

Cape York/Gulf Remote Area
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Child Care (RAATSICC) Advisory
Association Inc.

OUR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY CLUSTER GROUPS

Northern Peninsula Area Cluster

Injinoo
Umagico
New Mapoon
Seisia
Bamaga

West Cape Cluster

Aurukun
Pormpuraaw
Kowanyama
Napranum
Old Mapoon

Central Cape Cluster

Coen
Lockhart River

East Cape Cluster

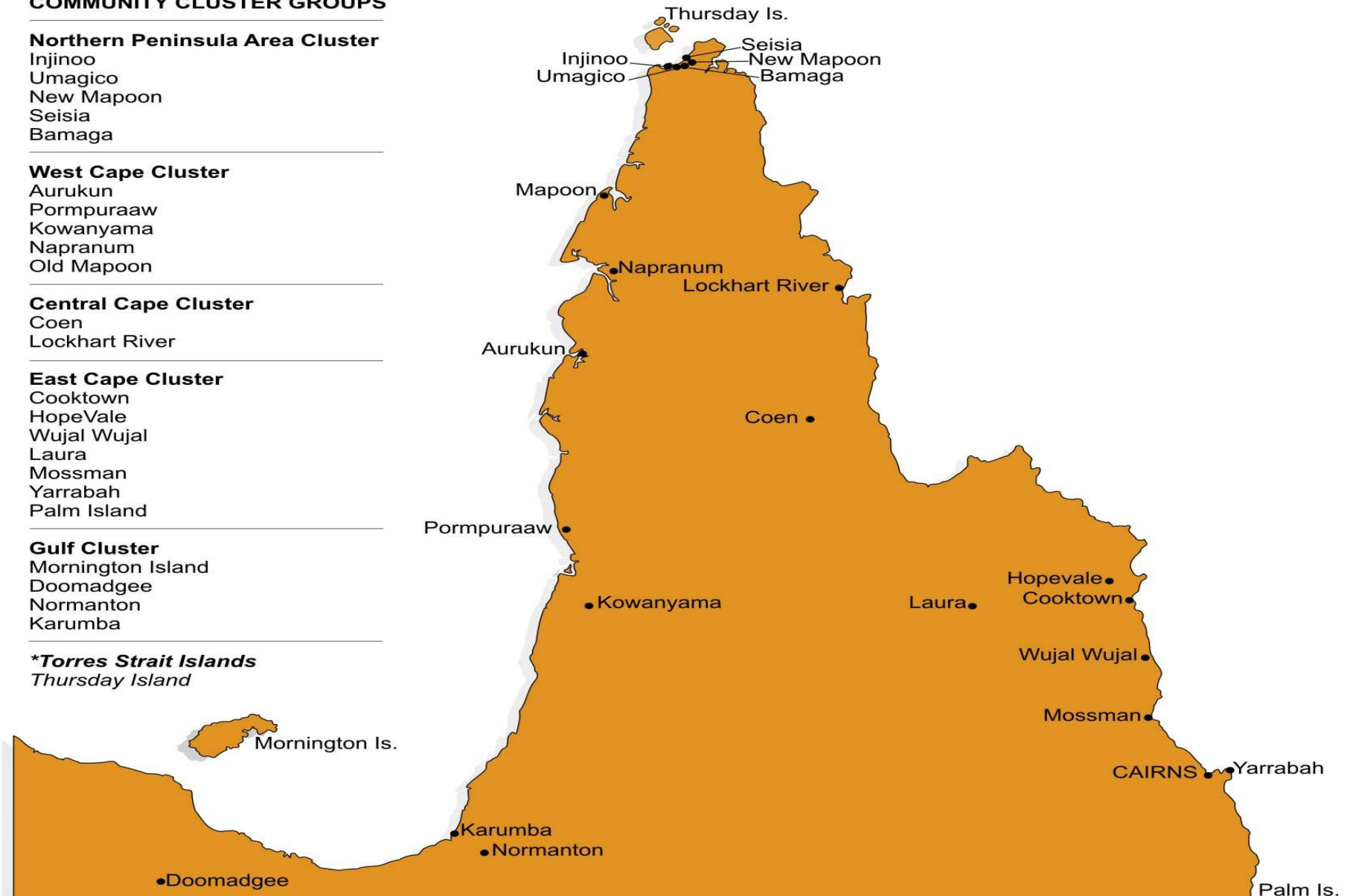
Cooktown
HopeVale
Wujal Wujal
Laura
Mossman
Yarrabah
Palm Island

Gulf Cluster

Mornington Island
Doomadgee
Normanton
Karumba

*Torres Strait Islands

Thursday Island



**Some programs are delivered to Thursday Island for the Torres Straits*

RAATSICC Programs

- Advisory Network
- Child and Family Support
- Indigenous Remote Area Strategy
- Resource Unit
- Remote Indigenous Child Witness of Domestic Violence Support Unit

Remote Indigenous Child Witness of Domestic Violence Support Unit

- Children are often the silent victims when it comes to Family and Domestic Violence. Family Violence has the potential to create a home environment where children live in constant fear.
- Children exposed to domestic or family violence are more likely to develop social, emotional, psychological and or behavioural problems than those children who are not exposed.

Effects of Childhood Trauma

- Recent research indicates that children who witness domestic violence show more anxiety, low self esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems than children who do not witness violence in the home.
- The trauma children experience can show up in emotional, behavioural, social and physical disturbances that effect their development and can continue into adulthood.

National Statistics

The ABS conducted the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) in 2002.

- The number of Indigenous people who reported being a victim of violence was highest Queensland.
- Almost one in four Indigenous Australians (24%) reported being a victim of physical or threatened violence.
- Based on the NATSISS, Indigenous Australians reported being a victim of physical or threatened violence at twice the rate of non-Indigenous Australians.

Remote Area Statistics

Sources: ABS 2004b; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) analysis of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and Confidentialised Unit Record File CURF.

- In remote areas, the proportion of Indigenous people who reported family violence as a neighbourhood/community problem was almost three times as high as in non-remote areas.
- Similarly, in remote areas Indigenous people were over three times more likely to report assault and/or sexual assault as neighbourhood/community problems.

Remote Area Statistics

Sources: ABS 2004b; AIHW analysis of NATSISS CURF.

- The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in remote areas who reported that they, their family or friends had witnessed violence (30%) was three times as high as for Indigenous people in non-remote areas (10%).
- In remote areas, 17% of Indigenous people reported that abuse or violent crime was a problem for them, their family or close friends in the past 12 months, compared with 9% of Indigenous people in non-remote areas.

Growing Need

- These Statistics reflect a growing need to respond with orchestrated responses to address the significance of Domestic and Family Violence situations in Remote Areas of Australia.
- As well as better programmed responses to Domestic and Family Violence, the need for an increase of essential support is required to promote healing in these communities.
- To assist in breaking the cycle of violence and increasing the community capacity to heal RAATSIICC have implemented services directed at children as there has been a lack of child specific interventions for some time.

Child Witness of Domestic Violence Counselling Service

- The Remote Indigenous Child Witness of Domestic Violence Support Unit is a service developed to provide specialist child witness counselling services in remote Cape York Peninsula and Gulf of Carpentaria communities.

Program Aims

- The program aims to provide early intervention and prevention services for Child Witnesses of Domestic and Family Violence through the provision of specialised counselling to children and community education.
- In order to provide an integrated and holistic response to Domestic and Family violence RAATSICC's delivers services within a child inclusive and integrated service delivery framework in partnership with existing services.

Child Counsellor

- The Child Counsellor provides a range of counselling and therapeutic services to children aged between four and sixteen who have been affected by domestic or family violence.
- The service is located centrally in Cairns and provides regular outreach to nominated communities.

Priority Communities

- The Child Counsellor will target Priority One communities which have no current existing Domestic Violence or Child Counselling Services.

These locations include

- **West Cape Clusters**
Mapoon & Napranum.
- **Central Cape Cluster**
Lockhart River
- **East Cape Cluster** of
Mossman, Yarrabah and Palm Island
- **Gulf Cluster**
Mornington Island, Doomadgee & Normanton

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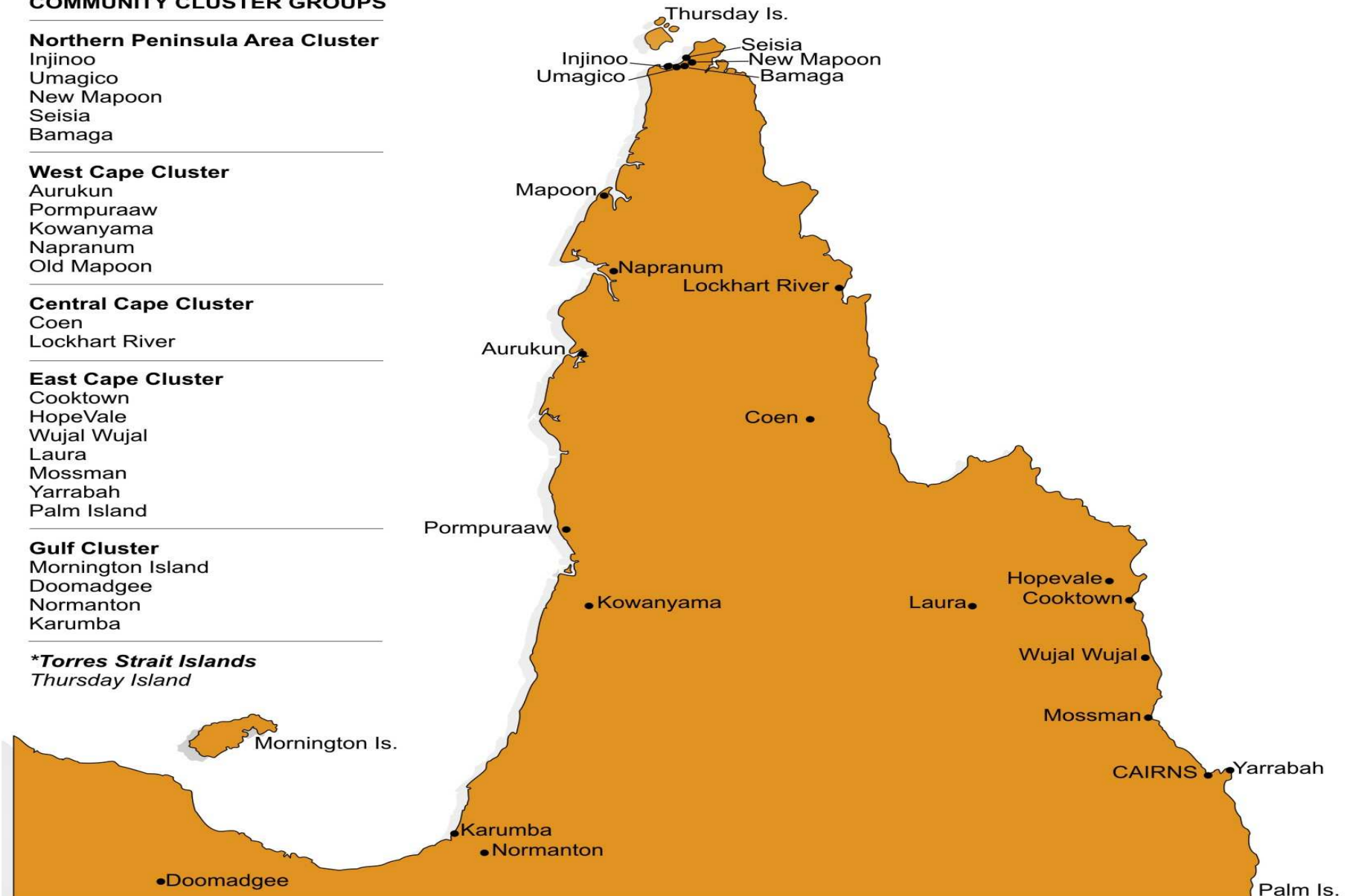
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Therapeutic Support

- Therapeutic support is provided through both individual face to face counselling sessions and via the facilitation of group workshops for children in the target areas who have been witnesses to domestic or family violence.

Promoting Healing

- The therapeutic process is aimed at promoting healing in children and young people who have been exposed to domestic and family violence
- Therapy also seeks to assist and empower the child to process their traumatic experiences and build their resilience.

Expressive Therapy

- Somatic focussed, Creative Counselling for Emotional Integration
- Course created by Mark Pearson & Helen Wilson (delivered locally by Keran Thomas of Birdwing Therapies)
- RAATSICC's Community Engagement Team undertaking professional development to attain this certificate

Expressive Therapy (continued)

- Based on frameworks and methods of Jungian, Gestalt and Transpersonal Psychology
- Emotion Focussed Therapy and Creative Art therapies
- Recognised by Australian Counselling Association (ACA)

Expressive Therapy (continued)

- Creative expression is intrinsic in indigenous societies
- We express ourselves through various art mediums (ochres, paints, charcoals, sand), song, dance, traditional music etc
- “ET is an invitational, self-discovery approach, encouraging insights and change from within the client.” *Expressive Therapies*

Institute of Australia 2010

Strengthen Communities

- RAATSICC view their key responsibility is to strengthen our remote communities and providing vital services to areas where services are lacking through an integrated service delivery response which aims to both promote and support the sustainability of services and fundamental community development strategies.

Partnerships

- Partnerships with relevant local stakeholders in the target communities have been established to ensure appropriate referral pathways for children and young people. A regional and state wide response has also been implemented to complement the initiative's referral system through Victim Assist Queensland.

Key Outcomes

- To strengthen the communities capacity to establish a No-Tolerance attitude towards domestic and family violence (through resourcing and education)
- Increase help seeking behaviour by those affected by domestic and family violence
- Increase knowledge and skills of service providers about the effects of domestic violence and family violence how to appropriately support victims and their families
- Provide therapeutic support to children and young people affected by domestic and family violence.

How to access the Service

Contact the Child Counsellor direct at the Cairns RAATSICC office on (07)40300900 or via e-mail info@raatsicc.org.au

To find out more about this program please don't hesitate to contact us.

RAATSICC'S Child Witness of Domestic Violence Counselling Service is FREE

THANK YOU 😊