursday Island Q 4875
Agnes Bani	TSY&RSA	PO Box 309 Thursday Island Q 4875
Chantelle Nomoa	TICJG	PO Box Thursday Island Q 4875
Georgina Bin Juda	Lena Passi Women's Shelter	PO Box 264 Thursday Island Q 4875
Pastor George Nona	AOG Men's Group	Thursday Island
Charles Passi	Community Member	Thursday Island
Abigail Harry	Community Member	Thursday Island Q 4875
John Abednego	Relationships Australia	PO Box 744 Thursday Island Q 4875

Flyer Distributions

- Post Office
- IBIS Stores (Rose Hill, Tamwoy, Douglas Street)
- QLD Health notice boards (Hospital, Primary Health Centres (Horn Island))
- McDonald Ferry Boat
- Horn Island Pacific Store
- Shops fronts in Central Business District (Douglas Street)

Day 2: 19 October 2012

Email Distribution List

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Vicki Reimann	Child Safety	4212 1101	victoria.reimann@communities.qld.gov.au
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Ivy Wapum	Queensland Health	4069 0454	ivy_wapum@health.qld.gov.au
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John Crozer	Education Queensland	0417 725 150	jcro25@eq.edu.au
Thomas Cleaiy	Education Queensland	0428 050 795	tclea3@eq.edu.au
Zipaorah Geagea	Education Queensland	0428 887 594	<u>zgeag@eq.edu.au</u>
Helen Halford	Foster & Kinship Support Unit		<u>Helen.Halford@communities.qld.gov.au</u>

Day 3: 24 October 2012

Email Distribution List

Phone calls made to all participants with no email addresses

Name	Department	Phone	Email
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Libby Cavanagh	Queensland Health	0431777491	elizabeth.cavanagh@health.qld.gov.au
Fiona Davies	Child Safety	0477335371	Fiona.Davies@communities.qld.gov.au
Karen Salam	QATSICPP	0427175972	karensalam@qatsicpp.com.au
Michelle Langford	Foster Carer	0408185614	michellelangford@bigpond.com
Josephine Gela	Community Members	0487830823	
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Day 1: 10 October 2012

Protecting Pikininni Business Bor Ume Everyone Community Consultation 10/10/2012

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Day 2: 19 October 2012

Community Consultation

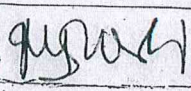
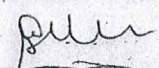
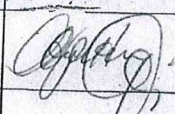
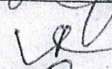

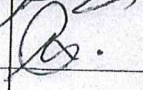
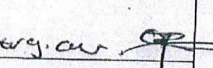
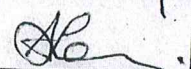
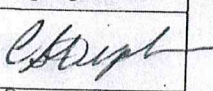
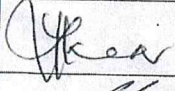


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Community Consultation

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Day 3: 24 October 2012

Community Consultation

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Summary background information

The Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Health Service District provides health services via Primary Health Care Centres in the twenty two (22) communities in the District and acute hospital services at Thursday Island and Bamaga. Population estimates for the Torres & NPA District are around 12,000 persons. According to ABS 2009 data indigenous people represent 85% of the population and children under 15 years represent 32 % of the population. District FERRET data suggests that that 4277 people fall into the 0-18 year age bracket. Thus, over a third of the population are potentially in the target group for psychological counselling. Consumer's and family needs are of a very complex nature requiring a high level of expertise and understanding including of the local context and culture.

Currently, the Torres and NPA Mental Health Service has one clinician and one health worker to provide services to the entire district. A recent review of the CYMH Service (Dyer 2011) noted that the demographically similar Cape York area has 5 clinicians and three Indigenous health workers for their CYMHS team. According to the same review, the limited workforce capacity of the CYMHS team is a major factor contributing to a significant child safety risk now identified on the Cairns and Hinterland MH&ATODS Risk Register.

Evidence of Need

Why should this service be supported? What services in this discipline are already in the community and/or the region?

There are currently no psychology services in the Public Health or NGO sectors to the Torres Strait Island communities. Attempts have been made to link patients to the Cairns Base Psychology department. While this had some success in supporting and up skilling for clinicians (GPs & other health staff) there has been limited success in terms of patient engagement.

The ability to follow-up on patients throughout the chronic disease continuum from adjustment to diagnosis, to motivation for behavioural change, and treatment adherence is an important role that clinical evidence has consistently demonstrated psychological interventions can impact upon.

Description of Proposal

What will the health professional do? Consultations, procedures or both? Upskilling?

- Accept referrals for children through Queensland Health GP's, from Specialist Mental Health Services, Other Primary Health Care Chronic Disease Services, Education Queensland, and NGO's.
- Provide Clinical Services of assessment and interventions including trauma counselling, supportive psychotherapy, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for depression and anxiety, resilience skills and behaviour support.
- Counselling in the reduction of alcohol, tobacco and other substance

use.

- Provide Health Psychology services including psycho-educational skills training for staff, patients and families on coping with illness, self-management, promoting health behaviour change, preventing illness, treatment adherence, reducing disability and improving quality of life.
- Report on clinical improvement outcomes of individuals to their GPs, and on the service provision to the provider.

Objectives of the Proposal

To introduce, and provide psychological and psychosocial interventions to Torres Strait Islander children (<18 years). Psychological interventions including trauma counselling, supportive psychotherapy and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy have been found to improve long term psychological wellbeing and health behaviours including self management, adherence to treatments and reducing morbidity and health care costs.

Psychological services will increase community health education including up-skilling of current NGO workforce.

Key deliverables

If successful, this funding submission will ensure that the **integrated service** has the capacity to meet the closing the Gap . Including the following specific activities;

- Increased ability to respond to the **very complex** needs of Torres Strait Island and NPA consumers ensuring safe and best practice through provision of psychological services to children with complex needs
- Develop and facilitate group and activity programs in the community
- Improve social and emotional wellbeing and psychological health outcomes for consumers with complex problems of exposure to violence, illness, Child Safety removals, and social environment challenges.
- Provide quality individualised support and assistance for consumers to maintain schooling, family, social and personal networks.
- Build better working relationships with other government and non government sectors to provide a holistic and recovery focused approach to consumer care.
- Build capacity within the staff of the schools and NGO's.
- Family counselling, especially with those consumers with a history of removals, separations and ruptures.
- Trauma and grief counselling for clients with inter-generational losses and those who have a history of high rates of exposure to abusive environments)