

# Part B: Key Indicators of Community Wellbeing

## – An Overview

Six key indicators for health and wellbeing in Indigenous communities are presented in this report:

- ♦ Reported offences against the person (Source: Queensland Police Service)
- ♦ Hospital admissions due to assault (Source: Queensland Health)
- ♦ Persons convicted for breaches of alcohol restrictions (Source: Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General)
- ♦ School attendance (Source: Education Queensland)
- ♦ Children subject to substantiated child protection notifications (Source: Queensland Department of Child Safety)
- ♦ Children subject to a finalised child protection order (Source: Queensland Department of Child Safety)

In this section an overview of these indicators for the 21 discrete Indigenous and Cape York Welfare Reform communities is presented. These are presented as rates, with “confidence interval” lines showing the range wherein the “true” rate might fall. Presented in the next section are historical data for each community. Also presented is the expected quarterly count based on the Queensland rate for hospital admissions for assault and reported offences against the person for each community. This count shows what the number of admissions or reported offences would be if each community had the same rate as the Queensland rate.

There is no single measure of wellbeing, but these indicators are the best available at this time and on a regular basis.

These data are limited due to a range of factors and must be read with reference to the relevant notes within and at the end of this report. It must also be noted that there may be small differences in counts and rates for the same time periods when comparing data in this report with data published previously. This is most likely to be due to data being updated by source agencies as part of ongoing quality assurance activities.

The Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR), Queensland Treasury, in partnership with the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (OATSIP), the Indigenous Government Coordination Office (IGCO) and key agencies including Queensland Health, the Departments of Child Safety and Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police Service and the Department of Education, Training and the Arts are working to improve the quality and presentation of data and the information available to assess Indigenous people’s health and wellbeing. Work will also continue with communities through key forums such as Ministerial Indigenous Roundtables to provide more comprehensive and meaningful analysis of community progress.

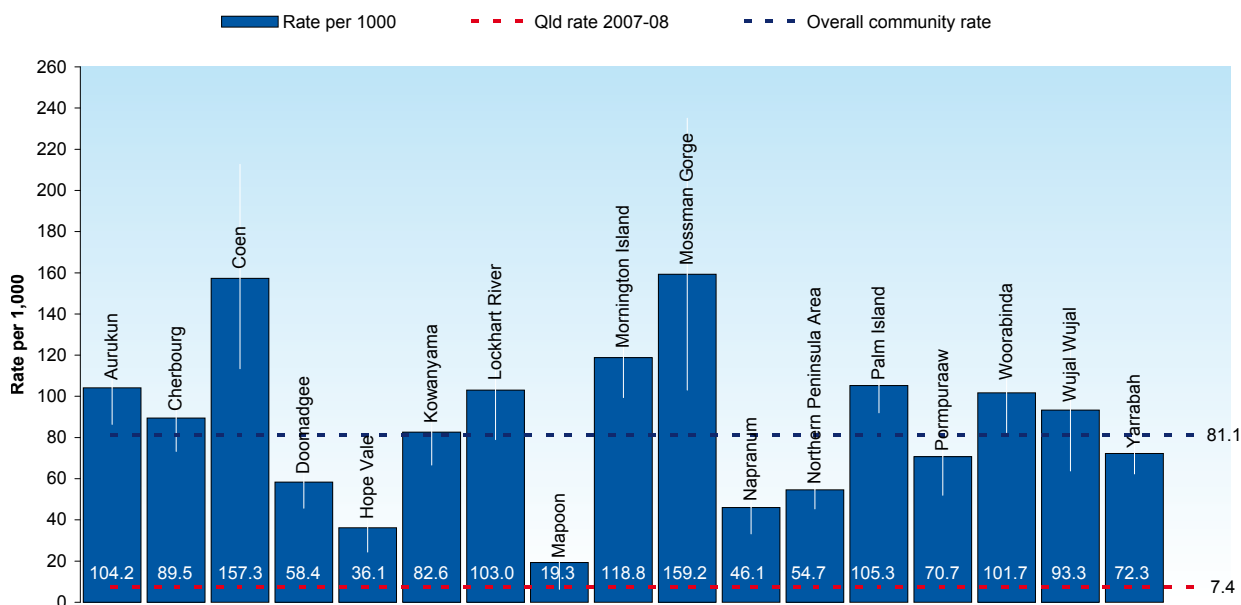
## Reported offences against the person

Rates of reported offences against the person in Doomadgee, Hope Vale, Mapoon, Northern Peninsula Area and Napranum were lower over the 12 months to 31 December 2008, than in most other communities. While rates in Mossman Gorge and Coen appear to be highest, they are in fact subject to a high level of variability due to both variable counts and small

populations. Rates in Aurukun, Mornington Island, Palm Island and Woorabinda were all significantly higher than the overall community rate of 81.1 per 1,000. The rate of offences against the person in Queensland in 2007-08 was 7.4 offences per 1,000 persons.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Please note that 2008 estimated resident populations are not yet available, hence 2007 estimated resident populations were used to calculate the above mentioned rates and expected counts.

**Figure 1: Reported offences against the person, rate per 1,000 persons, by community, January 2008 to December 2008 (a)**



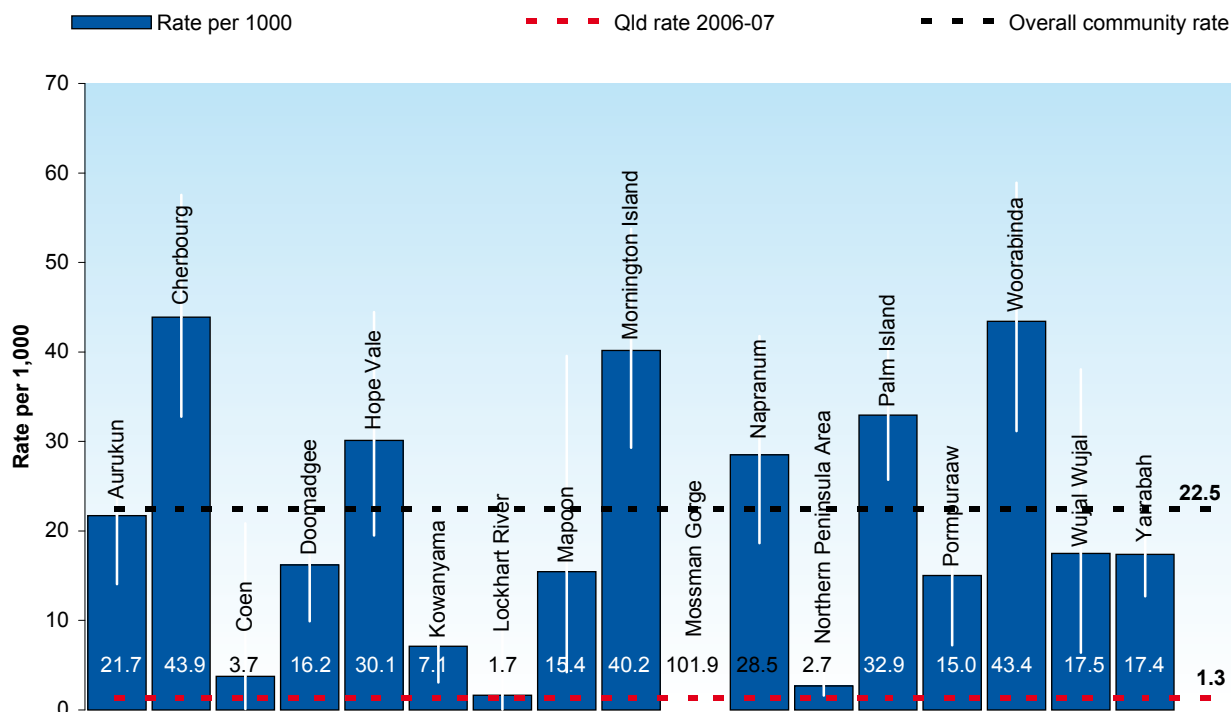
(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.  
Source: Queensland Police, unpublished data

## Hospitalisations for assault

Rates of hospitalisation for assault for people from the communities (for the 12 months to 31 December 2008) as shown in figure 2 ranged from 1.7 per 1,000 persons from Lockhart River to 43.9 per 1,000 persons in Cherbourg. Rates of hospitalisation for people from Cherbourg, Hope Vale, Palm Island, Napranum, Mornington Island, Mossman Gorge and Woorabinda were above the overall community rate of 22.5 per 1,000 persons.

The rate for Mossman Gorge was, at 101.9 per 1,000 persons, much higher (and is therefore not plotted on the graph). It is not known why this rate is remarkably high in comparison to rates from all other communities; however, the rate of offences against the person occurring in the community was also relatively high. There is anecdotal evidence that indicates that Mossman Gorge may also have a significant transient population in addition to the resident population.

**Figure 2: Hospital Admissions for assault, rate per 1,000 persons, by community, January 2008 to December 2008 (a), (b)**



(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

Source: Queensland Health, unpublished data

(b) Data for Northern Peninsula Area are for the period 12 months to September 2008.

## School Attendance

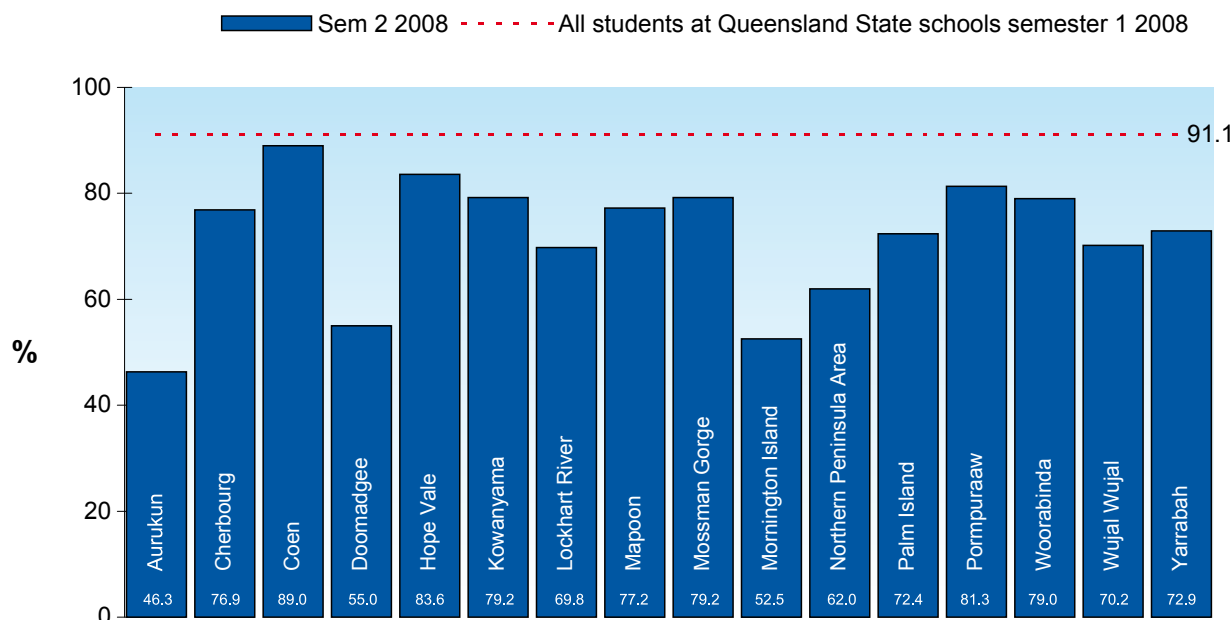
Average student attendance for semester 2 2008 ranged from 46.3 per cent at Western Cape College - Aurukun to 89.0 per cent at Coen State School.<sup>3</sup> When average student attendance for semester 2, 2008 was compared with semester 2, 2007, increases of more than five percentage points were evident at Western Cape College – Aurukun and Hope Vale

and Woorabinda State Schools. In contrast, decreases of more than five percentage points were evident at Doomadgee, Lockhart River, Pormpuraaw and Mornington Island State Schools, and Western Cape College – Mapoon.

Note -School attendance rates across all state schools tend to fall through the school year.

<sup>3</sup> Note that semester 2 data are not available for Napranum as the data are incomplete.

**Figure 3: Average Student attendance rate for students enrolled in a state school in the communities of interest, semester 2 2008 (a)**



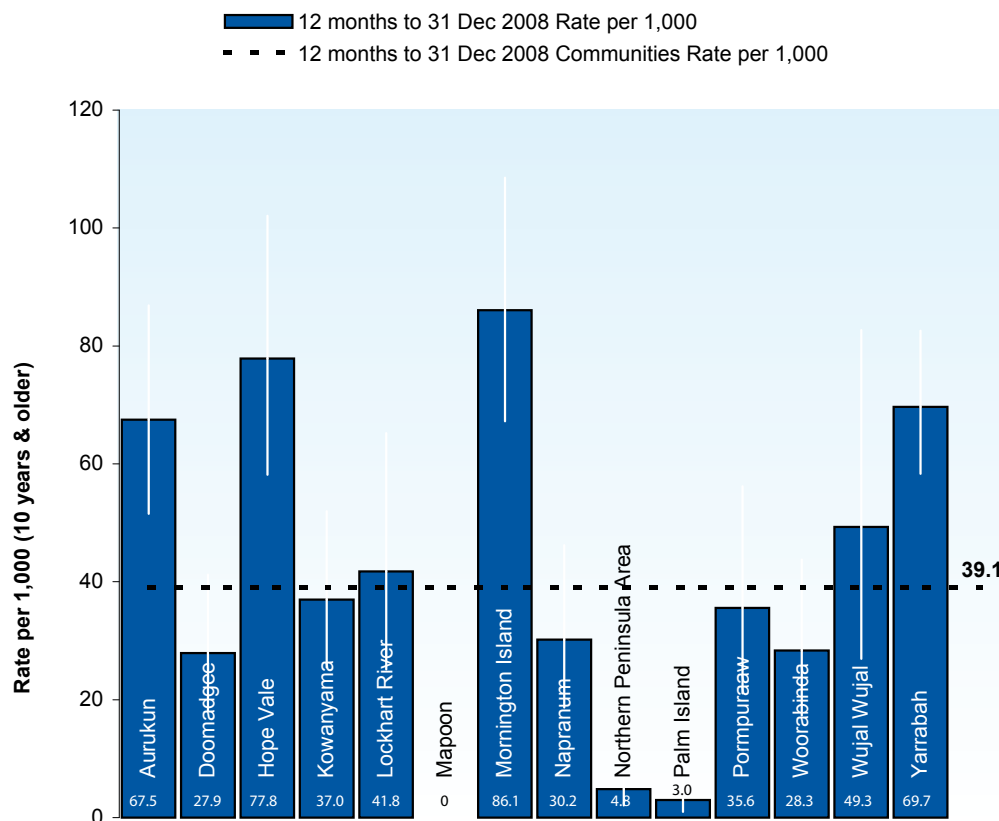
(a) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.  
Source: Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts, unpublished data.

### Persons convicted (breaches of Section 168B of the *Liquor Act 1992*)

During the 12 months to 31 December 2008, conviction rates across the communities for alcohol carriage offences ranged from 0 to 86.1 per 1,000 persons (aged 10 years and over) in Mapoon and Mornington Island respectively. These rates are driven not only by levels of offending within each community, but by reporting behaviour and police activities specifically targeting carriage offences. It should also be noted that persons convicted may not be residents of the community where the offence occurred.

Conviction rates continue to be relatively high in Aurukun, Hope Vale, Yarrabah and Mornington Island. The overall rate of convictions for communities where alcohol restrictions were in place was 39.1 per 1,000 persons (aged 10 years and over). Reduced alcohol carriage limits commenced in Yarrabah, Hope Vale, Doomadgee and Pormpuraaw on 2 January 2009, subsequent to the reported quarter.

**Figure 4: Persons convicted for alcohol carriage offences, rate per 1,000 persons (10 years and over), by community, January 2008 to December 2008 (a), (b)**



Source: Department of Justice and Attorney-General unpublished data

(a) Cherbourg, Coen and Mossman Gorge are not included in these data as the communities are not subject to restrictions under Section 168B of the *Liquor Act 1992*

(b) These data are limited by a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

## Child Safety

### Children subject to a substantiated child protection notification

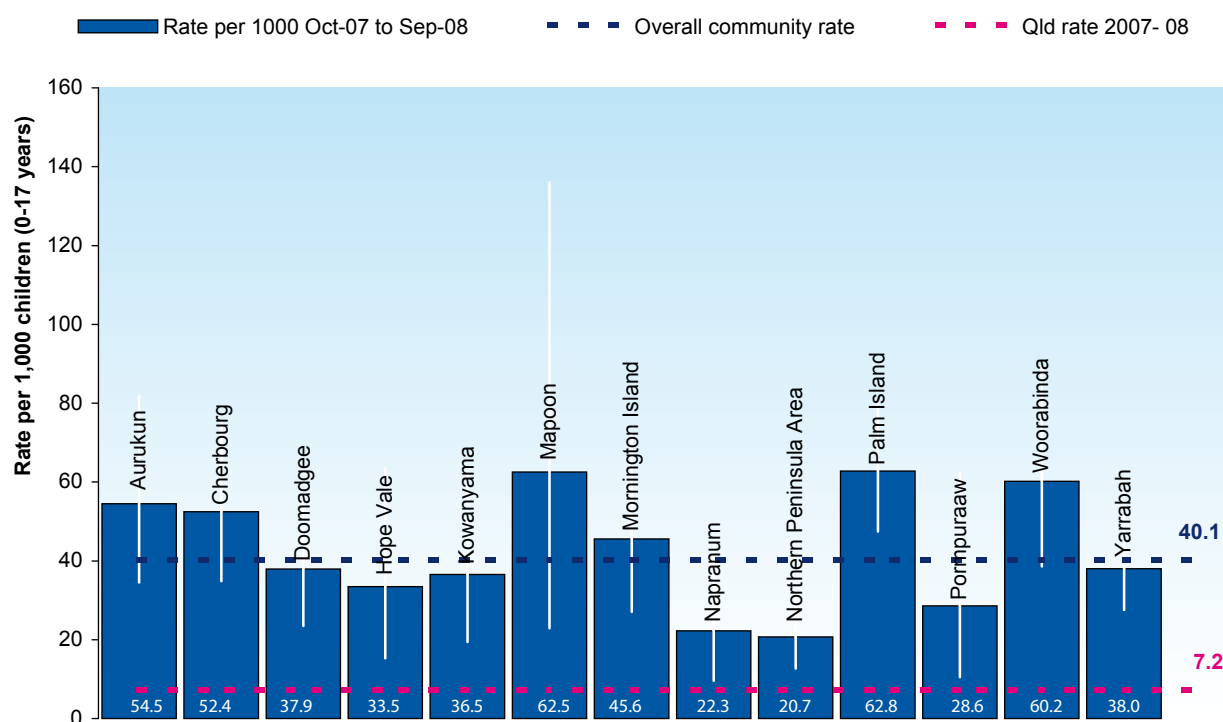
A substantiated child protection notification arises when an investigation and assessment undertaken by the Department of Child Safety finds that a child has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed in the future. These data describe children aged 0 to 17 years subject to a substantiated child protection notification during the period 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008<sup>4</sup> who were resident in a community at the time of the notification.

While data for communities where there were five or fewer substantiated child protection notifications over the time period have been included in the calculation of the overall community rate, they have not been individually graphed (i.e., Coen, Lockhart River, Mossman Gorge, and Wujal Wujal).

Rates of substantiated child protection notifications across the communities varied from zero in Mossman Gorge up to 62.8 per 1,000 children on Palm Island. With the exception of Lockhart River and Wujal Wujal, rates in all communities where substantiated child protection notifications were reported were significantly higher than the Queensland rate of 7.2 per 1,000 children for 2007-08.

<sup>4</sup> Child Safety data have been manually extracted. Annual data to 31 December 2008 are currently unavailable

**Figure 5: Children subject to substantiated child protection notifications, rate per 1,000 children (0-17 years), all communities, October 2007 to September 2008. (a), (b), (c)**



(a) All children who were subject to a notification during the period 1 October 2007 - 30 September 2008 where the investigation resulted in a substantiated outcome, and who were living in the relevant community at the time of the notification

(b) If a child was the subject of more than one substantiated child protection notification in the period, the first substantiation was recorded

(c) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

Source: Queensland Department of Child Safety, unpublished data

## Children subject to a finalised child protection order

In some cases where a child has been harmed or is at unacceptable risk of being harmed and does not have a guardian able to and willing to protect them, the Department of Child Safety will apply to the Childrens Court for a child protection order.

Specifically, the Department will apply for a child protection order in the following circumstances:

- ♦ if parents disagree with the Department about their child or young person being in need of protection
- ♦ if parents are not willing to have contact with the Department to ensure their child or young person's safety
- ♦ if the child or young person's protection and care needs cannot be met while they remain at home.

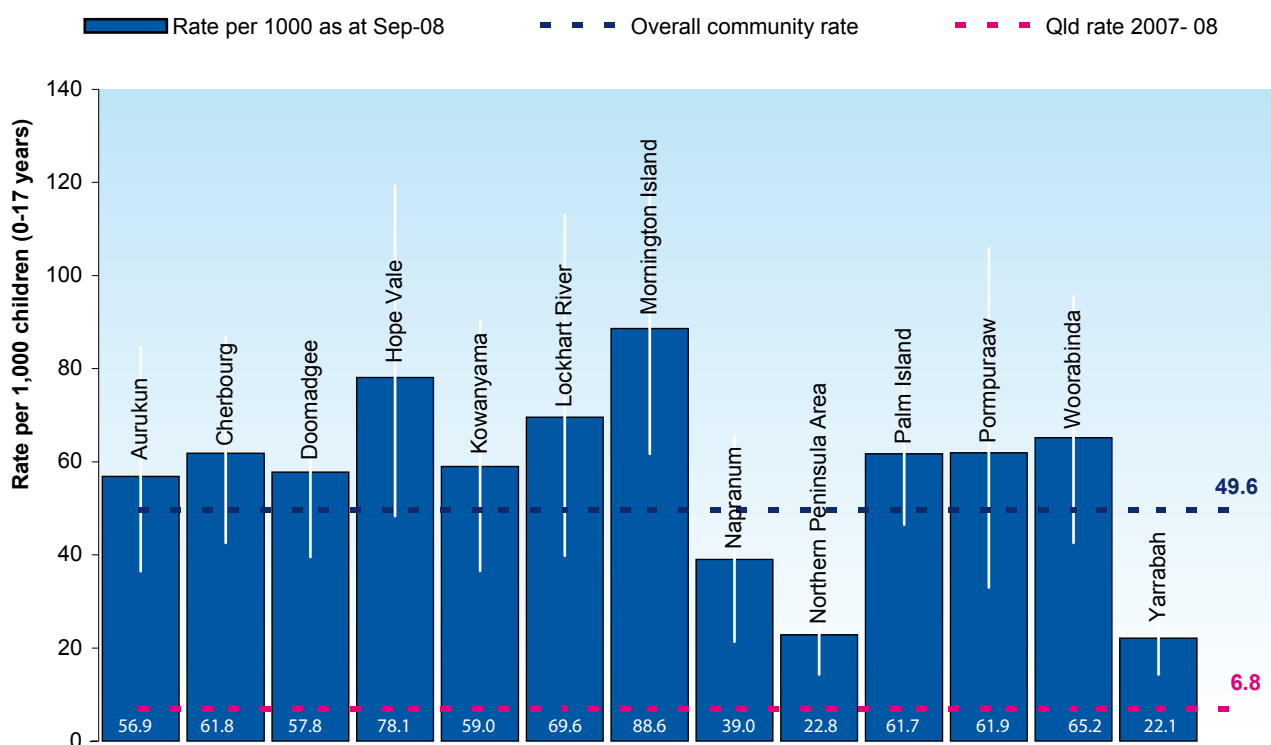
These data describe "Children aged 0 to 17 years subject to a finalised child protection

order" - the total number of children subject to a finalised child protection order as at 30 September 2008.

While data for communities where there were five or fewer child protection orders over the time period have been included in the calculation of the overall community rate, they have not been individually graphed (ie Coen, Mapoon, Mossman Gorge, and Wujal Wujal).

On 30 September 2008, the overall rate of children subject to finalised child protection orders for the Indigenous communities including Mossman Gorge and Coen was 49.6 per 1,000 children (aged 0 to 17 years). This was considerably higher than the Queensland rate of 6.8 per 1,000 children for 2007-08. The rate at which children were subject to a finalised child protection order was significantly lower in Yarrabah (22.1 per 1,000) than in all other communities except the Northern Peninsula Area (22.8 per 1,000) and Napranum (39.0 per 1,000).

**Figure 6: Children subject to finalised child protection orders, rate per 1,000 children (0-17 years), all communities, as at 30 September 2008 (a), (b)**



(a) All children who were subject to a finalised Child Protection Order as at 30 September 2008 and whose family residence was in any of the reference communities at the time the order was made.

(b) These data are limited due to a range of factors. They must be read with reference to the notes at the end of this report.

Source: Queensland Department of Child Safety, unpublished data