



Annual Report

2011/2012

Palm Island Community Company
is funded by the Queensland and
Commonwealth Governments



QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT



Australian Government

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Palm Island, also known as Great Palm Island, or by the Aboriginal name Bwgcolman, is a tropical island with a resident community of about 2,000 people. The settlement is named variously Palm Island, the Mission, Palm Island Settlement or Palm Community.

The island is situated 65 kilometres north-west of Townsville, on the east coast of Queensland, Australia, 800 kilometres north of the Tropic of Capricorn. It is the main island of the Greater Palm group, and consists of small bays, sandy beaches and steep forested mountains rising to a peak of 548 metres.

In Manbarra folklore the Palm Island group was formed in the Dreamtime from the broken up fragments of an ancestral spirit, Rainbow Serpent.

The island was named by explorer James Cook in 1770 as he sailed up the eastern coast of Australia on his first voyage. It is estimated that the population of the island at the time of Cook's visit was about 200 Manbarra people.

From the 1850s, locals were recruitment targets to leave the island to be involved with bêche-de-mer and pearlling enterprises with Europeans and Japanese.

By the end of the 19th century the population had been reduced to about 50. In 1909 the Chief Protector of Aborigines visited the Island, apparently to check on the activities of Japanese pearlling crews in the area, and reported the existence of a small camp of Aborigines.



Introduction

Established with the ethos of improving human service delivery capability on Palm Island, the Palm Island Community Company [PICC] has been working tirelessly to build the capacity of the community it serves.

The development of programs and services designed to support and strengthen the social and cultural fabric of Palm Island continues to be rolled out by PICC.

Registered as a company in 2007, PICC is a not-for-profit organisation that enjoys tri-partisan support and contribution from the Queensland Government, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Palm Island community members. The board of directors are representative of these partners.

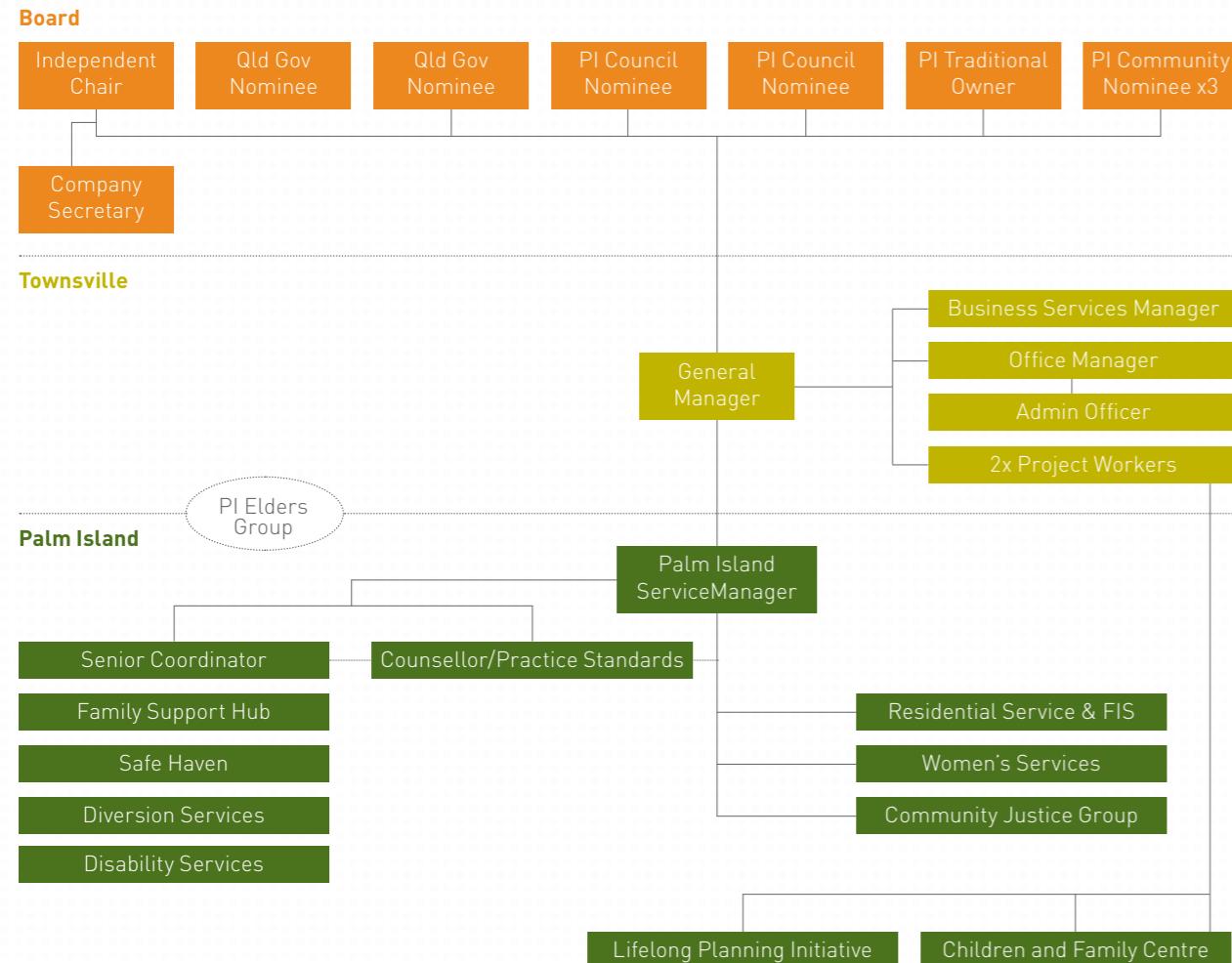
The model through which the PICC structure is implemented provides the ability to link service delivery across community, government and individuals with a coordinated, integrated approach.

After four years of operations, PICC has demonstrated success in the delivery of programs and services that are specific to the needs of the Palm Island community. The company continues to make a real difference in the community due in large part to the commitment to build a workforce comprising local Palm Island people.

PICC, its directors, staff and supporters are committed to the effective delivery of programs and services that lead to a better life for individuals, families and the community of Palm Island.

This annual report provides information on key highlights for the Palm Island Community Company during 2011-12.

Organisational Structure



Chairman's Report

After four years of operations, the Palm Island Community Company (PICC), notwithstanding the high hurdles set by its early detractors, has been an overwhelming success.

PICC is now well established and enjoys strong and productive relationships within the Palm Island community. The skills mix, with a board of directors from professional backgrounds, partnered with traditional knowledge and Island expertise, has produced a governance structure and board/management relationship that is the envy of NGOs around the state.

The number of services provided by PICC continues to grow and our ongoing success has resulted in the company being awarded the contract for the Palm Island Children and Family Centre through the Queensland Department of Education and Training. Additionally, the professional delivery provided by the highly motivated Residential Service (Safe House) staff resulted in PICC being awarded the first licence in Queensland to provide out-of-home care, effective 8 August 2012.

Developing a timely, appropriate resource base for the company and strengthening social capital on Palm continue as the major focus of our strategic plan. The past twelve months has witnessed a significant increase in the number of employees now with the organisation, the breadth of training offered to staff, and the level and number of social services provided to the Island.

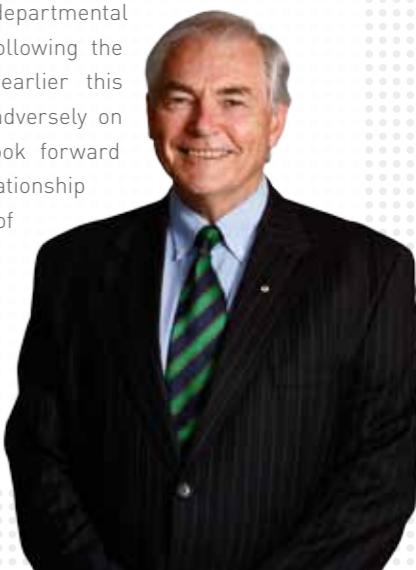
At the board level, we continue to increase Palm Island representation and, during this last year, we welcomed Ms Emmakita Geia as a director. Mr Mislam Sam was required to step down as a director due to his election as a Councillor on the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (PIASC). Our loss is certainly a gain for Council and we wish Mislam every success in his new role. We look forward to working with the

the quality of our management and staff has been pivotal to the company's success

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newly elected council and welcoming their representatives to our board in the near future.

At a state level, the departmental restructure announced following the change of government earlier this year should not impact adversely on the company, and we look forward to a strong ongoing relationship with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. We are confident of continuing to attract the support that has underpinned



PICC in its formative stages from government, the PIASC and the Palm Island community.

With an annual budget now exceeding \$5,000,000, PICC has achieved a scale that provides for long term sustainability, that brings improved levels of social service delivery and, importantly, one that is delivered by Palm Island people, for Palm Island people.

Once again, the quality of our management and staff has been pivotal to the company's success and Rachel Atkinson and her team can take great pride in the level of their performance. It is a pleasure to work with them all and to be absorbed into the collective enthusiasm of their commitment to Palm Island and its community.

To my fellow directors, how lucky I have been to have such wonderful colleagues. I look forward to this year as we develop increased Palm Island representation on the board and the ongoing professional relationship that has developed with management.

Jim Petrich AM
Independent Chair



General Manager's Report

The Palm Island Community Company initiative represents a unique and innovative response to the historic challenges of delivering quality human services in remote Indigenous communities.

Since registration of the company in 2007, organisational and service implementation has progressed strongly and the company is now firmly established on Palm Island and functioning sustainably.

We have succeeded in engaging the community in a shared, strategic vision. We continue to build from a sound base to achieve high standards of management and administration. We have increased the net service delivery capacity through the PICC model of integrating related services.

From the beginning of service delivery on Palm Island in 2008–09 until 30 June 2012, PICC has witnessed rapid and significant organisational growth which is confirmed by the financial results reported in the company's 2011–12 financial statements. This report confirms the company to be in a position of financial strength. Continued government support and funding, combined with assets and strong working capital, holds PICC at a level where future organisational growth can be sustained.

During the 2011–12 year, an increase in the number of programs administered by PICC has also been realised. With the addition of the Palm Island Children and Family Centre (CFC) and the Lifelong Planning Community Support Initiative, combined with the continued growth in existing

services, an increase in staffing levels has been necessary to ensure adequate human resources on the ground to meet service delivery requirements.

Over the four-year period, our workforce has grown from two employees in mid-2008 to 51 currently, with 80% drawn from the Palm Island Community. The level and number of social services have expanded from the Diversion, Family Support Hub, Safe Haven/Youth Patrol and auspice of the Community Justice Group to now include the Safe House, Women's and Disability services and a community support worker under the Disability Services Lifelong Planning Initiative. Additionally, in late 2011, PICC was appointed lead agency for the Palm Island Children and Family Centre. When this purpose-built facility comes on line in late 2012, a further six staff will be employed and services will be operating out of seven locations on Palm.

I believe that the foundation of this progress has been the commitment to employ locally, underpinned by the provision of intensive training and mentoring support to build capacity. The resultant robust and confident workforce, with an emphasis on the acquisition of relevant and focussed programs and services, has been the hallmark of the 2011–12 year for the Palm Island Community Company.



A significant number of PICC services deal with different dimensions of the same social issues, and many work with the same clients. It has therefore made sense for PICC to adopt an integrated approach to meeting the needs of Palm Island people. This resultant co-location and integration of relevant services has had clear benefits in reducing duplication and optimising resources as well as improving service delivery outcomes.

We have come through a challenging and intensive infancy period of building the operations and services. PICC is now in the consolidation stage, giving rise to an opportunity for review and renewal which will bring its own, yet different, challenges. It is timely to look back and identify what we have done well and strive to do it better.

We need a considered approach to building our workforce. As PICC grows, the available pool of workers on Palm is diminished. A tactical recruitment strategy needs to be developed that will allow PICC to replenish and grow its workforce without depleting existing expertise from other service providers on the Island.

Accommodation is an ongoing issue, however, access to a residence on Palm has given PICC the capability to provide an appropriate venue for staff training, playgroup and other activities, and for professional and/or Townsville staff to stay-over, particularly during the wet season when travel to Palm is often problematic.

At the operational level, it is timely to maintain staff morale and to introduce higher level supervisory mechanisms to support staff, particularly those working on the ground with their community and those experiencing difficulty transitioning to a work culture based on stronger work ethics and higher performance expectations.

I am fortunate to have a solid, innovative management team and supportive board to work with. Over the last year we have had to deal with machinery of government changes and the impacts these have had on NGOs such as PICC. It brings into focus the value of the high level strategic thinking we have around the table and the need to develop sustainability models.

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The sensitivity of Directors to the cultural and specific needs of the Palm Island community, and their broad corporate expertise, ensures that PICC operates with integrity, accountability and in a context relevant to Palm Island. I thank the Chair and Directors for the continued, high level assistance they provide to me in my role as General Manager.



Stakeholders

Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE **Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council**
Queensland Health Townsville Mackay Medicare Local
Sandy Boyd Aged Care Centre **Joyce Palmer Health Service**
Queensland Ambulance Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council
Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs **Palm Island Elders Group**
Palm Island Police Citizens Youth Club Coolgaree Aboriginal Corporation for CDEP
Palm Island HACC Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service
Queensland Police Service Palm Island Senior Campus
St Michael's Catholic School Queensland Probation and Parole Murri Watch
Bwgcolman Community School Ferdy's Haven
Centrelink Bwgcolman Community Arts Coop Palm Island Rugby League
ICAN **Mary MacKillop Goodoo Childcare**
Cathy Freeman Foundation New Way Agencies
Centrecare Red Cross Palm Island Nolan Centre



Achievements

- PICC successfully completed three accreditation reviews during the 2011–12 year and met all required standards: The PICC Disability Service was awarded continued certification for a further twelve months. The auditors were particularly impressed with the respectful interaction between staff and clients.

After a strenuous two-year long process, the Palm Island Residential Service (Safe House) achieved its license to operate an out-of-home care residential service. It was the first Safe House in the State to be licensed.

The then Department of Communities service assessments on the PICC Family Support Hub, Safe Haven, Diversion, Safe House and the Women's Services found that the requirements of the service agreements were being met and that no follow-up action was required.



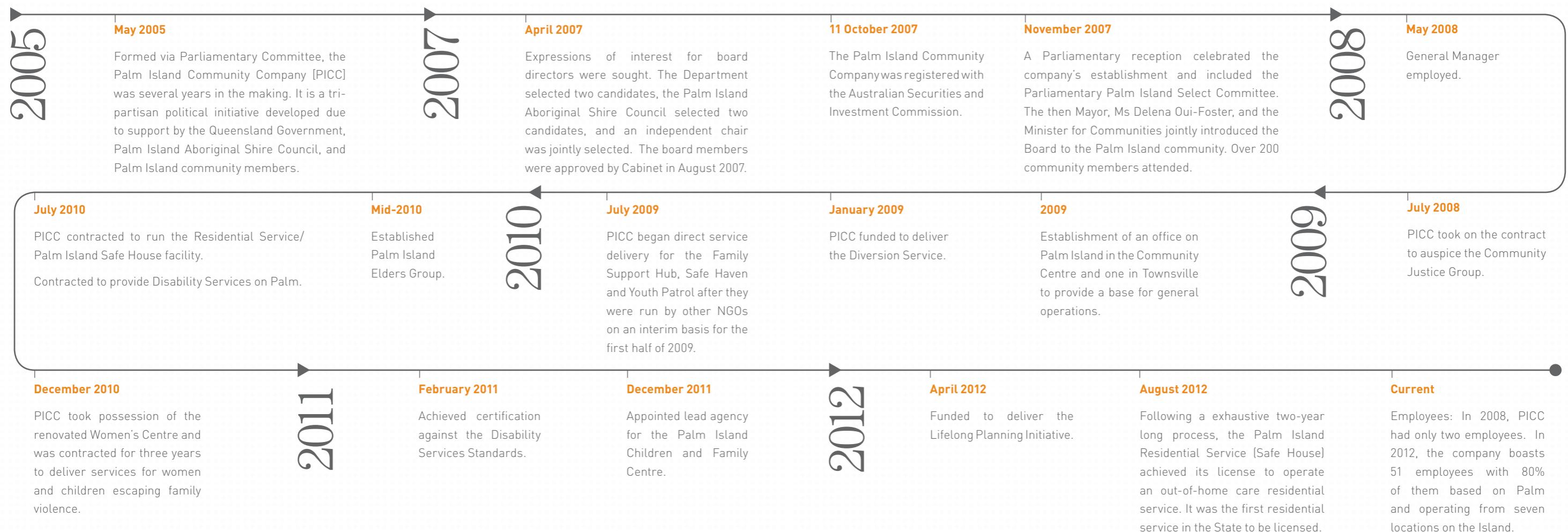
- Appointed lead agency for the Palm Island Children and Family Centre. The service will aim to improve outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from birth to eight, and their families, through access to integrated services that focus on early childhood education and care, parenting and family support, and maternal and child health.
- Successful application under the Lifelong Planning Community Support Initiative established in response to an identified need to improve supports to people with a disability on Palm Island.
- Successful application with Federal Attorney-General's Department under the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002* (POCA) to upgrade security at the Women's Service.
- Partnered with Townsville-Mackay Medicare Local to implement a Night Café program through the PICC Youth Patrol. This program engages with young people who are out in the community on Palm Island late



- evening and night to provide support and encourage access to relevant e-Health sites.
- Successful application with the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA) to provide emergency relief funding on Palm.
- Supported Bwgcolman Arts Coop Ltd to achieve incorporation and facilitated their AGM.
- Partnered with the Bwgcolman Arts Coop to host three visiting artists and the centre manager from the Wik and Kugu Arts and Crafts Centre in Aurukun. This provided an inspirational and shared experience as artists from both communities came together to demonstrate skills and techniques.
- Ongoing and continued support of sporting groups on Palm Island, in particular the Palm Island Rugby League and Palm Island Boxing.
- Committed staff and resources to the Palm Island Spring Fair Festival and NAIDOC community celebrations.
- Facilitated healthy relationship workshops for Years 8–12 students from Palm Island Senior Campus.
- Arrival of the modular, purpose-built facility for the Palm Island Children and Family Centre by barge on 23rd June 2012.
- The fortnightly e-News, Whichway! continues to inform and provide unique insight into PICC programs and services on the ground on Palm.



Achievements and Growth





Programs/Community Involvement

Palm Island Elders Group Early Reading
Women's Yarning Circle Palm Island Under 18s
Palm Island Literacy Program **Men's Gathering**
Vacation Care School Holiday Programs Adult Patrol
Community (Youth) Patrol **Playgroup** NAIDOC
Sporting Events Healthy Living
Palm Island Boxing Palm Island Rugby League
Palm Island Netball Lateral Violence Palm Island Youth Council
Spring Fair Festival Cultural Art Classes **Whichway!**
Arts and Crafts Sexual Health Bwgcolman Arts Group
Healthy Relationships Substance Misuse Community Information Stalls
Domestic and Family Violence **Bullying Awareness**
Sporting Sponsorships Youth Mental Health First Aid



PICC Services

- Family Support Hub
- Safe Haven Service
- Diversion Services
- Disability Services
- Lifelong Planning Community Support Initiative
- Residential Service (Safe House)
- Women's Services
- Community Justice Group
- Palm Island Children and Family Centre

In designing service operations, PICC has been cognisant of the socio-demographic of the Palm Island community. As a discrete community off the coast of Townsville, 93.4% of the population on Palm Island is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Based on the 2011 Census data, the population was approximately 2,381. However, data collected by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council (PIASC) and the Department of Communities, indicates that this population figure varies significantly and is often as high as 3000.

The majority of the population (31%) is 14 years or younger compared to only 20.2% in that age bracket in the rest of Queensland. Only 2.3% of people are over 65 years; this compares with the Queensland average of 13.2%.

The Aboriginal Palm Island community has a different and younger population structure than the non-Indigenous population, with the median age of people in Palm Island Local Government Areas being 24 years.

This difference is a reflection of a higher and younger birth rate in conjunction with a high mortality rate. Whereas the social services system in the rest of Australia must meet the needs of an increasingly ageing non-Indigenous population, in contrast, the social services system for the Palm Island community, must meet the needs of its children and families.

On Palm Island, the majority of families with dependent children are not in the labour force or are unemployed. There is also a high level of sole parent families.

The unemployment rate on Palm Island is 26.3%. In Queensland; the unemployment rate is 6.1%.

Historical data, when tracked against entry into early childhood, school attainment levels, and unemployment rates, paints a picture of a dire need for improved support services for the Palm Island community.

This picture is demonstrated by the education statistics of Palm Island. Only 26.7% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 57.1% were in primary school, 17.0% in secondary school and 8.5% in a tertiary or technical institution.

PICC continues to evaluate the needs of the Palm Island community at a grassroots level. With a demonstrated commitment to designing and implementing programs that are relevant, sustainable and affordable, and delivered by Palm Island people to Palm Island people, PICC is making a real difference to community capacity building and strengthening resilience.

The PICC model and the hard work by its staff, directors and stakeholders over the last four years has seen the organisation gain traction and acceptance in the local community. There is still much to do, however the continual development and rollout of programs and services such as those delivered by PICC are helping to close the gap for the community of Palm Island.





Palm Island Family Support Hub

The Palm Island Family Support Hub model was developed on the basis that it would enable an integrated approach to the needs of Palm Island families through the co-location and linking of services provided to young people, parents and Elders. The service is fully integrated with the Safe Haven Service and provides a range of prevention and early intervention services and programs for individuals (children, youth or adults) families and community.

Service activity levels are growing as staff implement a broad range of programs, partner in service delivery and increase the level of PICC engagement in interagency activities.

- Family Support Hub staff partnered with the PCYC to deliver a range of school programs, sporting and night activities throughout the year.
- Arts and crafts group activities that go across the broad PICC client base are held weekly at the Diversion Centre.
- The Women's Yarning Circle provides an opportunity for women to share their stories and knowledge and spend time together. The gathering is held at the Palm Island Women's Service which offers a safe and caring environment and where children are also welcome. It provides soft entry pathways for women seeking other PICC services which include counselling and support for themselves and their families. The activity is very popular with up to twenty-four women now participating. It is facilitated by the Hub's Counsellor.

- A new initiative, the Sista Girls Yarning Circle, was introduced to create a safe space for gay and transgendered people to come together. It provides peer support as well as a structure for workers to engage with the group.
- The Palm Island Elders group continues to be a valued resource to PICC and to Palm. The Hub facilitates regular meetings where Elders come together to socialise and discuss topical issues on the Island.
- The Sandy Boyd Aged Care Hostel Friendly Visitor Program is a practical approach to help reduce isolation from the community, strengthen natural networks, and improve links between the aged care residents and other agencies in the community. Family support workers visit the residents daily to provide functional, emotional and personal support.

The Hub's Counsellor is very visible in the community and has developed partnerships with a number of agencies on the Island. She has taken a lead role in facilitating the monthly Domestic Violence Network meetings on Palm Island that are run by the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service and was instrumental in the implementation of the Women's Yarning Circle.

Palm Island Safe Haven Service

The Palm Island Safe Haven Service provides support and a culturally responsive service to Palm Island children, young people and their families who have experienced or witnessed domestic violence. A key service delivery aim is to strengthen the capacity of those affected to deal with issues that might impact on their safety and wellbeing.

The service is well established, easily accessible to the community and is fully integrated with the Palm Island Family Support Hub. The service operates a youth patrol most week nights with a flexible roster which allows it to respond to community activities and need. The patrols provide an escort for children to ensure their safety by transporting them to a safe place if they are found wandering at night.

Value-adding to the transportation focus of the youth patrol, PICC teamed with the Townsville-Mackay Medicare Local (TMML) to implement the Palm Island Night Café and Youth Support Program to provide a coordinated and integrated response to the health needs of young people. It is specifically aimed at supporting young people after hours and engaging with them to access appropriate e-Health sites and health programs. Staff received training to enhance their skills specific to working with young people, using motivational interviewing techniques.

the PICC playgroup is the only one on the Island and plays a key role in early childhood development ’’

TMML provided training and program support across a range of health-related areas such as Youth Mental Health, Youth Mental Health First Aid, and the Flinders Closing the Gap Program.

Staff at the Safe Haven Service collaborate with the PCYC, Bwgcolman and St Michael Schools to deliver vacation care, after school and school holiday activities and sporting events, and reading programs.

The playgroup is a practical measure to support parents and children and has broadened PICC's involvement with families in the community. It provides a tangible focus and structure for the support workers to engage with parents and children. Numbers have increased from 2-3 children per day to an average of twelve.



Palm Island Diversion Services

Palm Island Diversion Services work with people on Palm Island who are vulnerable, with complex needs, and particularly people who are intoxicated, or at risk of misusing substances in public spaces and/or at risk of entering police custody.

The mandatory service elements comprise:

- Community (Adult) Patrol: the purpose of which is to reduce the risk of people becoming involved in activities that could lead to contact with the justice system, either as victims or offenders. The Community Patrol operates every night except Monday.
- Diversion Centre: where the primary goal is to reduce the incidence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in police custody. The Diversion Centre offers a safe, monitored environment for people to sober up as an alternative to being held in police custody for public intoxication offences. The Diversion Centre provides flexible and responsive 24/7 care and appropriate supports.
- Reducing Demand: to provide a range of activities which aim to reduce alcohol-related harm to vulnerable community members. Programs include contemporary and traditional arts and crafts (including traditional wood carving), sports, fishing, personal development, music and TAFE courses.

As it expands its program base, the Diversion Service is increasing accessibility to members of the community. Anger management and life skills programs have been introduced that have had proven benefits in improving wellbeing in Indigenous communities.

Another positive development for the Diversion Service is the increased integration of activities with the Family Support Hub, the Safe Haven program and Disability Services, which has led to improved client engagement, greater exposure to peer support and reduced social isolation.

The popular *men's gathering* group gets together every Friday in collaboration with the Joyce Palmer Health Services, ATODS staff and clients. Around lunch, men are encouraged to discuss issues relevant to their own lives.

The Diversion staff work closely with ATODS, Ferdy's Haven Drug and Rehabilitation Centre, Palm Island Probation and Parole and Palm Island Rugby League. Clients are assisted with transport to attend AA meetings as well as ATODS and hospital appointments.



Disability Services

Now in its third year of operation, the service works with a client base of up to 20 people with a disability, and their carers, who reside on Palm Island and are eligible under the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services guidelines.

The service continues to provide flexible respite care and learning and life skills development and, in 2012, was also approved for own home respite.

A number of the activities provided, such as arts and crafts, pool and darts competitions, beach outings, yarning circles and BBQs, assist clients to access the community and reduce social exclusion. Shopping, banking and support to link in with other agencies provides assistance to help meet essential day-to-day requirements.

The Palm Island Community Company provides integrated services across a number of its programs and it is common for Disability Services clients to access joint activities and supports through the PICC Family Support Hub, the Diversion Services and the Women's yarning circle.

the service continues to provide flexible respite care and learning and life skills development

Throughout the 2011-12 year, Palm Island Community Company staff undertook a significant amount of work with Disability Services to clarify the service model and to ensure that departmental expectations were met to a high standard.

In February 2011, the service achieved certification against the Queensland Disability Service Standards and, in February 2012, it underwent its successful first surveillance audit against the *Privacy, Dignity and Confidentiality, Participation and Integration, and Service Management* Standards.



Lifelong Planning Community Support Initiative

In response to an identified need to improve supports to people with a disability on Palm Island, PICC was invited to tender for funding to deliver the Lifelong Planning Initiative.

Palm Island was the only discrete Aboriginal community to be offered this opportunity and commenced delivering services under the initiative in April 2012. The implementation of this initiative was in response to the Queensland Government's commitment to assist non-government organisations to deliver critical services to people with a disability. It aims to complement and strengthen the supports provided by families, parents and the natural networks existing within the community.

supporting people with a disability to link in with critical services

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As an initial priority, the Community Support Worker undertook a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify supports and services available to people with a disability on Palm Island.



PICC Residential Service (Safe House)

The Safe House ensures that children and young people who require out-of-home care can remain in their community connected to family, culture, language and country. It provides short-term residential placements for children and young people from birth to 17 years, who have been referred from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

The residential placement service is co-located and delivered in conjunction with the Family Intervention Service (FIS). FIS provides practical support and assistance for children and families to address child protection concerns. The program supports families by assisting them to build their capacity to allow children to remain living in the family home.

A significant achievement during the 2011–12 year was the completion of the process for a licence to operate an out-of-home care residential service. At the end of June, advice had been received from the Institute for Healthy Communities Australia Certification Pty Ltd (the external assessors) that the recommendation to the Department was that the PICC Palm Island Residential Service had met the requirements of the Child Safety Standards. Subsequently, in August 2012, the licence was granted.

It took over two years to achieve, involved a strenuous assessment process, entailed extensive training to staff across the eleven Child Safety Service Standards, and was a substantial team effort by all involved. It is of particular credit to the staff, all of whom are local residents and who have been with PICC since the Safe House commenced operations in June 2010: the highest retention rate across PICC services.

the Safe House is the first in the State of Queensland to achieve a licence to operate an out-of-home care residential service

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Palm Island Women's Services



and caring environment is maintained and that the immediate needs of clients are identified and met appropriately.

Through the optimisation of resources, the Women's Centre and Family Support Hub implemented the weekly women's yarning circle. This popular gathering is facilitated by the Hub Counsellor at the Women's facility and has evolved over time into a safe and social space where women can share stories and discuss the issues that affect them and their families. Numbers continue to increase with the client catchment extending across other PICC services such as Disability and the Lifelong Planning Initiative. The women have taken ownership of the activities program, which has grown to include beading, arts and crafts and karaoke, while PICC staff ensure the morning tea is up to expectations.

Since opening in December 2012, the Palm Island Women's Services, which can accommodate up to five families or 15 people at any one time, has been well used by Palm Island women, indicating a good level of accessibility.

2011-12 was the first full year of operation for the service which provides crisis short-term accommodation and support networks for women and children experiencing domestic and family violence as well as associated services such as general counselling, information provision and assistance to apply for Domestic Violence Orders. Referral pathways exist with the police and the Joyce Palmer Health Service.

Regular training in first aid, CPR, *working with clients with complex needs, behavioural management, and responding to domestic violence*, is provided to staff to ensure that a safe



Community Justice Group

Since late 2008, the Palm Island Community Company has been the auspice agency providing guidance and support to the Community Justice Group (CJG) program. The program is directed by the members of the CJG, a significant number of whom are Palm Island Elders, who meet monthly to develop strategies within the community for dealing with justice-related issues and to decrease Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' contact with the justice system.

The CJG supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and offenders at all stages of the legal process including the provision of sentencing submissions to court, attendance at court, and visits to prisons and detention centres. It is a valued resource on the Island and provides a platform for the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and other relevant agencies to consult on law and order matters.

The CJG Coordinator plays a significant role in networking with these agencies to ensure that justice-related issues impacting on the Palm Island community are addressed collectively with a focus on the development of intervention programs.

In Memory

We respectfully acknowledge the passing of the late **Mr Owen Wyles**, long-standing Chair for the Community Justice Group, founding member of the Palm Island Elders Group and respected Elder on Palm.

Palm Island Children and Family Centre

The children and family centres are part of a joint Australian and Queensland Government commitment to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in their early years under the Closing the Gap agenda.

Through the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership Agreement, the Queensland Government partnered with the Australian Government to invest \$75 million into the establishment of ten children and family centres across the state by mid-2014.

The purpose-built facility out of Brisbane was transported to Palm on 23 June 2012. It is situated in Reid Lane on the old Bwgcolman preschool site with an expected handover date of November 2012.

The Palm Island CFC will provide universal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from 0 to 8 years, general advice and information on a range of early childhood and family issues and referral pathways to other community and government services. The aim is to improve outcomes for the target group by providing access to integrated services that are responsive to community needs under the three key service delivery components of early childhood education and care, family and parenting support and child and maternal health services.

Given that the majority of the population (31%) of Palm Island is 14 years or younger, and with a median age of 24 years, the Children and Family Centre is a much-needed facility that will provide services essential to help meet the health, education and social wellbeing needs of children on Palm Island and give them the best start.



In December 2011, the then Minister for Education and Industrial Relations, advised that the Palm Island Community Company had been appointed as the lead agency to operate the Palm Island Children and Family Centre (CFC). Program establishment commenced in the March 2012 quarter.



Directors

MAGDALENA BLACKLEY

Not pictured

PIASC Nominee

Appointed 7 August 2008;
retired 11 August 2011

RHONDA LEIGH PHILLIPS

Qld Government Nominee

Appointed 11 October 2007

MISLAM SAM

Not pictured

PI Community Nominee

Appointed 1 February 2011
Resigned 24 May 2012

MARK JOHNSTON

Qld Government Nominee

Appointed 11 October 2007

PAUL GREGORY TRAVIS

PIASC Nominee

Appointed 11 October 2007

ALLAN PALM ISLAND

Traditional Owner

Appointed 5 November 2007

YOLANDA COUTTS

(alternate for Rhonda Phillips)

Appointed 1 February 2011

COSMO JAMES (JIM) PETRICH

Independent Chair

Appointed 11 October 2007

Michael Gilmour

Company Secretary

Appointed 7 February 2008

Meetings of Directors

During the financial year attendances at meeting of the Board and the Finance Compliance and Risk Sub-Committee by each director were as follows:

	Board	Board	Finance Compliance and Risk	Finance Compliance and Risk
	No. eligible to attend	No. attended	No. eligible to attend	No. attended
Magdalene Balckley	2	2		
Emmakita Geia	4	4		
Mark Johnston	16	12		
Allan Palm Island	16	13	7	5
Jim Petrich	16	16	7	6
Rhonda Phillips	16	16		
Mislam Sam	14	11	5	3
Paul Travis	16	15		
Yolanda Coutts	0	0		





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