

Family Responsibilities Commission

*Report to the Family Responsibilities Board and
The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships*

Quarterly Report

No. 35

January 2017 to March 2017



*Report prepared by the Family Responsibilities Commission under the leadership of
Commissioner David Glasgow*

Executive Summary

Quantified in the table below are the activities undertaken by the Commission during quarter 35 with comparisons shown to the previous quarter.

| Activity | Qtr 34 | Qtr 35 | Movement |
|---|--------|--------|----------|
| Within jurisdiction agency notices received | 1127 | 3693 | ↑ |
| Conferences held | 630 | 604 | ↓ |
| Family Responsibility Agreements entered into | 12 | 6 | ↓ |
| Orders made to attend community support services | 63 | 33 | ↓ |
| Conditional Income Management Orders made | 59 | 79 | ↑ |
| Voluntary Income Management Agreements entered into | 5 | 5 | → |
| Clients case managed | 188 | 187 | ↓ |
| Referrals made | 82 | 44 | ↓ |
| Applications to Amend or End received | 13 | 16 | ↑ |
| Show Cause conferences held | 0 | 0 | → |

Table 1: Activity from 1 October 2016 to 31 March 2017

One of the significant events this quarter was the appointment of the Honourable Mark Furner as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in February, 2017. Subsequently, on 14 February the Legislative Assembly resolved to amend schedule 6 of the Standing Orders which reflect recent Ministerial appointments and associated administrative arrangements. As a result the Commission's oversight Committee transitioned from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

The Commission held its annual Local Coordinator Conference commencing on 17 January. Each year Local Coordinators travel to Cairns prior to the new school year for training and workshop purposes. For the first time the conference was expanded by the attendance of one Local Commissioner from each community. The theme for this year's conference was 'increasing school attendance'. Two reports were delivered from each community, one reflecting identified local issues along with recommended solutions, and one from the school Principal detailing issues affecting their school, priorities set for the 2017 school year, and how they wished the FRC to interact with them to increase the educational experience for their children. Common issues affecting school attendance were discussed as well as building relationships with strategic partners, parents, school staff and the community generally. The support and transition to boarding schools was a common subject of concern across all communities. Reflection was had on the 2016 goals and what was achieved/not achieved during the past year and why.

Guest presenters to the conference included officers from the Housing and Homelessness Service who detailed the key areas of focus to address significant overcrowding, homelessness, poor housing conditions and severe housing shortages in remote Indigenous communities. Officers from Act for Kids, Family and Child Connect addressed the delegates on their framework for connecting families to the right supports at the right time, and explained the Child Protection Guide, an online tool to support community members in deciding which pathway to take when referring or reporting child safety concerns. Further presentations were made by: Apunipima Cape York Health Council on the transition of wellbeing services from the Royal Flying Doctor Service; the Cape York Girl Academy; and CYP Parenting. Training was provided on managing aggressive behaviours and personal safety; preventing or defusing volatile situations and reducing the risks in harmful environments.

Internal human resource and operational policies reviewed this quarter included the Open Data Strategy, the Employee Assistance Policy, the Right to Information Guidelines and the Commission's Induction Manual.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|--------|---|
| CIM | Conditional Income Management |
| DATSIP | Department of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander Partnerships |
| DET | Department of Education and Training |
| DJAG | Department of Justice and Attorney-General |
| DV | Domestic Violence |
| FRA | Family Responsibilities Agreement |
| FRC | Family Responsibilities Commission |
| GYFS | Griffith Youth Forensic Service |
| QPS | Queensland Police Service |
| VIM | Voluntary Income Management |

Also:

Family Responsibilities Commission (the Commission)
Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 (the Act)
Family Responsibilities Commission Registry (the Registry)

Family Responsibilities Commission Welfare Reforms

Report to 31 March 2017.

1. Activities and Trends

Notices

In quarter 35 the Commission received **4,792 agency notices**¹. Some individuals may have been the subject of more than one agency notice. Of that figure 3,693 notices (77 percent) were within the Commission's jurisdiction and 1,099 notices (23 percent) were outside the Commission's jurisdiction.

Within jurisdiction notices comprised of:

| | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 8 | District Court notices |
| 0 | Childrens Court notices |
| 269 | Magistrates Court notices |
| 9 | Domestic Violence Breach notices |
| 42 | Domestic Violence Order notices |
| 3,319 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 33 | Child Safety and Welfare notices |
| 13 | Housing Tenancy notices |

Of the 1,099 notices not within the Commission's jurisdiction, there were 12 District Court notices, 378 Magistrates Court notices, 9 Domestic Violence Breach notices, 52 Domestic Violence Order notices, 645 School Attendance notices, 0 School Enrolment notices, 3 Child Safety and Welfare notices and 0 Housing Tenancy notices.

Details of notices within jurisdiction for each community are set out below:

- **Aurukun's 1,420** notices constitute **38.45 percent** of the total notices in jurisdiction across the welfare reform communities:

| | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | District Court notice |
| 0 | Childrens Court notices |
| 132 | Magistrates Court notices |
| 3 | Domestic Violence Breach notices |
| 14 | Domestic Violence Order notices |
| 1,261 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 9 | Child Safety and Welfare notices |
| 0 | Housing Tenancy notices |

Eleven District Court notices, 103 Magistrates Court notices, 1 Domestic Violence Breach notice, 3 Domestic Violence Order notices and 71 School Attendance notices were processed as not within jurisdiction.

¹ Counting rules are that an agency notice is counted on the basis of number of 'clients' on the notice. For example a child safety and welfare notice relating to two parents is counted as two notices.

- **Coen's 54** notices constitute **1.46 percent** of the total notices in jurisdiction:

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 0 | District Court notices |
| 0 | Childrens Court notices |
| 16 | Magistrates Court notices |
| 1 | Domestic Violence Breach notice |
| 4 | Domestic Violence Order notices |
| 28 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 5 | Child Safety and Welfare notices |
| 0 | Housing Tenancy notices |

Fourteen Magistrates Court notices, 2 Domestic Violence Order notices and 2 School Attendance notices were processed as not within jurisdiction.

- **Doomadgee's 1,685** notices constitute **45.63 percent** of the total notices in jurisdiction:

| | |
|-------|----------------------------------|
| 1,680 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 5 | Child Safety and Welfare notices |

Five hundred and fifty-eight School Attendance notices and 2 Child Safety and Welfare notices were processed as not within jurisdiction.

- **Hope Vale's 479** notices constitute **12.97 percent** of the total notices in jurisdiction:

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 4 | District Court notices |
| 0 | Childrens Court notices |
| 94 | Magistrates Court notices |
| 5 | Domestic Violence Breach notices |
| 18 | Domestic Violence Order notices |
| 342 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 13 | Child Safety and Welfare notices |
| 3 | Housing Tenancy notices |

One District Court notices, 106 Magistrates Court notices, 18 Domestic Violence Order notices, 14 School Attendance notices and 1 Child Safety and Welfare notice were processed as not within jurisdiction.

- **Mossman Gorge's 55** notices constitute **1.49 percent** of the total notices in jurisdiction:

| | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 3 | District Court notices |
| 0 | Childrens Court notices |
| 27 | Magistrates Court notices |
| 0 | Domestic Violence Breach notices |
| 6 | Domestic Violence Order notices |
| 8 | School Attendance notices |
| 0 | School Enrolment notices |
| 1 | Child Safety and Welfare notice |
| 10 | Housing Tenancy notices |

One hundred and fifty-five Magistrates Court notices, 8 Domestic Violence Breach notices and 29 Domestic Violence Order notices were processed as not within jurisdiction.

Since its commencement the Commission has received 31,576 agency notices within its jurisdiction. Total notices increased from 1,975 in quarter 34 to 4,792 in quarter 35. Of those notices in jurisdiction, District Court, Domestic Violence Order, School Enrolment and Child Safety and Welfare notices decreased, whilst Magistrates Court, Domestic Violence Breach, School Attendance and Housing Tenancy notices increased.

District Court notices decreased this quarter to 8 from 42 received in the previous quarter. Aurukun decreased by 32 notices and Hope Vale decreased by 5 notices, whilst Mossman Gorge increased by 3 notices for the quarter. Coen remained unchanged, with zero notices received for the quarter. The Commission does not receive District Court notices for Doomadgee.

Effective from 1 July 2016 the *Youth Justice Act 1992* was amended by the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Act (No. 1) 2016* and *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Act (No. 2) 2016* prohibiting the publication of identifying information about all children dealt with under the Youth Justice Act. The effect of the amendments is that notices are unable to be provided to the Commission, as publication of identifying information is prohibited under s301 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992*.

Magistrates Court notices increased this quarter to 269 from 224 received in the previous quarter. Three out of the four communities which have the Magistrates Court trigger, experienced an increase in notices this quarter. Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge increased by 7, 44 and 13 notices respectively, whilst Aurukun decreased by 19 notices. The Commission does not receive Magistrates Court notices for Doomadgee.

Domestic Violence Breach notices increased from 7 in quarter 34 to 9 in quarter 35. Aurukun and Hope Vale increased by 1 notice and 4 notices respectively, whilst Coen and Mossman Gorge decreased by 1 notice and 2 notices respectively. The Commission does not receive Domestic Violence Breach notices for Doomadgee.

Domestic Violence Order notices decreased from 50 in quarter 34 to 42 in quarter 35. Coen and Hope Vale increased by 2 notices each, whilst Aurukun decreased by 12 notices. Mossman Gorge remained unchanged with 6 notices received for the quarter. The Commission does not receive Domestic Violence Order notices for Doomadgee.

School Attendance notices increased from 720 in quarter 34 to 3,319 in quarter 35. Three out of the five communities which have the School Attendance trigger experienced an increase in notices this quarter. Aurukun, Doomadgee and Hope Vale increased by 1,029 notices, 1,398 notices and 176 notices respectively, whilst Coen decreased by 4 notices and Mossman Gorge remained unchanged with 8 notices received for the quarter. The significant increase in the number of school attendance notices received was due to the changed reporting process of school absences by the Department of Education and Training to the Commission. This change resulted in the Commission receiving a notification each time the three day unexplained absence threshold was reached for a student, in contrast to previous years where a report was received only once in a term when the first three days of absence was reached.

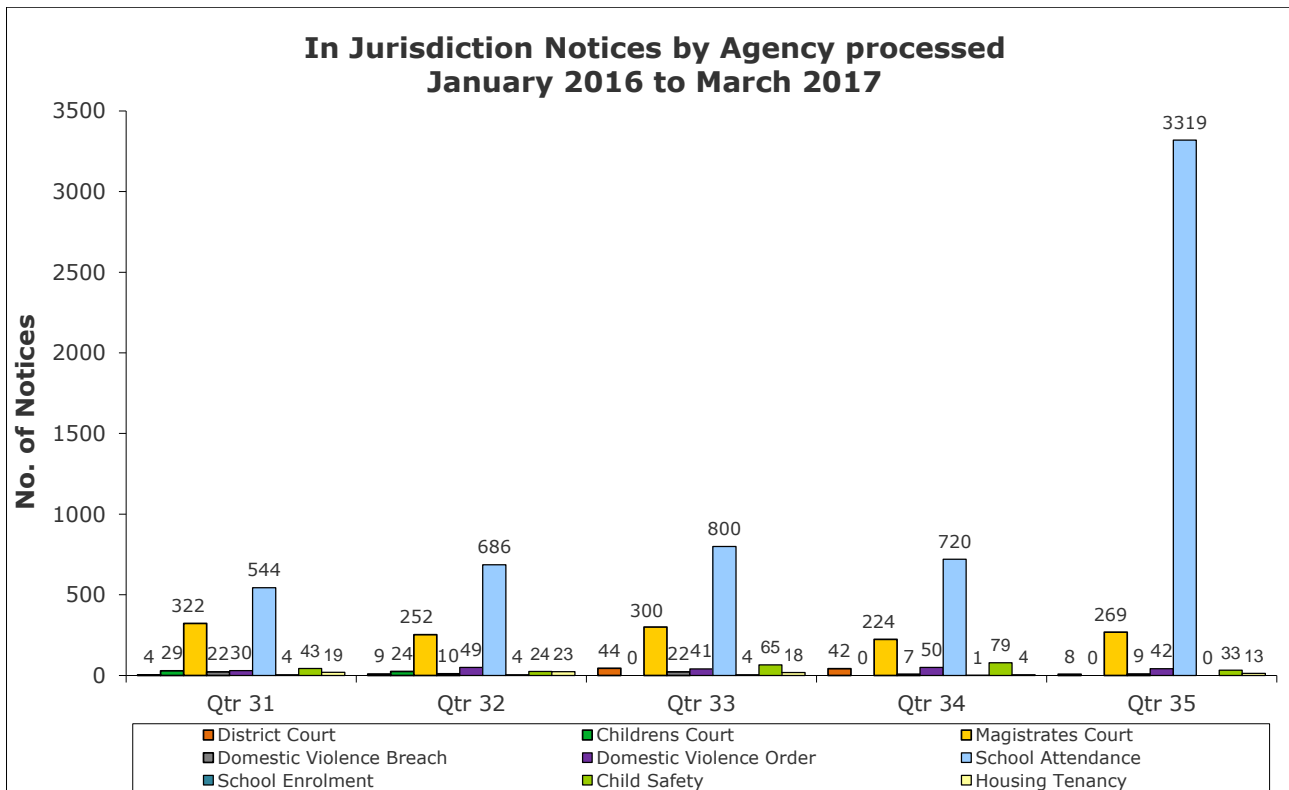
School Enrolment notices decreased from 1 in quarter 34 to 0 in quarter 35 with Aurukun decreasing by 1 notice.

Child Safety and Welfare notices decreased from 79 in quarter 34 to 33 in quarter 35. Four out of the five communities which have the Child Safety and Welfare trigger experienced a decrease in notices this quarter. Aurukun and Mossman Gorge decreased by 31 notices and 4 notices

respectively, whilst Coen and Doomadgee decreased by 6 notices each. Hope Vale increased by 1 notice for the quarter.

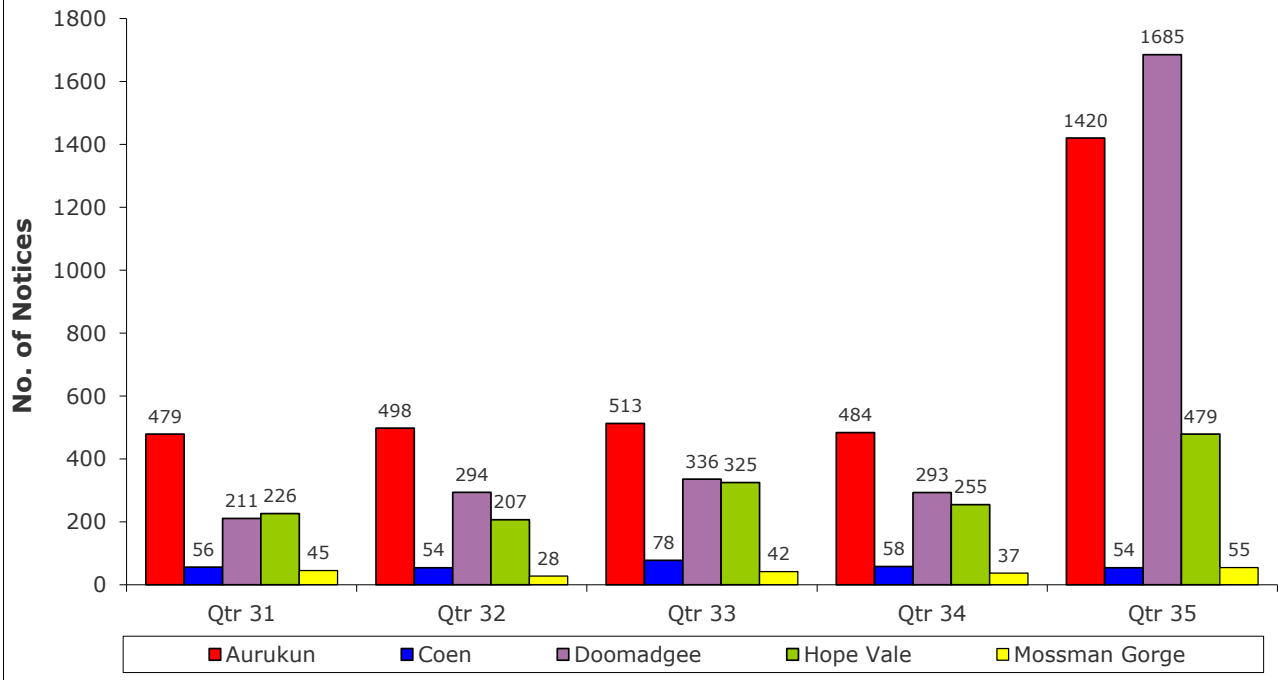
Housing Tenancy notices increased to 13 from 4 received in the previous quarter. Coen decreased by 1 notice, whilst Hope Vale increased by 2 notices and Mossman Gorge increased by 8 notices. Aurukun remained unchanged with zero notices received for the quarter. The Commission does not receive Housing Tenancy notices for Doomadgee.

The Commission receives school attendance data from the Department of Education and Training (DET). This data is published on the Commission’s web page at <http://www.frcq.org.au> when available.



Graph 1: In jurisdiction notices by type and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

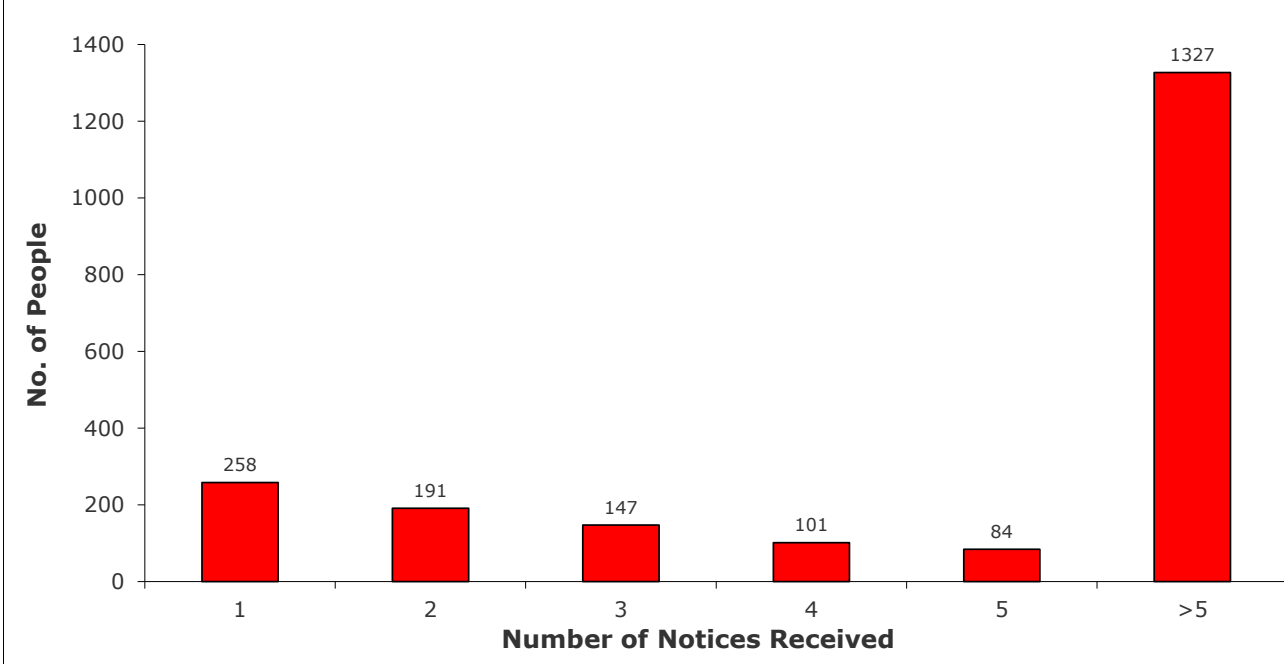
In Jurisdiction Notices by Community January 2016 to March 2017



Graph 2: In jurisdiction notices by community and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Since commencement in July 2008, 87.8 percent of clients have received more than one notice with 63.0 percent of clients receiving more than five notices. Frequently this illustrates multiple child school absences for the one family or multiple Magistrates Court notices relating to one incident. Conversely, 12.2 percent of clients have received only one notice.

Clients by Number of Notices Received July 2008 to March 2017



Graph 3: FRC clients by number of notices 1 July 2008 to 31 March 2017.

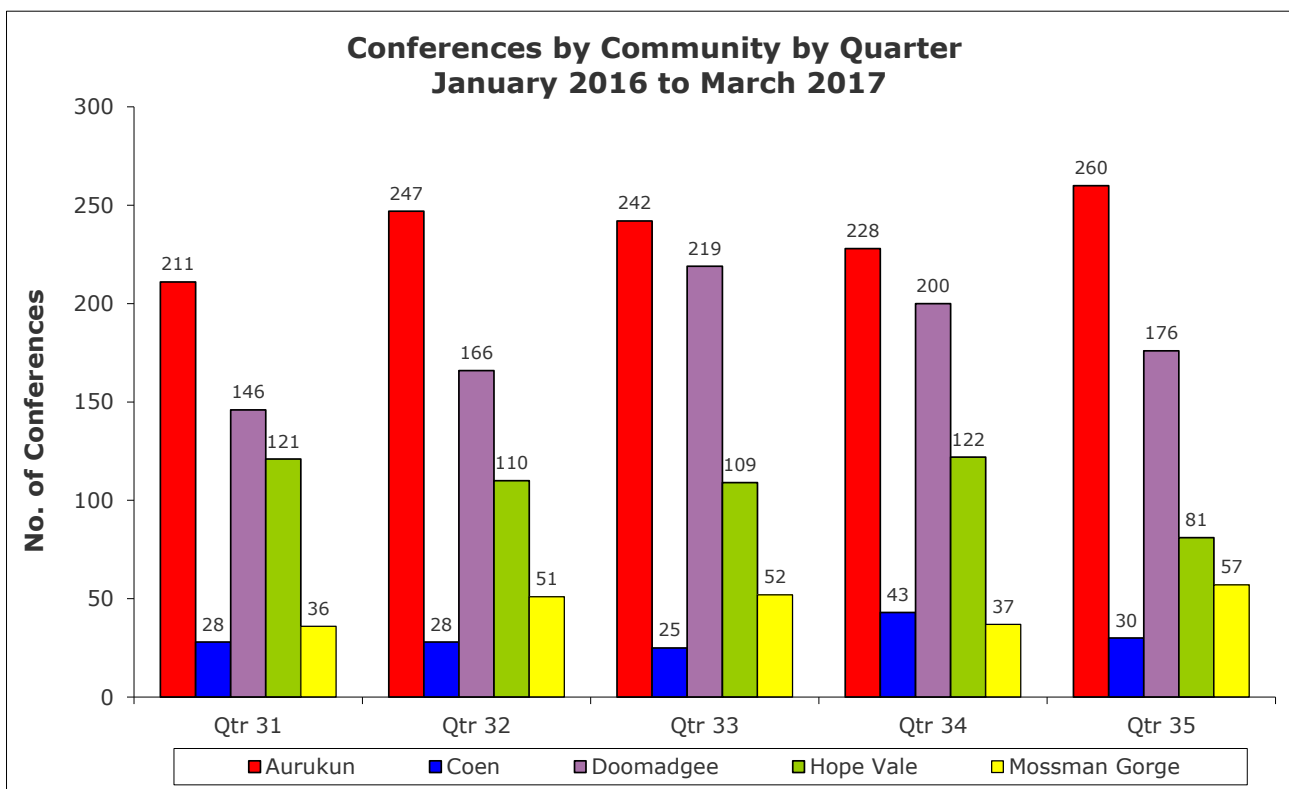
(Note: Counting rules stipulate that where multiple charges are received each charge is counted as an individual notice or each child's absence is counted as one notice – i.e. if three children from the one family were absent, that was counted as three notices).

Conferences

Six hundred and four conferences² were held across the five communities in quarter 35 resulting in 6 FRA's being entered into, 33 orders made to attend community support services and 79 CIM orders. Other outcomes as a result of conferencing during the quarter were decisions for no further action, rescheduling and scheduling to return for review with compliance. Sixty new clients were added to the Commission's database during the quarter. Details of conferencing activity in each community for quarter 35 are as follows:

- 260 conferences were held in Aurukun
- 30 conferences were held in Coen
- 176 conferences were held in Doomadgee
- 81 conferences were held in Hope Vale
- 57 conferences were held in Mossman Gorge.

Conferences decreased from 630 in quarter 34 to 604 in quarter 35.

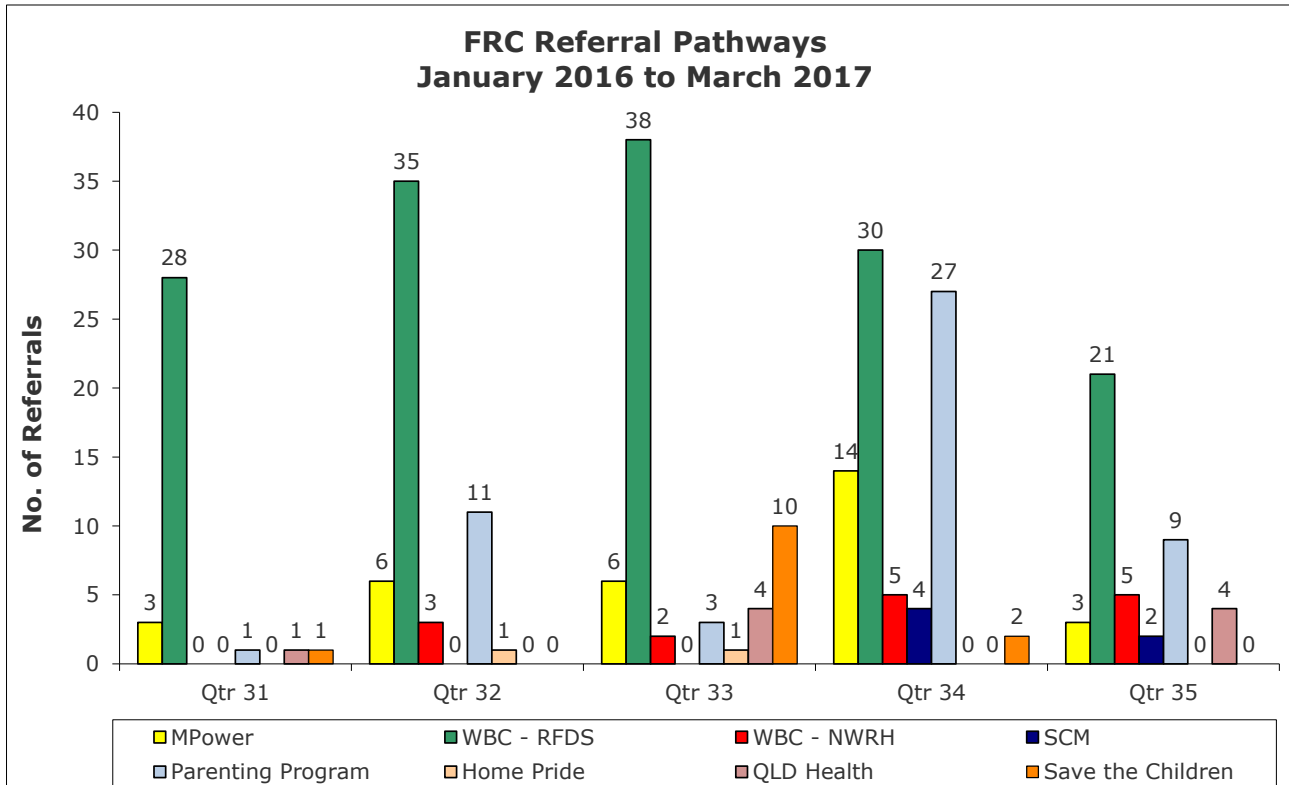


Graph 4: Conferences by community and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

² The number of conferences held relates to the number of conferences listed, which includes where a client was served with a Notice to Attend Conference and subsequently failed to attend.

Referrals

The number of referrals to service providers decreased from 82 in quarter 34 to 44 in quarter 35, relating to 34 clients. Since commencement the Commission has referred 965 clients to service providers resulting in approximately 45.3 percent of clients on 12 month service referral plans. Referrals in the communities during the quarter were as follows: Aurukun decreased by 23; Coen decreased by 14; Doomadgee decreased by 2; Hope Vale decreased by 10 and Mossman Gorge increased by 11.



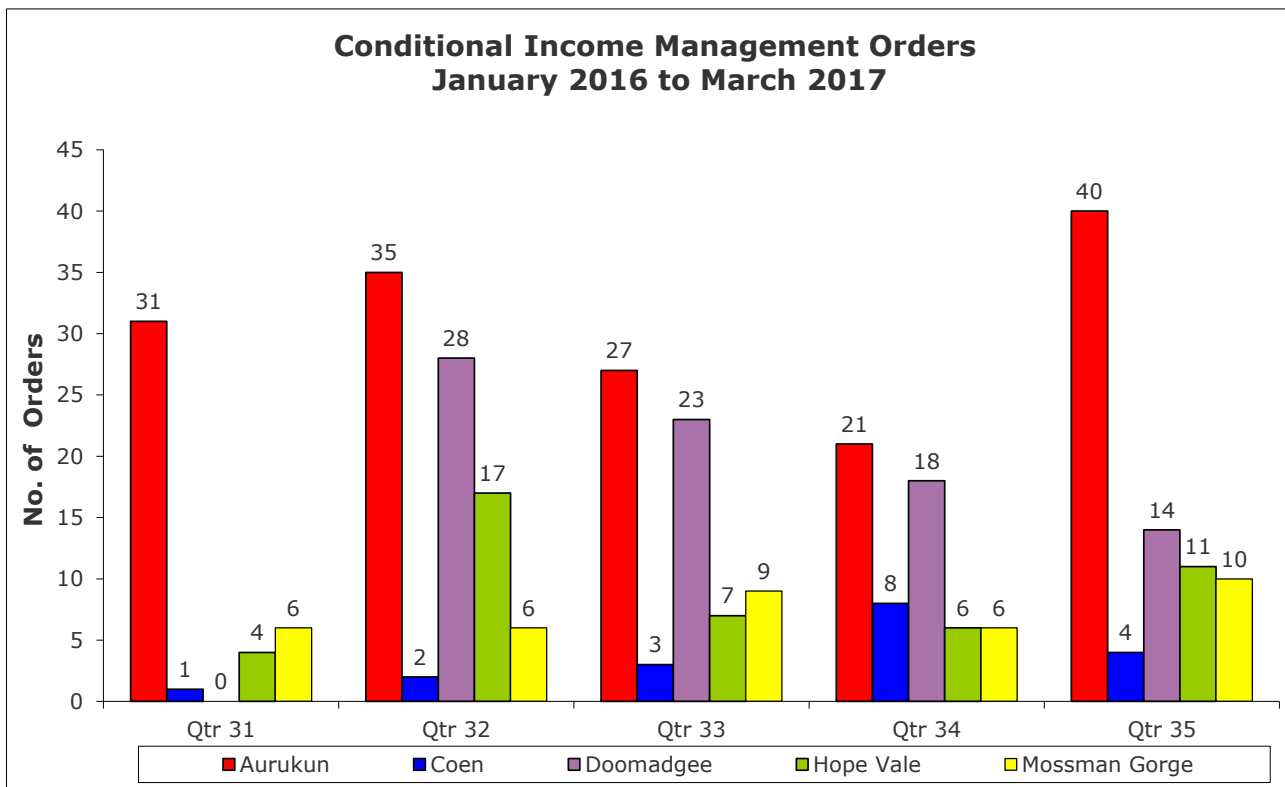
Graph 5: Referral pathways by referral type and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Conditional Income Management

Seventy-nine CIM orders were made in quarter 35, an increase of 20 from quarter 34. Since the commencement of the Commission 2,064 CIM orders inclusive of original orders, extensions and amendments have been made relating to 805 clients. Further activity during the quarter is as follows: Aurukun, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge increased by 19, 5 and 4 CIM orders respectively, whilst Coen and Doomadgee decreased by 4 CIM orders each.

As at 31 March 2017, 37.8 percent of the Commission's clients have been subject to a CIM order over the past eight and a three quarter years. As at 31 March 2017 there were 180 clients subject to a CIM order which equates to 8.5 percent of clients on a CIM order at a point in time. Commissioners continue to negotiate with clients to achieve desirable outcomes or to demonstrate motivation and commitment to make appropriate life choices. Demonstrated positive steps toward taking responsibility provide the Commissioners with sufficient reason to consider revoking CIM orders when requested by the client.

The Commission processed 5 VIM agreements this quarter and since the commencement of the Commission in 2008, 120 clients have requested a VIM agreement. Those clients that request a VIM agreement use income management as a savings and budget tool, often for a specified period and to deter family members from accessing their income.



Graph 6: Conditional Income Management orders by community and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Case Management

As at 31 March 2017, 187 clients were being case-managed, a decrease from 188 in quarter 34. Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge each increased by 1, whilst Aurukun decreased by 1 and Doomadgee decreased by 3.

Show Cause Notices

During quarter 35, and similar to the past four quarters, no Show Cause hearings have been held.

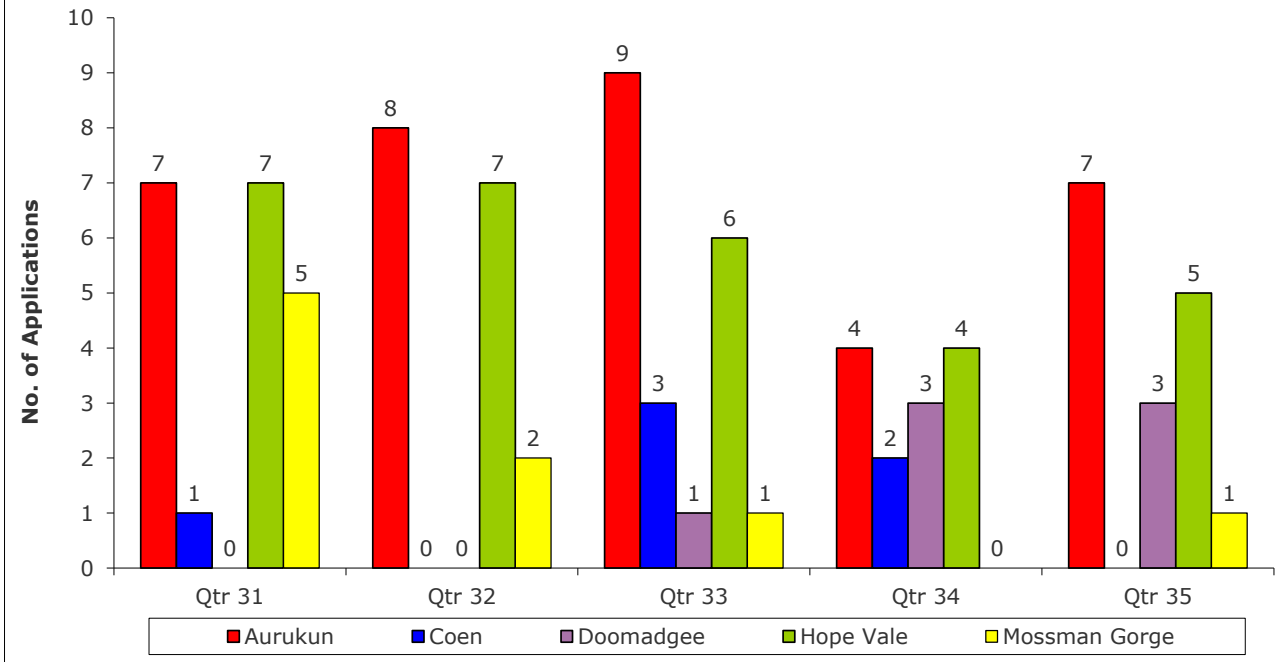
Applications to Amend or End Agreements or Orders

Sixteen Applications to Amend or End a Family Responsibilities Agreement or Order were received in quarter 35, an increase of 3 from quarter 34. Outcomes of the 16 applications received are as follows:

- 12 Applications granted and Income Management agreements and orders revoked
- 1 CIM order percentage decreased from 90 to 75 percent for the remaining period of the existing order
- 1 CIM order percentage decreased from 90 to 60 percent for the remaining period of the existing order
- 1 Application dismissed
- 1 Application received at the end of the quarter, decision pending.

The Commission continues to encourage clients to participate in the Amend or End process. Commissioners report increasing client confidence to question decisions and the reasons behind decisions, both for decisions delivered by the Commission and decisions delivered by external agencies and bodies.

Number of Applications to Amend or End FRA or Order January 2016 to March 2017



Graph 7: Applications to Amend or End FRA or Order by community and quarter 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

2. Future Direction and Challenges

Transition of wellbeing services

Quarter 35 saw the gradual transition of wellbeing services in the Welfare Reform communities from the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) to Apunipima Cape York Health Council. At the end of March (in line with the official handover) quarterly summaries were provided by the RFDS for all Commission clients to facilitate continuing support services through Apunipima. Apunipima representatives advised at a meeting on 17 March that as part of the consultation process conducted for the transition of wellbeing services, community members were asked which programs they would like to see offered to their community members. The first round of three monthly reports on the progress of clients with case plans transferred to Apunipima will be due to be provided to the Commission in June which should provide information in relation to the level of engagement with Commission clients for quarter 36.

Provision of school attendance data

The provision of school attendance reports since January 2017 has presented a major challenge for the Commission. The Department of Education and Training (DET) advised that the previous Access database used by DET to provide the school attendance reports was administered and maintained by a staff member no longer with DET. Further, DET advised that all reports must be sourced and produced from the OneSchool database. Unfortunately the reports generated for the 2017 school year were not in the format previously provided and were not in a format which could be uploaded directly to the Commission's CRM database. The upload of this data provides the EQ notices from which the Commission can legally conference a client who is not sending their child to school according to the provisions of the *Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008* (FRC Act).

The changes to the way DET report school absences has resulted in the Commission receiving a notification each time the three day unexplained absence threshold is reached. This is in contrast to previous years where a report was received only once the first three day absence in a term was reached. The additional notifications have resulted in a significant increase in workload as notifications increased from 544 in quarter 31 (Term 1 of 2016), to 3,319 in quarter 35 (Term 1 of 2017). Having not received any prior advice of anticipated changes to DET reporting, the Commission was left in the position of having to complete administrative processes for all notifications within the timeframes determined by the conference sittings calendar. Processes were further complicated by multiple notifications received for a child in a term, resulting in changes having to be made to the CRM database and to administrative procedures to deal with the additional reports.

The manual process of DET extracting data from OneSchool has led to some errors in reporting which questions the veracity of the information provided, and raises concerns in relation to decisions made in conference based on the data provided. Further administrative checks and changes to the CRM database have been implemented to deal with errors such as duplication in absence dates.

As stated, the Commission has implemented in-house resolutions to mitigate the challenges presented by the new school attendance reports, however, prior to 2017 the Commission was provided with weekly reports on the weekly and term to date attendance of all students enrolled at the relevant schools. The process provided historical and up to date records on a child's attendance at school and enabled Commissioners to track and monitor attendance percentages over time, particularly following decisions made at conference. The data was also used to generate graphs, providing a visual display of attendance, which were presented to clients in conference. The Commission was advised that from January 2017 these reports would no longer be provided. To obtain this information the Commission is now required to contact the school directly and request

attendance details specifically for the children of clients who are listed for conference. Unfortunately the use of visual aids in the conferencing process has had to be discontinued.

Domestic and family violence support services

As reported previously, the Wellbeing Centres advised from the commencement of the DVO/DVB referrals that they had minimal capacity to deal with these referrals and since that time no additional funding or expansion of services has been provided to cater for these referrals in the Welfare Reform communities. Recommendation 2 of the Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee Report No 9, released in November 2015, charged that appropriate domestic and family violence specific support services were to be made available to the Commission to refer community members to following a conference.

Youth Justice (Childrens Court) trigger

The FRC Act was amended on 27 October 2014 to include a new Youth Justice 'trigger' requiring notices to be provided to the FRC regarding convictions of a child in a court. The explanatory notes accompanying the amending Bill provide:

The inclusion of the youth justice trigger aims to ensure greater parental/carer responsibility for the young person's offending behaviour and reduce the current trajectory of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people from youth detention into the adult criminal justice system. A court would be required to notify the FRC when a child is convicted, to enable the FRC to request conferencing with the community members who are the parents or carers of the child.

The *Youth Justice Act 1992* (YJ Act) was amended by the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Act (No.1) 2016* and the *Youth Justice and Other Legislation Act (No.2) 2016*. One of the key policy changes to be effected by these amendments was to prohibit the publication of identifying information about all children dealt with under the YJ Act. The amending Acts removed the discretion to make a publication prohibition order, expanding the prohibition against publishing identifying information to all children appearing before the court, not just first-time offenders. There is no obligation for the Childrens Court to provide notices to the Commission if the publication of identifying information is prohibited under the YJ Act. As of 1 July 2016, publication of *all* identifying information of children appearing before the court is prohibited under s301 of the YJ Act.

Discussions held with the State Government reveal there is no intention to legislate to provide Youth Justice notices to the Commission. Commissioners will, however, continue to assist families and carers who fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission, *if and when* they seek support and assistance with children in their care who have been before the Childrens Court.

3. Financial Operations

Governance

Part 12 of the Act provides for the establishment of the Family Responsibilities Board (the Board).

The Board has a mandate to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister about the operation of the Commission and similarly to give advice and make recommendations to the Commissioner about the performance of the Commission's functions.

The Board must meet at least every six months. The meeting may be held by using any technology available which will allow for efficient and effective communication, however, the Board members must meet in person at least once a year. A quorum for the Board is comprised of two members. The Board's membership consists of the following members:

- Ms Clare O'Connor Director-General, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
- Mr Noel Pearson Founder, Cape York Partnership as the Executive Chairman, representing Cape York Institute.
- Mr Troy Sloan First Assistant Secretary, Indigenous Affairs, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Operational

In meeting obligations under Part 3 of the Act, the Family Responsibilities Commission Registry (the Registry) commenced operations on 1 July 2008 with a central Registry office established in Cairns and local Registry offices operating in each of the five welfare reform communities.

The Registry, managed by the Registrar, provides corporate and operational support to the Commissioner, the Local Commissioners and the Local Coordinators.

Financial

Income:

- Income received by the Commission for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 totalled \$1,020,502. This income consisted of:
 - \$407,500 Queensland Government funding
 - \$156,500 Queensland Government
 - \$450,000 Australian Government funding
 - \$2,983 interest received
 - \$3,519 received in sundry income.

The balance of available funds in the bank as at 31 March 2017 is \$1,796,681.

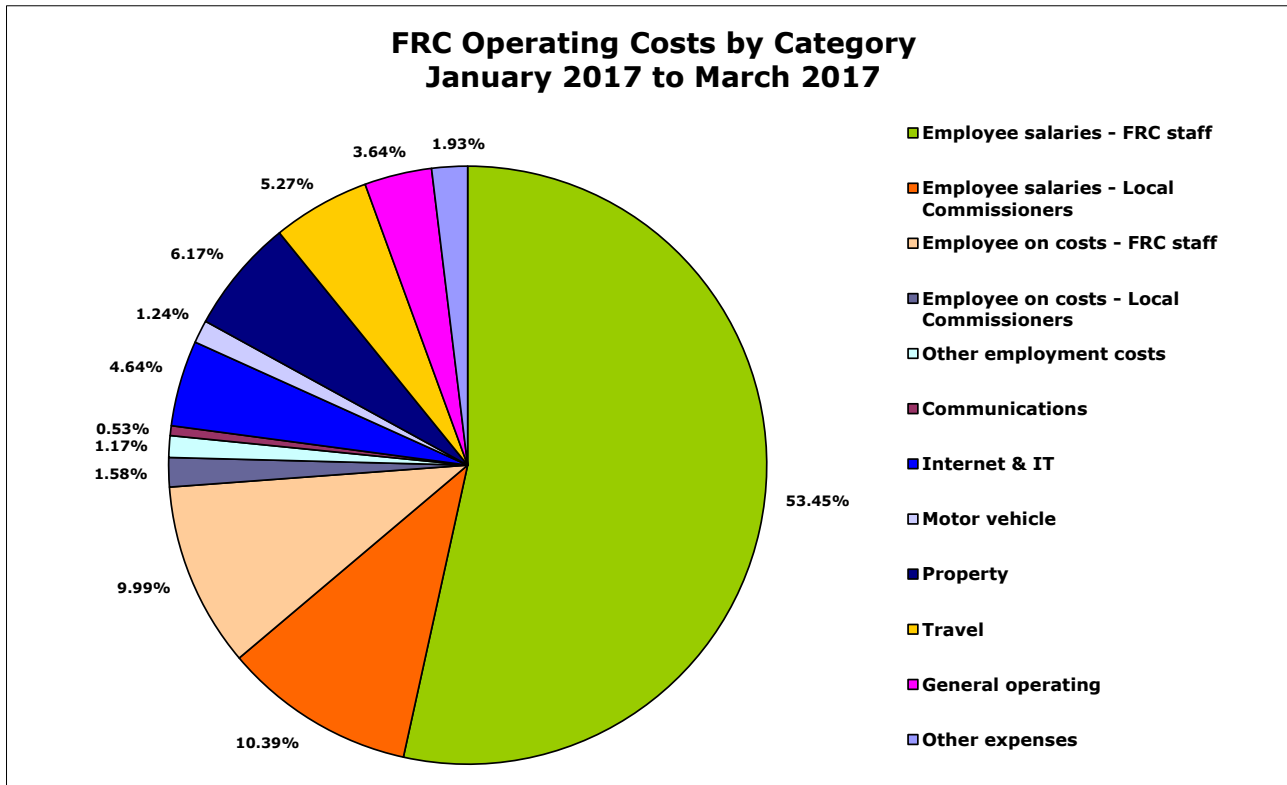
Expenditure:

- Expenditure for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 was \$919,039. This total represents 22 percent of the projected annual expenditure of \$4,253,232.

| 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 | Expenditure Qtr 35 | 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017 | Expenditure Qtr 35 |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Employee salaries – FRC staff | \$491,214 | Internet & IT | \$42,678 |
| Employee salaries – Local Commissioners | \$95,450 | Motor vehicle | \$11,404 |
| Employee on costs – FRC staff | \$91,796 | Property | \$56,663 |
| Employee on costs – Local Commissioners | \$14,562 | Travel | \$48,393 |
| Other employment costs | \$10,774 | General operating | \$33,479 |
| Communications | \$4,908 | Other expenses | \$17,718 |
| | | Total | \$919,039 |

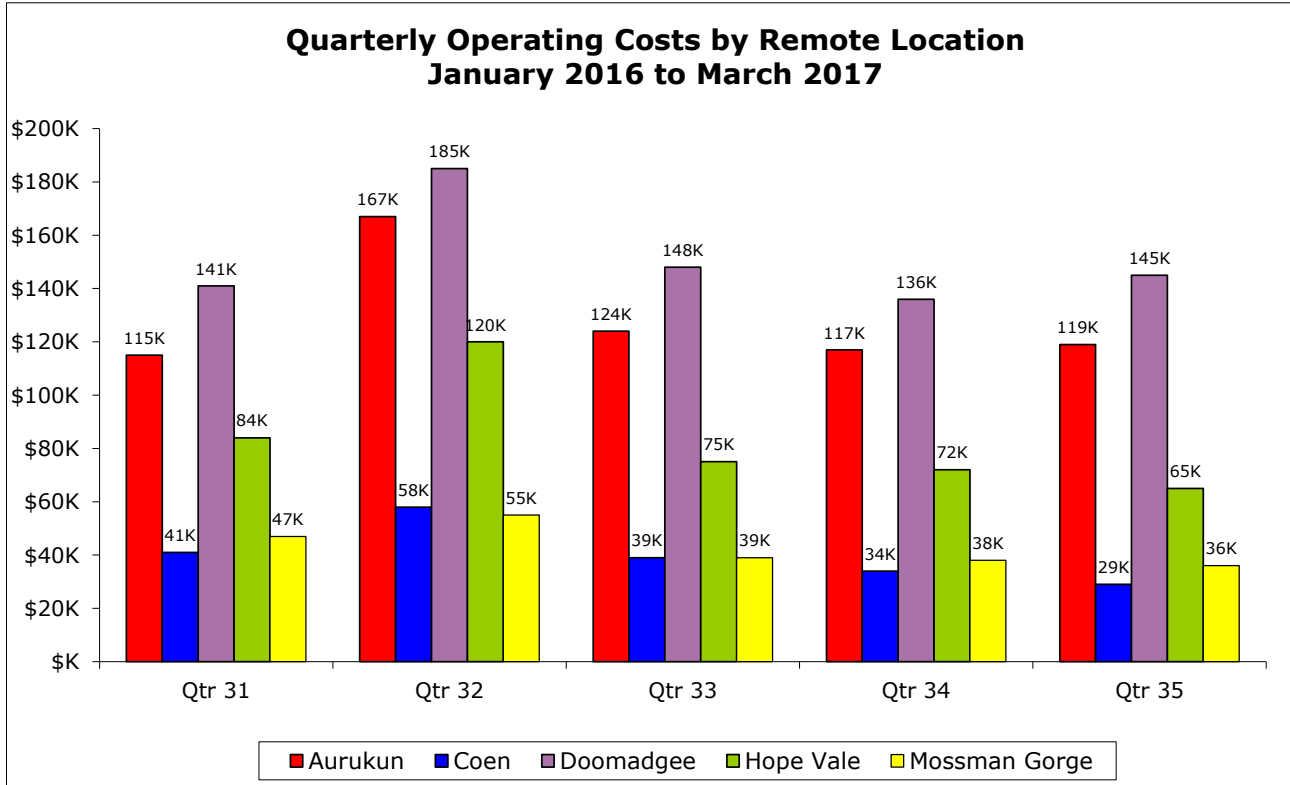
Table 2: Expenditure in quarter 35.

Quarter 35 disbursement of expenditure by category and percentage of total expenditure.



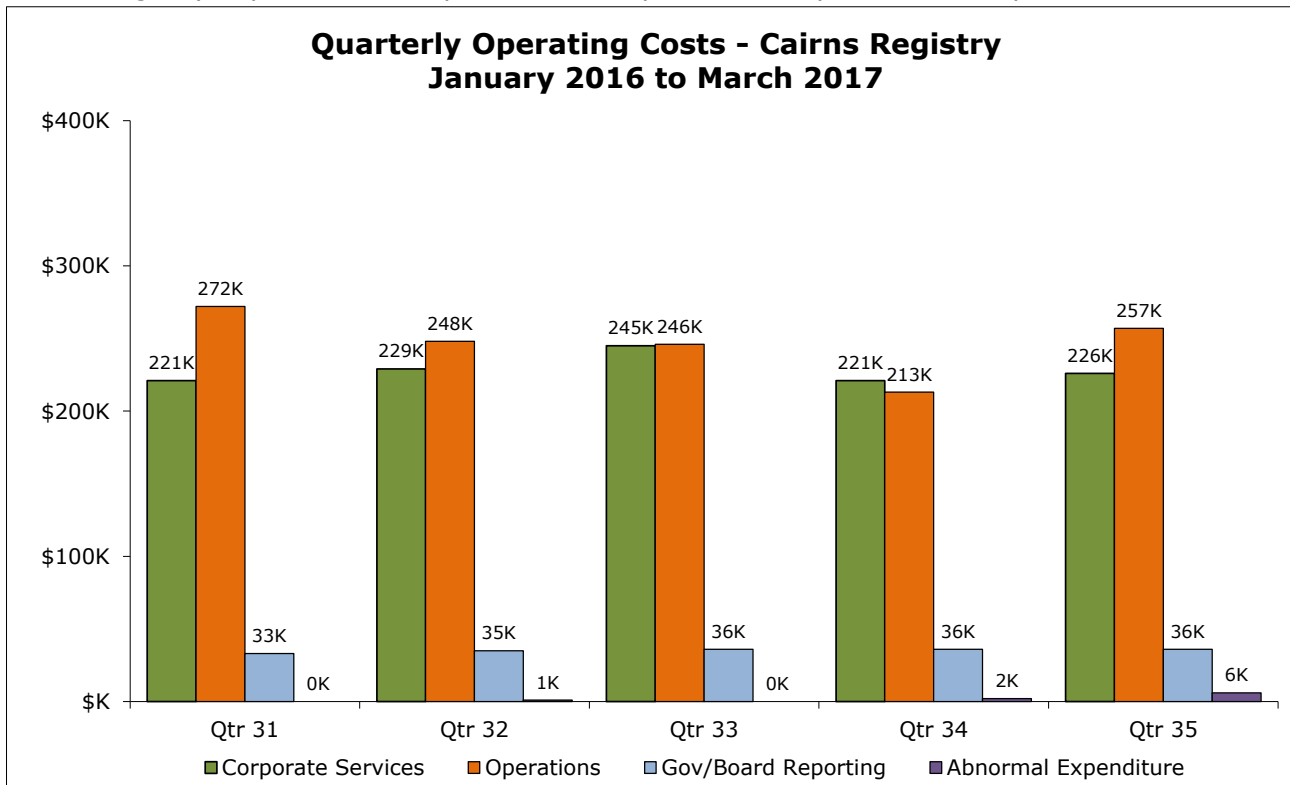
Graph 8: FRC operating costs 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2017

Regional operational expenditure by location and quarter.



Graph 9: Operating costs by remote location 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

Cairns Registry expenditure for quarter 35 compared to the previous four quarters.



Graph 10: Quarterly operating costs Cairns 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

APPENDIX A



**SITTING CALENDAR 2017
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION
1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017**



| Week Beginning | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Other |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 2 January | Public Holiday | | | | | 2 New Year's Day |
| 9 January | | | | | | Cooktown Circuit |
| 16 January | | | | | | Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 23 January | | 24 | 25 | | | 26 Australia Day |
| | | 24 | 25 | Public Holiday | | |
| | | 24 | | | | |
| 30 January | | 31 | | | | |
| | | 31 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 6 February | | 7 | 8 | | | Cooktown Circuit |
| | | 7 | | | | |
| | | 7 | | | | |
| 13 February | | 14 | 15 | 16 | | Aurukun Cape B Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 20 February | | 21 | 22 | | | 21 ASC Meeting |
| | | 21 | | | | |
| | | 21 | | | | |
| 27 February | | 28 | 1 | 2 | | |
| 6 March | | 7 | 8 | | | Cooktown Circuit |
| | | 7 | | | | |
| | | 7 | | | | |
| 13 March | | 14 | | | | Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| | | 14 | 15 | 16 | | |
| 20 March | | 21 | 22 | | | 21 ASC Meeting |
| | | 21 | | | | |
| | | 21 | | | | |
| 27 March | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |
| 3 April | | | | | | Cooktown Circuit |
| 10 April | | | | | Public Holiday | 14 Good Friday Aurukun Cape B Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 17 April | Public Holiday | 18 | 19 | 20 | | 17 Easter Monday 18 ASC Meeting |
| | | | 19 | 20 | | |
| 24 April | | Public Holiday | 26 | 27 | | 25 Anzac Day 28 FR & WRA Board Meetings |
| | | | | 27 | | |
| 1 May | Public Holiday | | | | | 1 Labour Day Commissioner Development Week Cooktown Circuit |

SITTING CALENDAR 2017
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION
1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| Week Beginning | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Other |
|----------------|--------|----------------|-----------|----------|----------------|---|
| 8 May | | 9 9 9 | 10 | | | Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 15 May | 15 | | 17 | 18 | | 16 ASC Meeting Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit |
| 22 May | | 23 23 23 | 24 | | | |
| 29 May | | 30 30 | 31 | 1 | | 2 Mabo Day |
| 5 June | | 6 6 6 | 7 | | | Cooktown Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 12 June | | 13 | 14 | 15 | | Aurukun Cape B Circuit |
| 19 June | | 20 20 20 | 21 | | | 20 ASC Meeting |
| 26 June | | | | | | |
| 3 July | | | | | | Cooktown Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 10 July | | 11 11 | 12 | 13 | | Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit |
| 17 July | | 18 18 18 | 19 | | Public Holiday | Estimates 18-21 July and 25-27 July 21 Cairns Show Day 18 & 19 ASC Meeting |
| 24 July | | 25 | 26 | 27 | | 24 Mossman Show 28 Cooktown Show and Coen Public Holiday 28 July FR & WRA Board Meeting |
| 31 July | | 1 1 1 | 2 | | Public Holiday | 4 Aurukun Day Cooktown Circuit |
| 7 August | | 8 | 9 | 10 | | Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 14 August | | 15 15 15 | 16 | | | 15 ASC Meeting Aurukun Cape B Circuit |
| 21 August | | 22 22 | 23 | 24 | Public Holiday | 25 Doomadgee Day |
| 28 August | | 29 29 29 | 30 | | | |

SITTING CALENDAR 2017
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION
1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

| Week Beginning | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Other |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| 4 September | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | Cooktown Circuit |
| 11 September | | 12 12 12 | 13 | | | 12 ASC Meeting Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 18 September | | | | | | |
| 25 September | | | | | | |
| 2 October | Public Holiday | 3 3 | 4 | 5 | | 2 Queens Birthday Cooktown Circuit |
| 9 October | | 10 10 10 | 11 | 12 | | Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 16 October | | 17 17 17 | 18 | | | Aurukun Cape B Circuit |
| 23 October | 23 | | 25 | 26 | | 24 ASC Meeting 27 FR & WRA Board Meetings |
| 30 October | | 31 31 31 | 1 | | | |
| 6 November | | 7 | 8 | 9 | | Cooktown Circuit |
| 13 November | | 14 14 14 | 15 | | | Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 20 November | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | | 21 ASC Meeting |
| 27 November | | 28 28 28 | 29 | | | CYAAA schools finish 1/12/2017 |
| 4 December | | | | | | Doomadgee and Mossman schools finish 8/12/2017 Cooktown Circuit Doomadgee - Gulf Circuit |
| 11 December | | | | | | 12 ASC Meeting Aurukun Cape B Circuit |
| 18 December | | | | | | |
| 25 December | Public Holiday | Public Holiday | | | | 25 Christmas Day, 26 Boxing Day 27, 28, 29 Office closed for Xmas |

LEGEND

| | |
|-----|--|
| | Office Days |
| | Public Holidays |
| | Aurukun Sitting |
| | Coen Sitting |
| | Doomadgee Sittings |
| | Hope Vale Sitting |
| | Hope Vale Half Day Meeting |
| | Mossman Gorge Sitting |
| | Mossman Gorge Half Day Meeting |
| ASC | Aurukun Shire Council Meeting |
| DSC | Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council Meeting |
| ∅ | Cancelled Conference |

| OFFICE | CONTACT NAME | Phone | Mobile | Facsimile |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Cairns – Registrar | Ms Maxine McLeod | 4057 3871 | 0409 461 624 | 4041 0974 |
| Cairns – A/Client Manager | Mrs Anne Crampton | 4057 3874 | 0419 647 948 | 4041 0974 |
| Cairns – Finance Manager | Ms Tracey Patterson | 4057 3875 | 0429 495 353 | 4041 0974 |
| Aurukun Local Coordinator | Ms Dellis Gledhill | 4060 6185 | 0428 985 106 | 4060 6094 |
| Coen Local Coordinator | Ms Sandi Rye | | 0417 798 392 | 4041 0974 |
| Doomadgee Local Coordinator | Mr Bryce Coxall | 4745 8111 | 0418 666 204 | 4745 8366 |
| Hope Vale Local Coordinator | Mr Matt Thompson | 4060 9153 | 0408 482 026 | 4060 9137 |
| Mossman Gorge Local Coordinator | Ms Sandi Rye | | 0417 798 392 | 4041 0974 |