

Family Responsibilities Commission

Report to the Family Responsibilities Board

Quarterly Report

No. 48

April 2020 to June 2020



*Report prepared by the Family Responsibilities Commission under the leadership of
Commissioner Tammy Williams*

Executive Summary

Quantified in the table below are the activities undertaken by the Commission during quarter 48 with comparisons shown to the previous quarter.

Table 1: Activity from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Activity for the quarter	Qtr 47	Qtr 48
Total number of notices received by the Commission ¹	1,879	1,231
Number of within jurisdiction notices received	1,221	837
Number of not within jurisdiction notices received	658	394
Number of clients notified to the Commission from within jurisdiction notices	685	460
Number of clients scheduled to attend conference	330	309
Conferences conducted	424	439
Conference attendance percentage	63.9%	61.7%
Conference non-attendance percentage with acceptable (reasonable) excuse	21.6%	14.3%
Conference outcomes for the quarter		
Agreements to attend community support services	14	9
Orders made to attend community support services	118	75
Referrals to service providers ²	178	104
Agreements for Conditional Income Management (CIM)	0	0
Orders made for CIM	32	51
Clients placed on case plans and CIMs for the quarter³		
Number of clients placed on a case plan and CIM	20	25
Number of clients placed on a case plan without a CIM	109	59
Number of clients placed on a CIM without a case plan	11	26
Other activity for the quarter		
Applications to Amend or End received	18	12
Voluntary Income Management (VIM) agreements	5	11
Information as at the last day of the quarter		
Number of clients case-managed through a current case plan	236	286
Number of clients subject to a current CIM	162	134
Number of clients currently on a VIM	13	17

¹ Agency notices are counted on the basis of the number of persons named on the notice. For example a Child Safety and Welfare notice relating to two parents is counted as two notices and if three children from one family have an unexplained absence on one day, it is counted as three individual notices.

² A case plan can have multiple referrals e.g. a client may be referred to both the Wellbeing Centre and MPower under the same case plan.

³ During conference the 9 agreements and 75 orders to attend community support services and 51 CIM orders made, relate to 110 unique clients.

As reported in Quarterly Report No 47, although travel to the FRC communities was discontinued due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, conferencing continued in each community in order to provide assistance during the lockdown period and to ensure that the interests and wellbeing of children and other vulnerable persons were prioritised. The above table demonstrates that notices received from notifying agencies were down this quarter due to the COVID-19 environment affecting the operational capability of relevant Queensland Government departments. Nevertheless, Local Commissioners continued to conduct conferences in their communities, engaging with clients either by teleconference or in person and referring clients to service providers where considered appropriate. Further information regarding the challenges experienced while operating this quarter with the advent of the pandemic can be found on page 17 under Future Direction and Challenges.

Although within jurisdiction notices received were down by 384 notices from last quarter, and the number of clients notified to the Commission fell by 225, conferences increased this quarter by 15. The Commissioners worked hard to render holistic assistance to clients, increasing Voluntary Income Management agreements by 6 from last quarter, and increasing the number of clients case-managed through a current case plan by 50 as at 30 June 2020.

The Commission has over the years demonstrated a firm commitment to the professional development of the Local Commissioners. Each May since 2009, the Commissioners have travelled from their home communities to Cairns for a week of workshops, seminars and presentations aimed at increasing capabilities, building morale and sharing learnings with their colleagues. This year the conference was unfortunately deferred due to the current pandemic until a date to be determined.

During Quarter 48, 80 percent of Commission employees worked from home complying with Government guidelines in regard to COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Few teething problems occurred, though it was necessary to upgrade remote access capability to increase speed within the secure virtual desktop infrastructure. Microsoft Teams was implemented for more collaborative communication between staff members and stakeholders during this period. This tool allowed the Commission to share, meet and collaborate in real-time via either the desktop application, a web-based application, or a mobile application. The Queensland Government released a Collaboration Platform Policy in May 2020 to advise and provide guidance for the use of Microsoft Teams as the primary platform for intra and inter-departmental collaboration.

During this reporting period an FR Board meeting was held on 5 May 2020 via teleconference. Papers presented to the FR Board for consideration included a report on how the Commission's Executive Management Team responded to the Aurukun unrest and allocated personnel and resources to implement a coordinated action plan to ensure the Commission was able to continue to be responsive to the needs of clients. A paper was presented outlining the Commission's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, which was led by the advice of Queensland Health, and how the Commission balanced business continuity with community vulnerabilities. A finance Paper including a forecast to 30 June 2020 was presented together with a report on each of the FRC communities.

Queensland Local Government elections were held on 28 March 2020. Aurukun Local Commissioners Doris Poonkamelya, Ada Woolla, Vera Koomeeta and Edgar Kerindun decided not to stand as candidates in the 2020 Local Government election after many years of service. We are proud to report that Aurukun Local Commissioner Keri Tamwoy ran in the 2020 election and successfully won the office of Aurukun Mayor. Mayor Tamwoy will be devoting most of her time to Aurukun Shire Council business and will therefore only sit as a Local Commissioner or represent the FRC when necessary, and when no conflict of interest is evident or can be perceived.

For the period 1 July 2019 to 20 May 2020 the Economics and Governance Committee had oversight responsibility for the Commission under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. Effective from 21 May 2020 oversight responsibility for the Commission transitioned to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee following amendments to Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders to reflect changes in ministerial portfolio arrangements - the appointment of the Honourable Craig Crawford MP as the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on 12 May 2020, replacing the Honourable Jackie Trad MP. The committee is responsible for examining Bills, considering policy, examining estimates, assessing the Commission's accounts in regard to integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management and assessing whether the Commission is performing its legislative functions and meeting its obligations as a statutory body.

The broader focus of the Commission's professional development program for employees is on skills development, career enhancement, and supporting a culture of ongoing learning through participation in internal workshops, on the job training and courses conducted by specialist external training providers. All Commission employees have been registered for the iLearning courses provided by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. During this quarter employees completed their annual online mandatory training in Ethical Decision-Making, Respond, Refer – Domestic and Family Violence and Fraud and Corruption Control.

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Abbreviations

CIM	Conditional Income Management
DATSIP	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
DVB	Domestic Violence Breach
DVO	Domestic Violence Order
FRA	Family Responsibilities Agreement
FRC	Family Responsibilities Commission
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 Board (the FR Board)

Family Responsibilities Commission Welfare Reforms

Report to 30 June 2020.

1. Activities and Trends

Notices

In quarter 48 the Commission received 1,231 agency notices⁴. Some individuals may have been the subject of more than one agency notice. Of that figure 837 notices (68 percent) relating to 460 clients were within the Commission's jurisdiction, and 394 notices (32 percent) were outside the Commission's jurisdiction.

The occurrence of COVID-19 and required social distancing and lockdowns affected the operations of many government departments. One of the results of the pandemic for the Commission was a decrease in notices received for the quarter. Within and not within jurisdiction notices received decreased by 384 and 264 respectively from the previous quarter. Of those notices within jurisdiction, apart from Child Safety and Welfare notices, all other notice types decreased from quarter 47.

Table 2: In jurisdiction notices by type and community 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

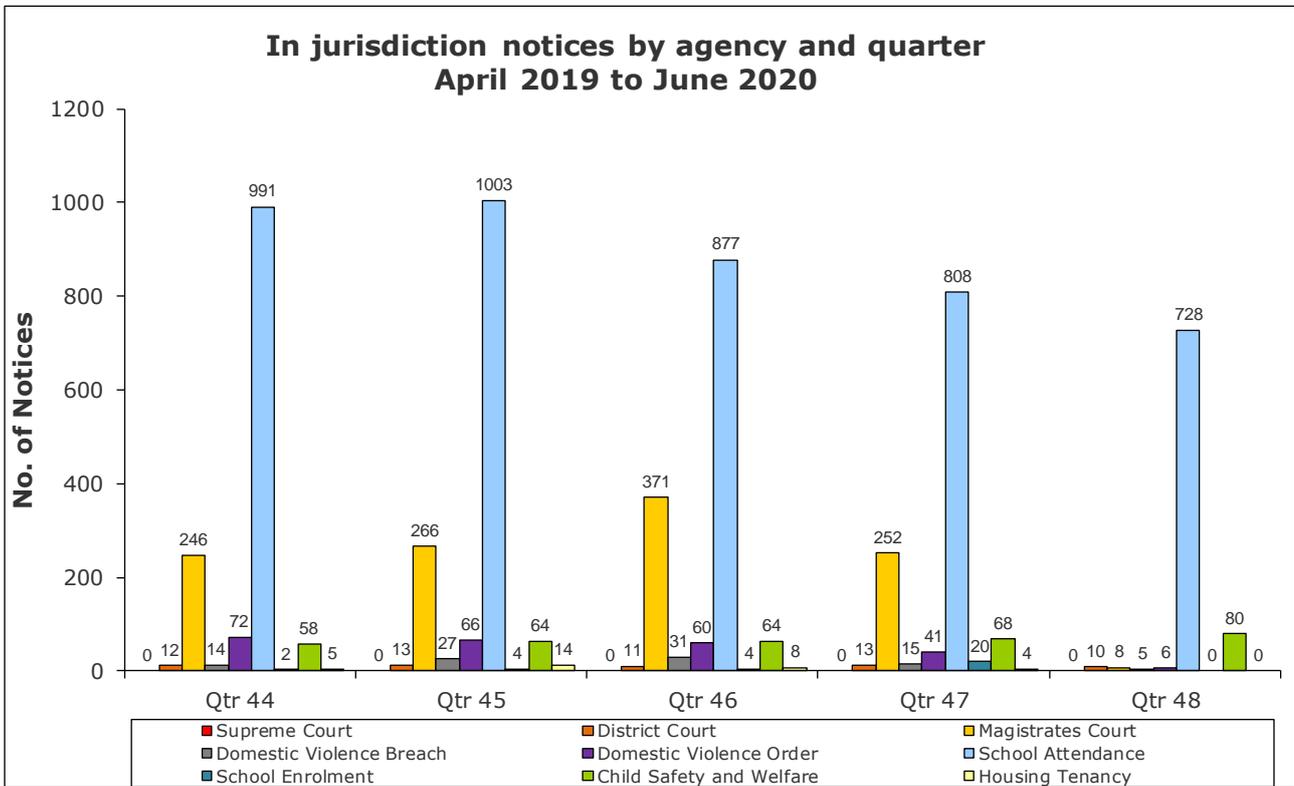
Type of Notice	AU	CO	DM ⁵	HV	MG	Total
Supreme Court notices	0	0	-	0	0	0
District Court notices	10	0	-	0	0	10
Magistrates Court notices	0	0	-	2	6	8
Domestic Violence Breach notices	3	0	-	1	1	5
Domestic Violence Order notices	1	0	-	3	2	6
School Attendance notices	212	27	349	122	18	728
School Enrolment notice	0	0	0	0	0	0
Child Safety and Welfare notices	9	7	45	11	8	80
Housing Tenancy notices	0	0	-	0	0	0
Total	235	34	394	139	35	837

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

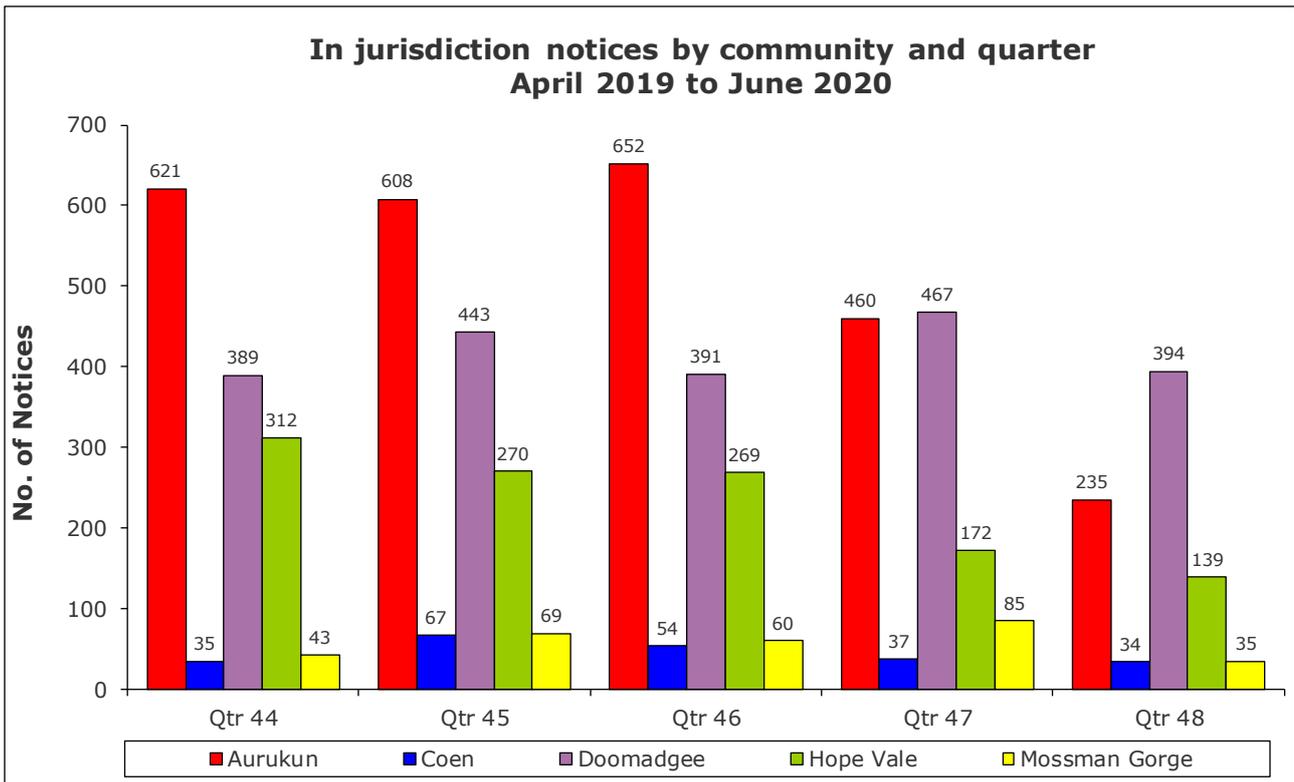
- Aurukun received 235 notices relating to 137 clients (96 female and 41 male)
- Coen received 34 notices relating to 16 clients (10 female and 6 male)
- Doomadgee received 394 notices relating to 202 clients (151 female and 51 male)
- Hope Vale received 139 notices, relating to 87 clients (56 female and 31 male)
- Mossman Gorge received 35 notices relating to 18 clients (10 female and 8 male).

⁴ 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.

⁵ Agency notices for the community of Doomadgee are presently received from the Department of Education and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women only.

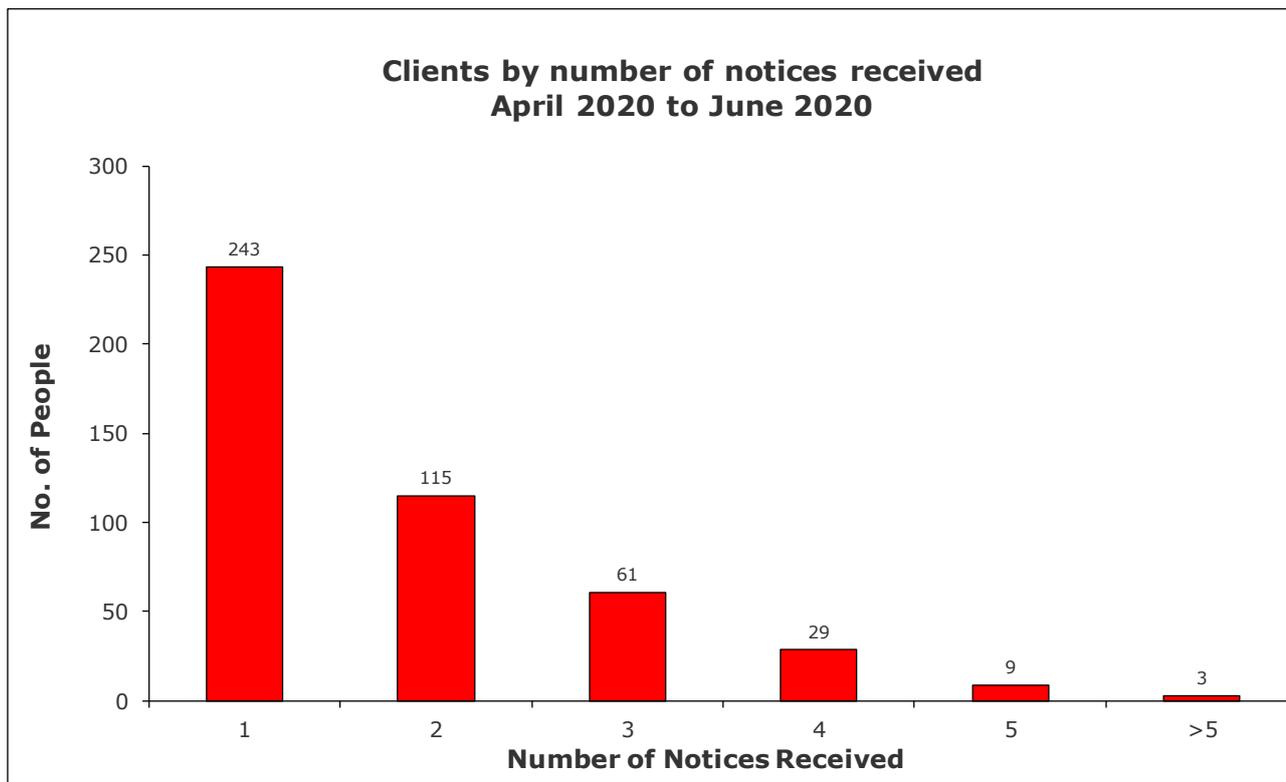


Graph 1: In jurisdiction notices by agency processed and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.



Graph 2: In jurisdiction notices by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

For quarter 48, 47.2 percent of clients have received more than one notice with 0.7 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, the vast majority of clients (52.8 percent) have received only one notice. Eleven new clients were added to the Commission’s database during the quarter.



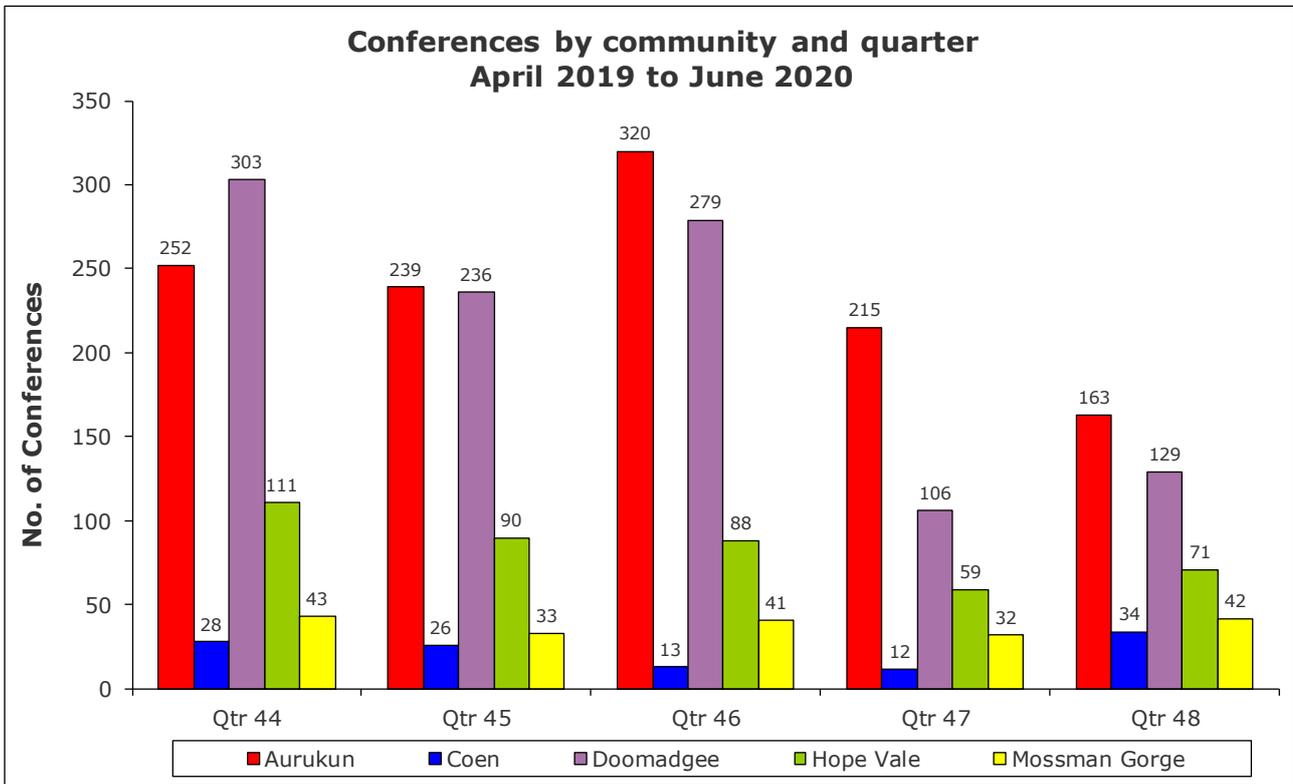
Graph 3: FRC clients by number of notices 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

(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

A total of 439 conferences⁶, relating to 309 clients pertaining to all matters were held across the five communities in quarter 48, resulting in 9 agreements to attend community support services, 75 orders made to attend community support services and 51 CIM orders issued. When compared to last quarter there was a decrease of 5 agreements to attend community support services and 43 orders to attend community support services, and an increase of 19 CIM orders. Other outcomes as a result of conferencing during the quarter were decisions for no further action, reprimand, reschedule and adjournment to return for the purpose of determining if any parties of the adjourned conference have addressed the matter/s in question during the adjournment period. Conferences increased from 424 in quarter 47 to 439 in quarter 48. Attendance at conference decreased from 63.9% in quarter 47 to 61.7% in quarter 48.

⁶ 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.



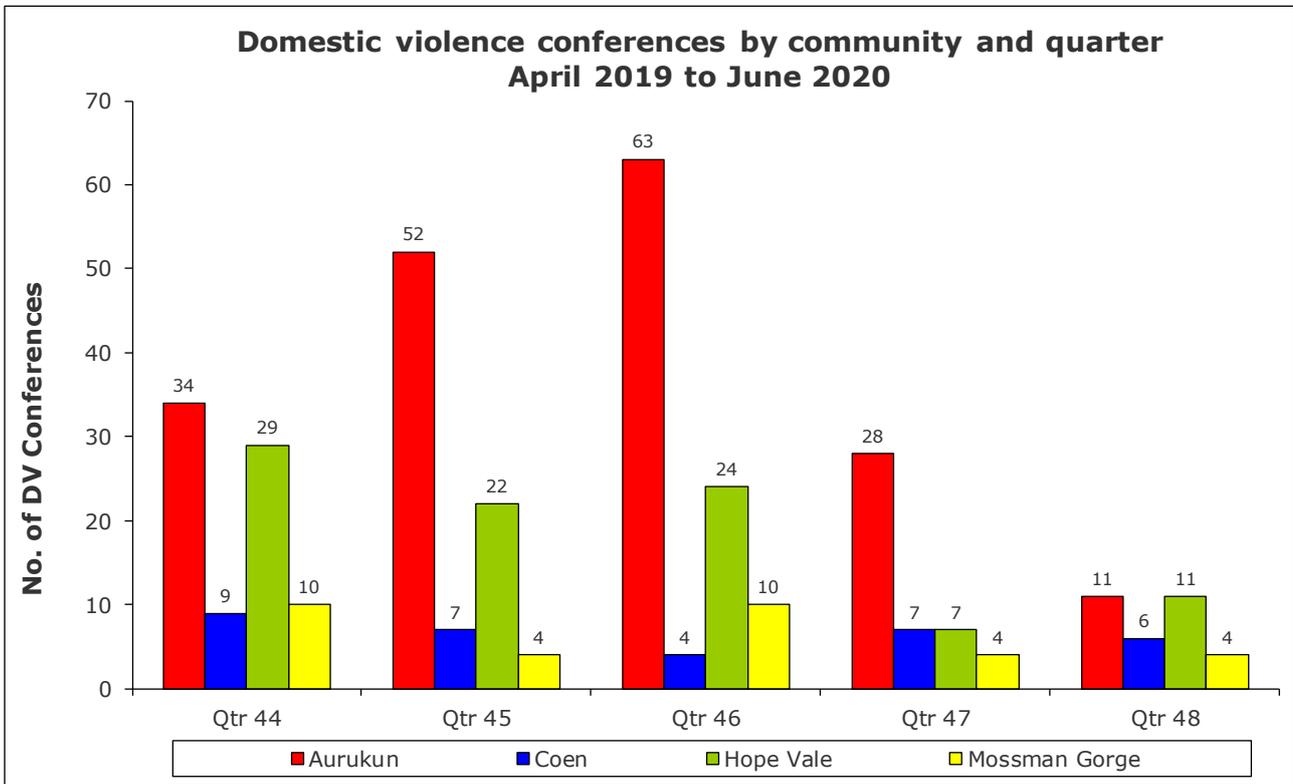
Graph 4: Conferences by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Conferences for Domestic Violence related matters

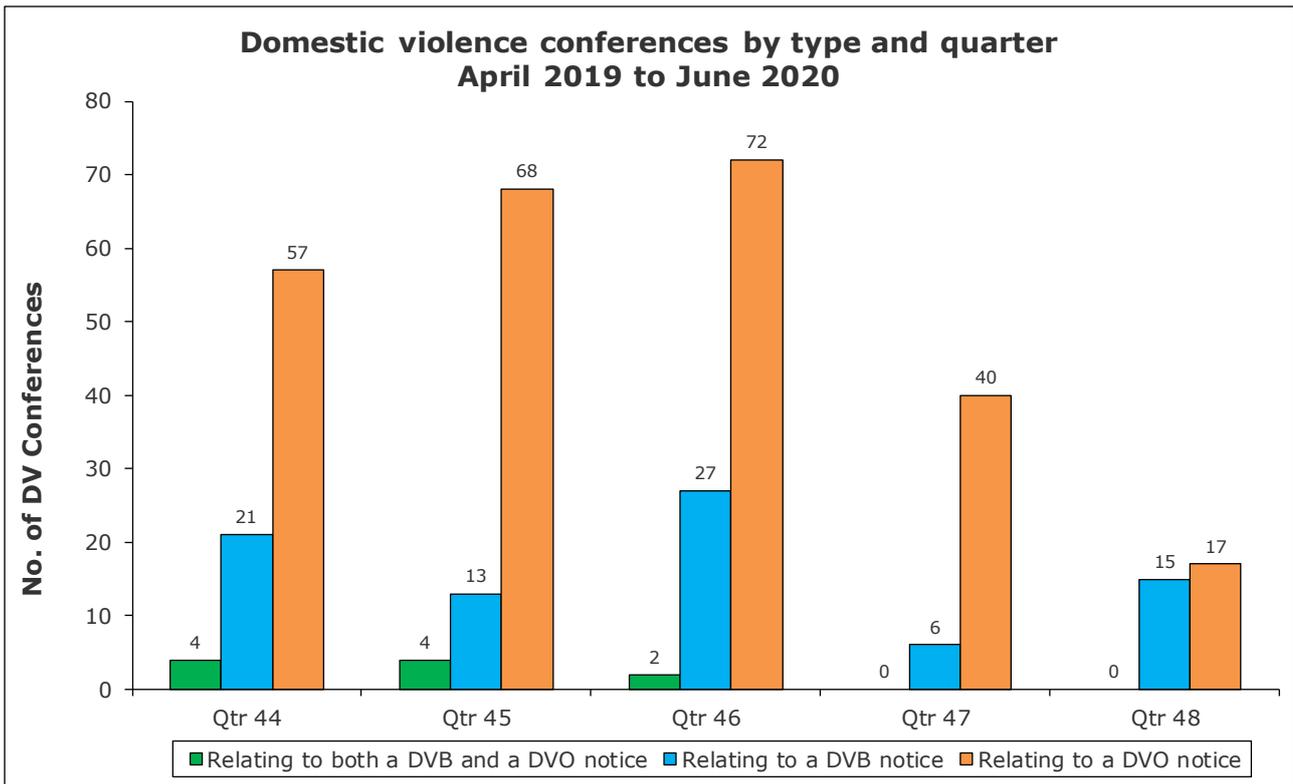
As a subset of the total number of conferences conducted for the quarter, 32 domestic violence conferences were conducted in Aurukun, Coen, Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge in quarter 48, a decrease of 14 domestic violence conferences from the previous quarter. The Commission received 10 fewer domestic violence breaches and 35 fewer domestic violence orders within jurisdiction for quarter 48 when compared to quarter 47. Domestic violence conferences in the communities during the quarter were as follows: Aurukun decreased by 17, Coen decreased by 1, Hope Vale increased by 4 and Mossman Gorge remained unchanged with 4 domestic violence conferences for the quarter.

Table 3: Number of conferences held in relation to domestic violence notices (breaches and orders) per community 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Number of Domestic Violence Conferences	AU	CO	HV	MG	Total
Relating to both a DVB and a DVO notice	0	0	0	0	0
Relating to a DVB notice	2	4	9	0	15
Relating to a DVO notice	9	2	2	4	17
Total	11	6	11	4	32



Graph 5: Domestic violence conferences by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

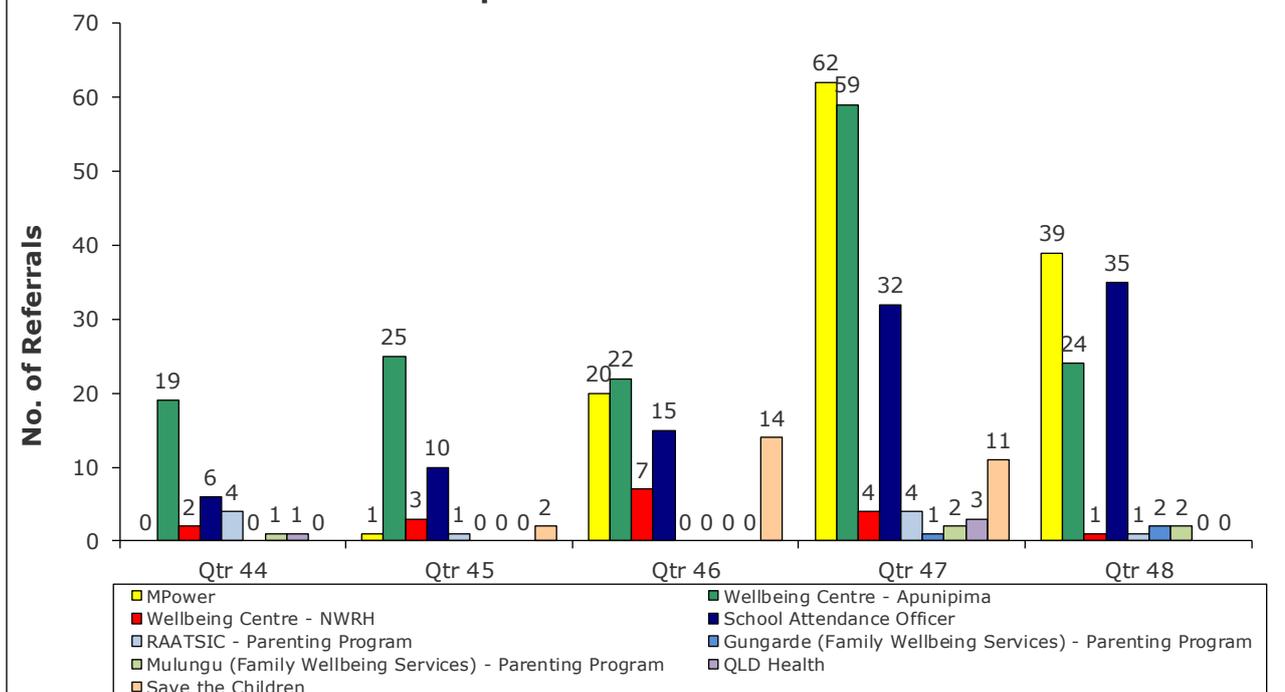


Graph 6: Domestic violence conferences by type and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Referrals

The total number of referrals to service providers decreased from 178 in quarter 47 to 104 in quarter 48, relating to 84 clients. Since 2008 the Commission has referred 1,155 clients (588 female and 567 male) to service providers for assistance. Referrals in the communities during the quarter were as follows: Aurukun decreased by 62; Coen increased by 22; Doomadgee decreased by 3; Hope Vale decreased by 15 and Mossman Gorge decreased by 16.

FRC referrals by referral type and quarter April 2019 to June 2020



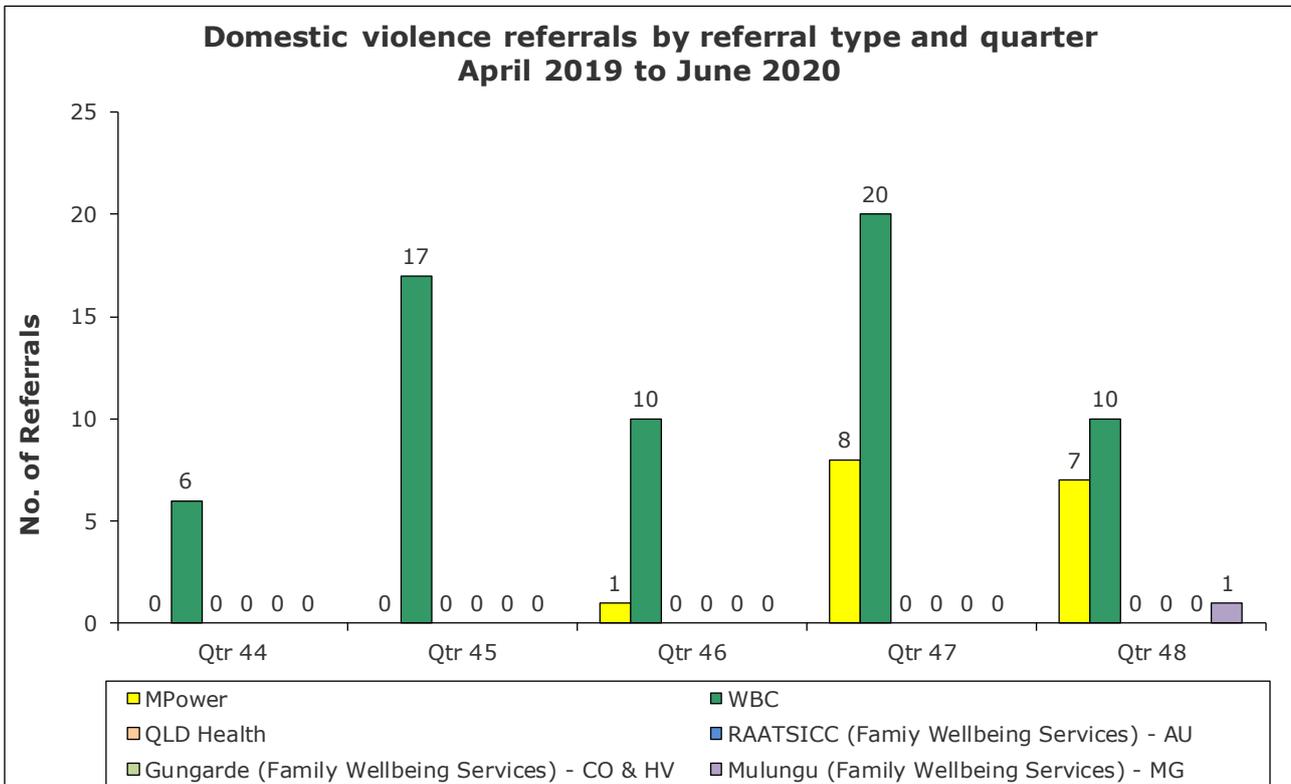
Graph 7: Referrals by referral type and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Referrals for Domestic Violence related matters

As a subset of the total number of referrals in the quarter, 18 referrals were made in relation to domestic violence conferences in quarter 48, representing a decrease of 10 from the previous quarter.

Table 4: Number of referrals in relation to domestic violence notices (breaches and orders) per community 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Notice Type	Community	Referral	Provider Total
DVB	Aurukun	MPower	1
	Coen	MPower	1
	Coen	Wellbeing Centre	3
	Hope Vale	Wellbeing Centre	1
	DVB Total		6
DVO	Aurukun	MPower	2
	Aurukun	Wellbeing Centre	3
	Coen	MPower	2
	Coen	Wellbeing Centre	2
	Mossman Gorge	Mpower	1
	Mossman Gorge	Wellbeing Centre	1
	Mossman Gorge	Parenting Program	1
DVO Total		12	
GRAND TOTAL			18



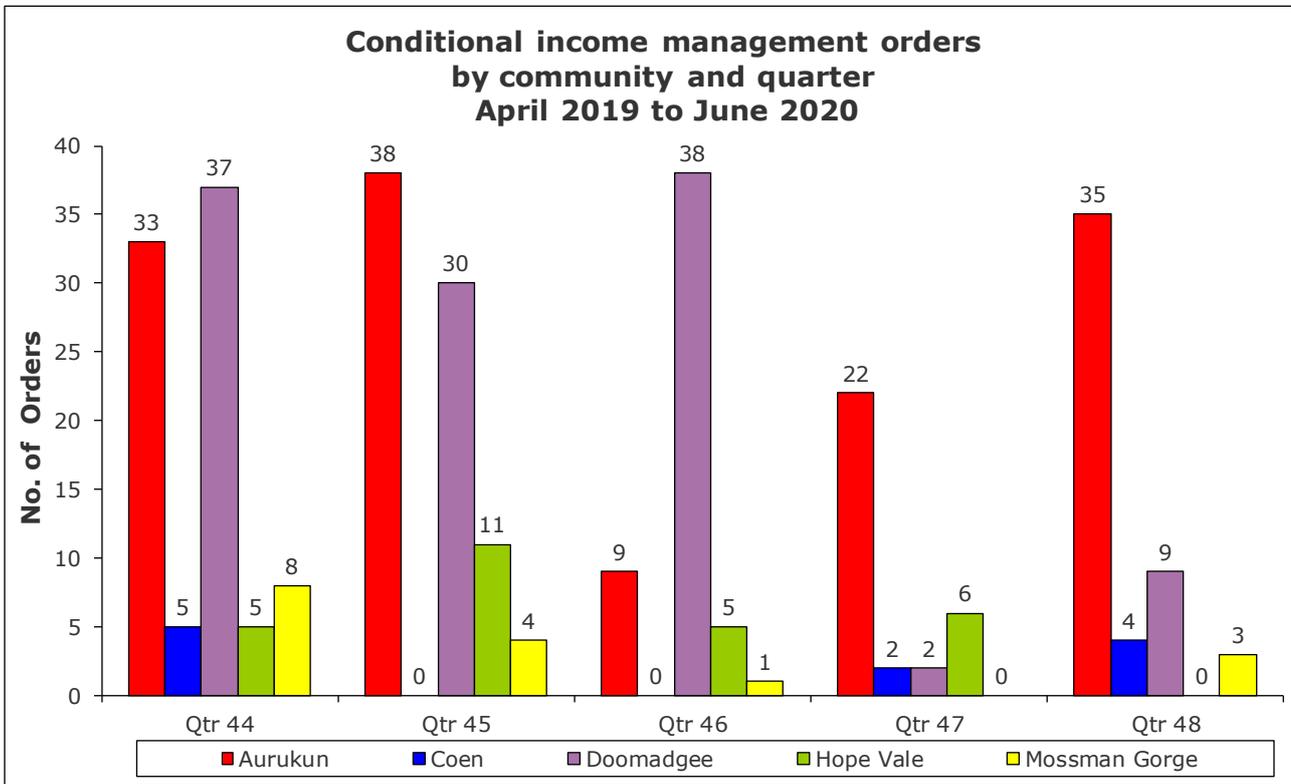
Graph 8: Domestic violence referrals by referral type and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Conditional Income Management

Local Commissioners continue to use Conditional Income Management (CIM) as a decision of last resort. The 2019-20 reporting period has seen a growing number of clients placed on a case plan and referred to a support service concurrent with a CIM. This clearly demonstrates income management is delivered within a highly targeted and flexible approach nuanced to the client’s circumstances. In this way, CIM is utilised as a tool to support people and children at risk, promote socially responsible choices, and as an incentive to meet individual and community obligations.

A total of 51 CIM orders relating to 51 clients were made in quarter 48, an increase of 19 from quarter 47. A total of zero CIM agreements were entered into in quarter 48. Since the commencement of the Commission CIMs inclusive of original agreements and orders, extensions and amendments have been made relating to 947 clients (544 female and 403 male). Increases were seen in Aurukun, Coen, Doomadgee and Mossman Gorge of 13, 2, 7 and 3 CIM orders respectively, whilst Hope Vale decreased by 6 CIM orders for the quarter.

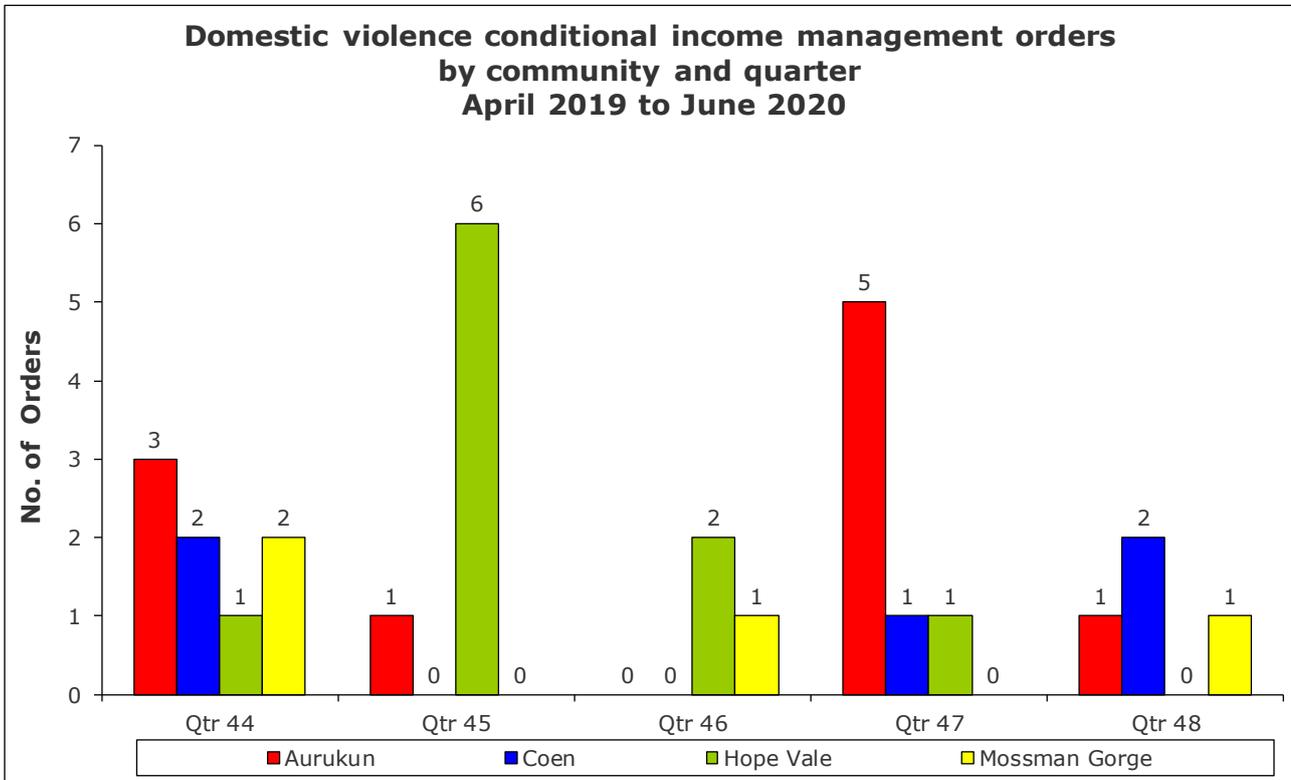
As at 30 June 2020 there were 134 clients subject to a current CIM. Commissioners continue to negotiate with clients to achieve desirable outcomes, or to demonstrate motivation and commitment to make appropriate life choices. Demonstrated positive steps toward taking responsibility provide the Commissioners with sufficient reason to consider revoking a CIM when requested by the client.



Graph 9: Conditional income management orders by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Conditional Income Management for Domestic Violence related matters

As a subset of the total number of CIMs in the quarter, 4 CIM orders inclusive of alterations were made in relation to domestic violence conferences in quarter 48, representing a decrease of 3 from the previous quarter.



Graph 10: Domestic violence conditional income management orders by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Voluntary Income Management

The Commission processed 11 VIM agreements this quarter and since the commencement of the Commission in 2008, 151 clients (95 female and 56 male) have had an active VIM agreement. As at 30 June 2020 there were 17 clients on a current 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. The Commissioners consider the number of VIM agreements entered into as indicative of a willingness of community members to take responsibility, to look after family members, and as a general improvement in community social norms. VIM agreements are also a useful tool to assist elderly community members (who have not otherwise been referred to the FRC) to ensure their welfare payments are expended on their own needs.

Clients placed on case plans and CIMs for the quarter

The 9 agreements and 75 orders to attend community support services and the 51 CIM orders issued related to 110 clients. A client may be placed on a case plan at the beginning of the quarter to one service provider and then referred to another service provider later in the same quarter. Similarly, a client may be placed on a CIM order at 60%, 75% or 90% and then have their percentage of income management reduced or increased later in the quarter. A client may also be separately placed on a case plan and income management throughout the quarter.

Of the 110 clients (85 female and 25 male):

- 25 clients (20 female and 5 male) were placed on a case plan and a CIM during the quarter;
- 59 clients (49 female and 19 male) were placed on a case plan without a CIM; and
- 26 clients (25 female and 1 male) were placed on a CIM without a case plan.

The majority of the 26 clients stated above who were placed on a CIM without a case plan already had an existing case plan in place at the time they were placed on a CIM.

Case Management

As at 30 June 2020, 286 clients were being case-managed through a current case plan, an increase from 50 in quarter 47. Increases were seen in Aurukun, Coen and Doomadgee of 18, 15, 20 respectively whilst Hope Vale and Mossman Gorge decreased by 2 and 1 respectively.

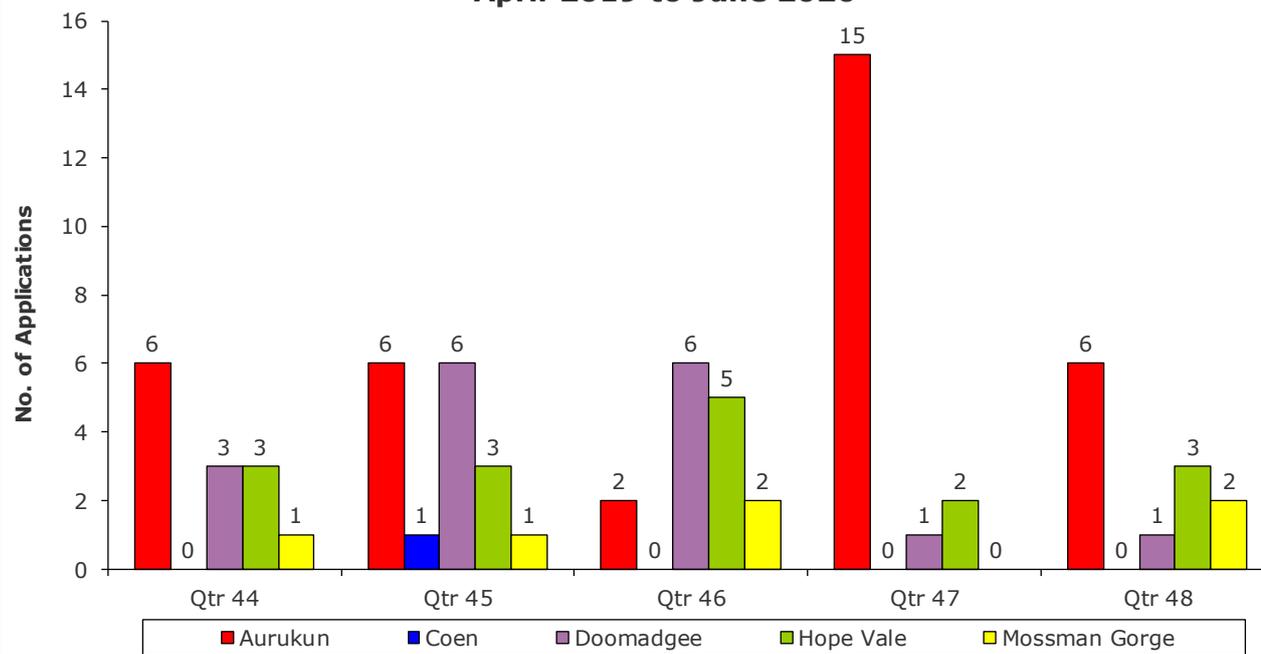
Applications to Amend or End Agreements or Orders

Twelve applications (7 female and 5 male) to Amend or End an Agreement or Order were received in quarter 48, a decrease of 6 from quarter 47. A client may apply to amend or end their agreement or order on multiple occasions throughout a quarter. Outcomes of the 12 applications received are as follows:

- 6 Applications granted and income management agreements and orders revoked
- 2 Applications granted and income management agreements and orders revoked and clients advised to comply with their case plans
- 2 Applications refused
- 1 Application withdrawn
- 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 agreements or orders
by community and quarter
April 2019 to June 2020**



Graph 11: Applications to amend or end agreements or orders by community and quarter 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

FRC client population by gender and age

Table 5: FRC client population by gender and age 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Information for the quarter	Female Count	Male Count	Female Average age	Male Average age
Clients who received a notice during the quarter ⁷	323	137	38	38
Clients who conferenced during the quarter ⁸	220	89	37	37
Clients referred during the quarter ⁹	60	24	36	36
Clients placed on CIM during the quarter ¹⁰	45	6	36	43
Clients placed on VIM during the quarter ¹¹	4	7	33	62

⁷ Average age of a client who received a notice for the quarter is calculated at the date of the first notice received for the client during the quarter.

⁸ Average age of a conferenced client for the quarter is calculated at the date of the first conference held for the client during the quarter.

⁹ Average age of a referred client for the quarter is calculated at the first conference date held where the client was placed on a case plan during the quarter.

¹⁰ Average age of a CIM'd client for the quarter is calculated at the first conference date held where the client was placed on a CIM during the quarter.

¹¹ Average age of a VIM'd client for the quarter is calculated at the start date of the agreement where the client was placed on a VIM during the quarter.

Estimated resident populations:

Aurukun: The community of Aurukun had an estimated resident adult population of 950 people as at 30 June 2019^{12,13}.

Coen: The township of Coen had an estimated resident adult population of 260 people as at 30 June 2019^{12,14}.

Doomadgee: The community of Doomadgee had an estimated resident adult population of 829 people as at 30 June 2019^{12,13}.

Hope Vale: The estimated resident adult population of Hope Vale was 735 people as at 30 June 2019^{12,13}.

Mossman Gorge: The Mossman Gorge community had an estimated resident population of 87 people as at 30 June 2019^{12,15}.

¹² Note: Australian Statistical Geography Standard 2016 boundaries used are local government areas for Aurukun, Doomadgee and Hope Vale, and statistical areas level 1 (SA1s) of 3139616 for Coen and 3116408 for Mossman Gorge.

¹³ Note: Adults 18 years and over provided by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO), Queensland Treasury, based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) unpublished preliminary Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data by age and sex at the Local Government Area level for 30 June 2018.

¹⁴ Note: Adults 18 years and over provided by QGSO, Queensland Treasury, based on the ABS unpublished preliminary ERP data by age and sex at the Statistical Area level 1 for 30 June 2018.

¹⁵ Note: Total population provided by QGSO, Queensland Treasury, not 18 years and older, due to the small size of the total population from the ABS unpublished preliminary ERP data at the Statistical Area level 1 for 30 June 2018.

2. Future Direction and Challenges

In March 2020 the Department of Justice and Attorney-General coordinated a whole of government omnibus Bill to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency. Proposed amendments were sought from each department for inclusion in the COVID-19 Emergency Response Bill 2020 which had a clear nexus and rationale to assist in dealing with the declared public health emergency. DATSIP invited submissions in this regard from the Commission outlining relevant legislative issues, proposed resolutions and risks involved in not making proposed changes and/or the unintended consequences of making proposed amendments. The Commission's stakeholders were consulted regarding the Commission's submission and DATSIP undertook preliminary identification of any human rights implications under the *Human Rights Act 2019*. The Bill was passed in Parliament on 22 April 2020 with some proposed amendments to be progressed under regulation.

Operating in the COVID environment has presented many challenges. Some of the adverse impacts have been the application of social distancing restrictions and fear of the virus upon the mental health and wellbeing of Local Commissioners and the community in general. Those Commissioners who have indicated their availability to work have advised that they regard coming to work for the FRC during the pandemic as a protective factor – e.g. it keeps them busy, the clients need Commission assistance, and the Commissioners receive a financial benefit. Nevertheless, the perceived benefits must be balanced against the risks work can present, such as feeling overwhelmed at times and disappointed by perceived low outcomes. Outcomes have been mixed with low client attendance on occasions and particularly high (even record) client attendance on other occasions. When conference attendance has been low, it has given the Local Registry Coordinators and Local Commissioners time to debrief, undertake complex case management of clients and participate in stakeholder management activities. The availability of Local Commissioners to conference has also been a logistical challenge for the Local Registry Coordinators and registry staff on occasion. Regardless, Local Commissioners have appreciated the registry support and understanding offered during this time. They remain committed to the importance of their work, the objectives of our organisation and our long-term vision.

Whilst the travel restrictions may have provided a barrier to service delivery in some communities, it also provided an opportunity for some providers to catch up on outstanding reports to the Commission on the progress of clients on FRC case plan referrals. Unfortunately, due to the limitations on services available, information on engagement and progress was scant and this lack of reporting has risked the effectiveness of case plan referrals and early intervention support for clients during this period. The Commission looks forward to receiving more detailed reporting from referral partners when the delivery of support services returns to normal.

The Australian and Queensland Governments provided a range of financial supports for individuals following the declaration of a pandemic, with payments significantly increasing the average household income in Indigenous communities. The influx of funds into remote communities has had a domino effect. The Commission has received reports from Local Commissioners in Aurukun that the increase in certain welfare payments (Job Seeker) as well as stimulus payments due to COVID-19, although providing assistance to many community members in need, was also exacerbated by the suspension of the Community Development Program (run by Cape York Employment Pty Ltd) and other activities. An increase in gambling activity by adults has been noticeable. It is further reported that children are also attending gambling activities and in some instances are engaging with adult encouragement. It is also reported that children are conducting their own gambling activities (many under the age of 12) with large sums of money in the gambling pot.

The Commission believes the sudden increase in household incomes has in many instances caused a destabilising effect which has flowed on to substance abuse and school attendance. The Commission has shared this information with FR Board members and other stakeholders and has been advised by the Director-General of DATSIP, Dr Chris Sarra, that a meeting between a number of stakeholders responsible for delivering services to young people in Aurukun has taken place. This meeting was to develop and formalise an action plan *"to improve school attendance and decrease activities that are not conducive to the social rebuilding proposed by community leaders in Aurukun"*. Dr Sarra noted that the Commission's capacity to conference clients regarding gambling activities is limited unless the gambling activities can be tied to activities for which the Commission receives a notice such as school absenteeism and child safety.

Local Registry Coordinators and Local Commissioners have reported a small but not insignificant number of clients who have sought out the Local Commissioners, expressing their willingness to attend conference so they can have supportive interaction with the Commission which they have come to expect and rely upon. In relation to Doomadgee at least half a dozen clients have exhibited positive and proactive behaviours by seeking support from the Commission. These clients were motivated to attend, not because they wished to come off income management, rather it was an opportunity for them to talk to the Commissioners about their circumstances and to be referred for assistance.

Low aromatic fuel was introduced into Doomadgee in 2006. In March 2019 the Doomadgee Aboriginal Shire Council advised it was reintroducing regular unleaded fuel. Doomadgee began experiencing a wave of petrol sniffing by juveniles early in the 2020 calendar year. Most of the children sniffing are aged from 9 to 14 years old. As of 5 March, the Commission was informed that a total of 36 children between these ages had either been taken to the police station or had police interaction due to petrol sniffing. There appears to be no fear of consequences as children will openly sniff petrol whilst walking through the community. The petrol sniffing has manifested into Child Safety Notices received by the Commission. An internal review of these notices has been undertaken looking at occurrences, history of previous notices, and identifying the existence of tailored support/treatment programs as a possible referral for the parents of these children. FR Board members discussed the problem caused to both the Doomadgee children and the community by petrol sniffing at the board meeting held on 5 May 2020. Mr Ray Griggs, CEO, NIAA advised at the meeting that the Federal Minister has written to the new Mayor seeking to reintroduce Opal fuel.

This quarter incentive food hampers were delivered to community recipients who were selected based on their behaviour demonstrated in quarter 47 (January to March). The feedback from clients, Local Registry Coordinators and Local Commissioners has been extremely positive. The delivery of these hampers has not only assisted those families in a time of isolation and need but has lifted the morale of clients and Local Commissioners, as well as improving relations between the Commission and the broader community. The delivery of these incentives acknowledges the progress made by clients to improve their lives and those of their family members and goes some way to positioning the Local Commissioners in a more balanced light in community.

3. Governance

Governance

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

The FR 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 FR 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 FR Board members must meet in person at least once a year. A quorum for the FR Board is comprised of two members. The FR Board's membership consists of the following members:

- Dr Chris Sarra Director-General, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Chair)
- Mr Ray Griggs AO, CSC CEO, National Indigenous Australians Agency
- Mr Noel Pearson Founder, Cape York Partnership representing the Cape York Institute.

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 Registry Coordinators.

4. Financial Operations

Income:

- Income received by the Commission for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020 totalled \$1,022,325. This income consisted of:
 - \$409,000 Queensland Government funding
 - \$156,500 Queensland Government funding – Doomadgee
 - \$450,000 Australian Government funding
 - \$6,765 interest received
 - \$60 received in sundry income.

The balance of available funds in the bank as at 30 June 2020 is \$3,110,560.

Expenditure:

- Expenditure for the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020 was \$902,959.

Table 6: Expenditure in quarter 48.

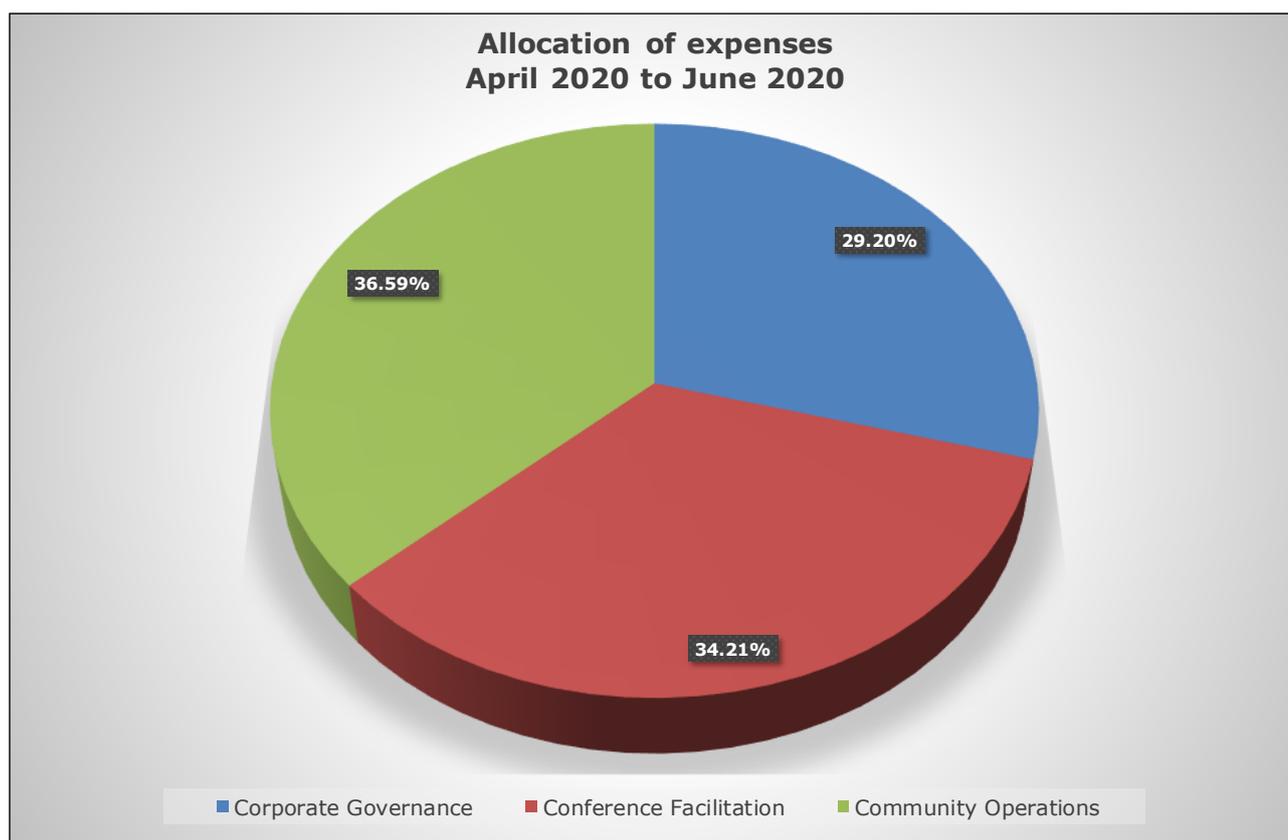
1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020	Expenditure Qtr 48	1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020	Expenditure Qtr 48
Employee salaries – FRC staff	\$455,977	Internet & IT	\$54,406
Employee salaries – Local Commissioners	\$89,100	Motor vehicle	\$18,697
Employee on costs – FRC staff	\$84,557	Property	\$49,802
Employee on costs – Local Commissioners	\$12,693	Travel	\$2,226
Other employment costs	\$18,596	General operating	\$96,564
Communications	\$3,570	Other expenses	\$16,771
			\$902,959

The core functions of the FRC can be summarised into three broad categories:

- **Corporate Governance:** including corporate governance, finance, statistical reporting, training and other administrative functions to ensure the effective and efficient operations of the Commission.
- **Community Operations:** including the operational costs in each of the five communities to conduct conferences, prepare and monitor case plans for clients for attendance at community support services and prepare and monitor income management orders.
- **Conference Facilitation:** including to facilitate the holding of conferences in the five communities, provide support to the Local Commissioners and Local Registry Coordinators to hold conferences, assist with the on-going monitoring of case plans for clients through the provision of data and other information and process income management orders where considered necessary.

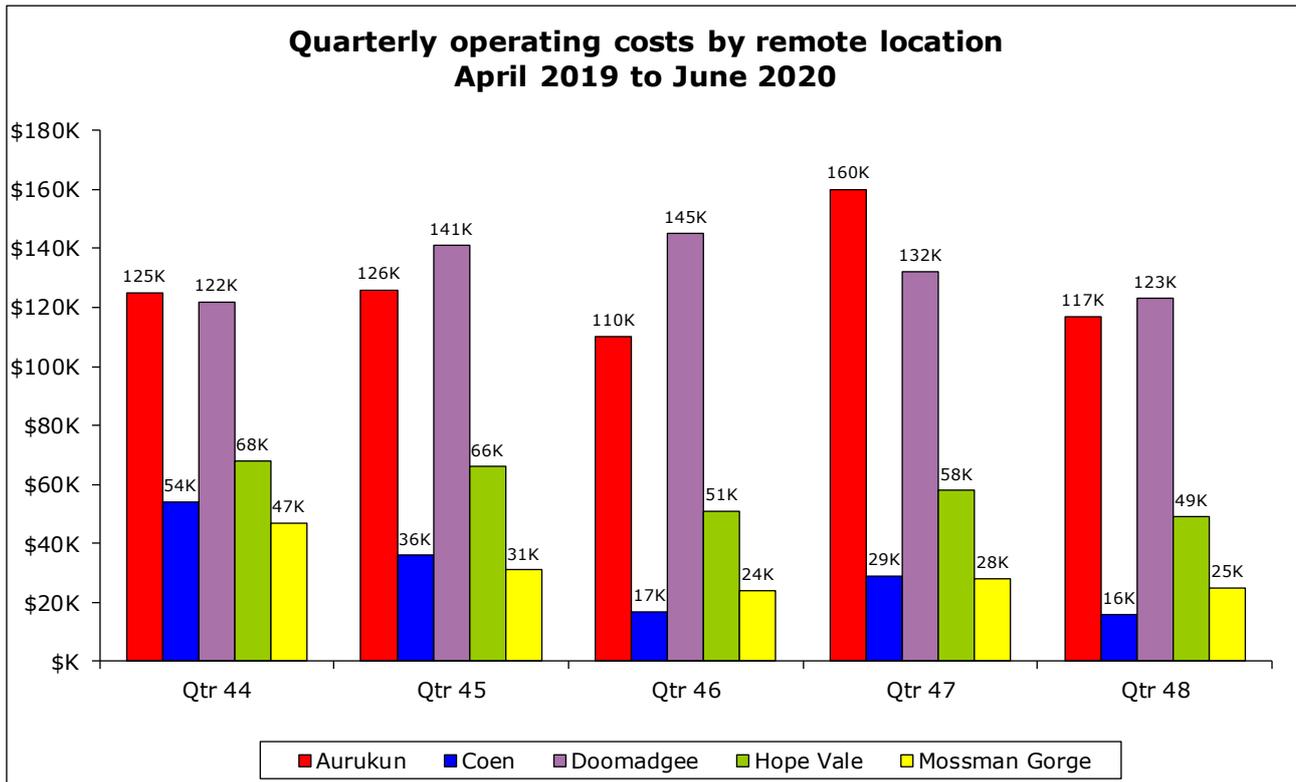
The functions of corporate governance and conference facilitation are conducted primarily in the registry office in Cairns with frequent visits to community by staff. Community operations are conducted by Local Registry Coordinators (with one of these living remotely in the larger community of Aurukun and twenty-nine Local Commissioners, resident in their respective communities, and are paid as sessional sitting Commission members for conferencing, serving notices, meetings and professional development.

The allocation of the FRC's costs in quarter 48 based on the above core functions is:



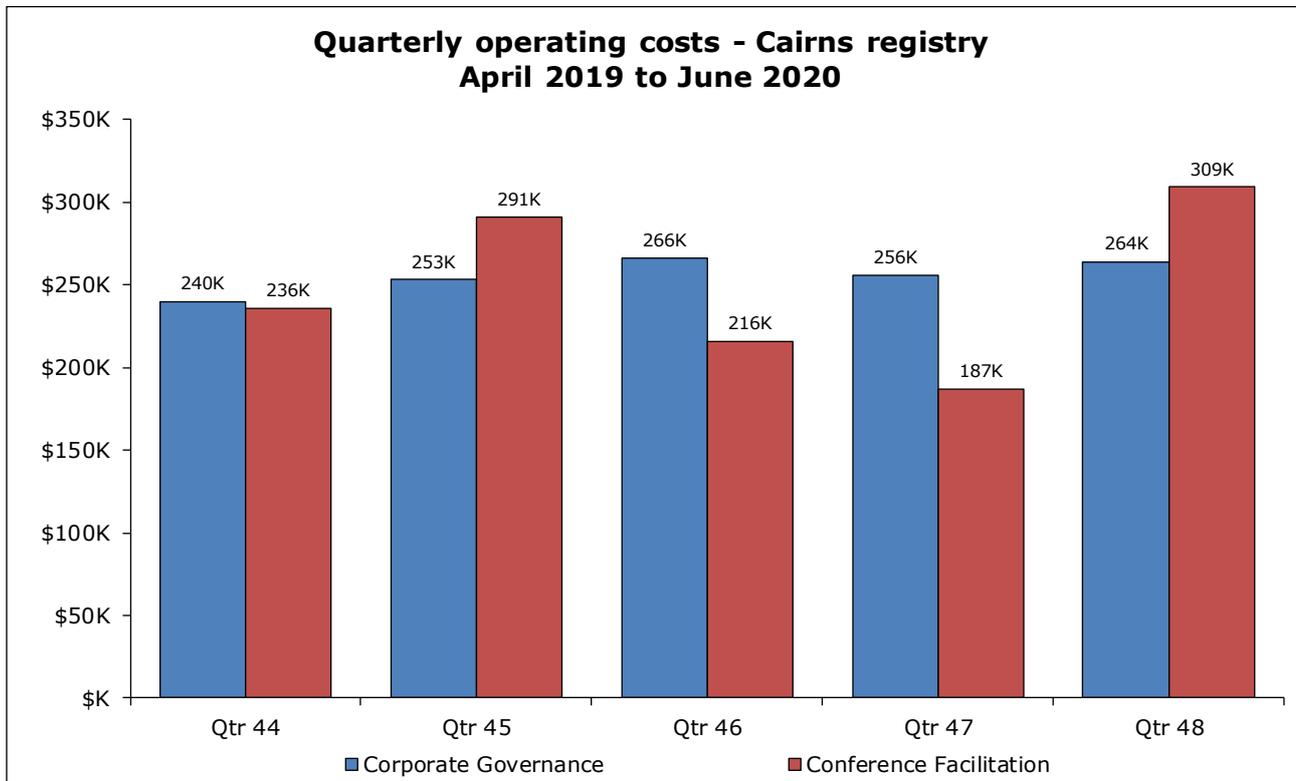
Graph 12: Allocation of expenses 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Regional operational expenditure by location and quarter.



Graph 13: Operating costs by remote location 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Cairns expenditure for quarter 48 compared to the previous four quarters.



Graph 15: Quarterly operating costs Cairns 1 April 2019 to 30 June 2020.

APPENDIX A



**SITTINGS CALENDAR 2020
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION
1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020**



Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Other
30 December			Public Holiday			1 New Year's Day
6 January						Cooktown Circuit
13 January						Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit
20 January						
27 January	Public Holiday	28	29	30		27 Australia Day Public Holiday
3 February		4	5	6		Cooktown Circuit
10 February		11	12 ½ day	13		Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit
17 February		18				18 ASC Meeting Aurukun Cape B Circuit
24 February		25 25	26	27 27		
2 March		3 3	4	5 5		Cooktown Circuit
9 March		10	11	12		Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit
16 March		17 17	18	19		17 ASC Meeting
23 March		24	25	26		28 Local Government Council Elections
30 March						Cooktown Circuit
6 April					Public Holiday	10 Good Friday
13 April	Public Holiday					13 Easter Monday
20 April		21	22	23 23		Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit Aurukun Cape B Circuit Saturday 25 Anzac Day – No public holiday
27 April		28	29	30 30		
4 May	Public Holiday	5	6	7		4 Labour Day Cooktown Circuit
11 May		12	13	14		Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit Aurukun Cape B & Coen Cape A Circuit

SITTINGS CALENDAR 2020
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES COMMISSION
1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Other
18 May		19	20			
25 May		26		28		Cancelled Cairns Local Commissioner Development Week
1 June		2	3 Public Holiday	4		3 Mabo Day - Doomadgee Cooktown Circuit
8 June		9		11		Aurukun Cape B Circuit
15 June		16 16	17	18		Doomadgee – Gulf Circuit
22 June		23 23	24	25 25		
29 June						

LEGEND

	Office Days
	Public Holidays
	Aurukun Sitting
	Aurukun conferences held in Coen and Cairns
	Coen Sitting
	Doomadgee Sitting
	Hope Vale Sitting
	Mossman Gorge Sitting
∅	Cancelled Conference

OFFICE	CONTACT NAME	Phone	Mobile	Facsimile
Cairns – Commissioner	Ms Tammy Williams	4081 8413	0447 739 137	4041 0974
Cairns – Registrar	Ms Maxine McLeod	4081 8412	0409 461 624	4041 0974
Cairns – Executive Officer (Finance)	Ms Tracey Paterson	4081 8411	0429 495 353	4041 0974
Cairns – Client Manager (Tue/Wed/Thurs)	Ms Camille Banks	4081 8410	0438 195 342	4041 0974
Cairns – Senior Case Management and Monitoring Officer	Ms Anne Crampton	4081 8414		4041 0974
Cairns – Community Coordinator (COVID-19 Response)	Ms Sandi Rye	4081 8402	0417 798 392	4041 0974
Aurukun Local Registry Coordinator	Mr Bryce Coxall	4060 6185	0428 985 106	4041 0974
Coen Local Registry Coordinator	Ms Sandi Rye		0417 798 392	4041 0974
Acting Doomadgee Local Registry Coordinator	Mr Brenden Joinbee	4745 8111	0418 666 204	4041 0974
Acting Hope Vale Local Registry Coordinator	Ms Josephine Pinder	4060 9153	0408 482 026	4041 0974
Acting Mossman Gorge Local Registry Coordinator	Ms Josephine Pinder		0408 482 026	4041 0974