

‘Big mobs in the city now’:



The growing number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in urban areas

This panel session will:

- Describe what is meant by the term urban and offer a background to the issues of Indigenous people living in urban areas in Queensland. (Bronwyn Fredericks)
- Outline where Indigenous students in Queensland schools are located and explain some of the strategies that might be needed to meet their needs. (Angela Leitch)
- Showcase a positive government and community response to the needs of Indigenous peoples residing in Brisbane, Queensland. (Robert Barty)

What is considered Urban?

- Urban areas in the State of Queensland have been defined using the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical divisions of Brisbane and Moreton (including Ipswich, Logan, Deception Bay, Redcliffe, Pine Rivers, Albert, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast) and the sub divisions of Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns.
- The rest of Queensland is considered Rural.

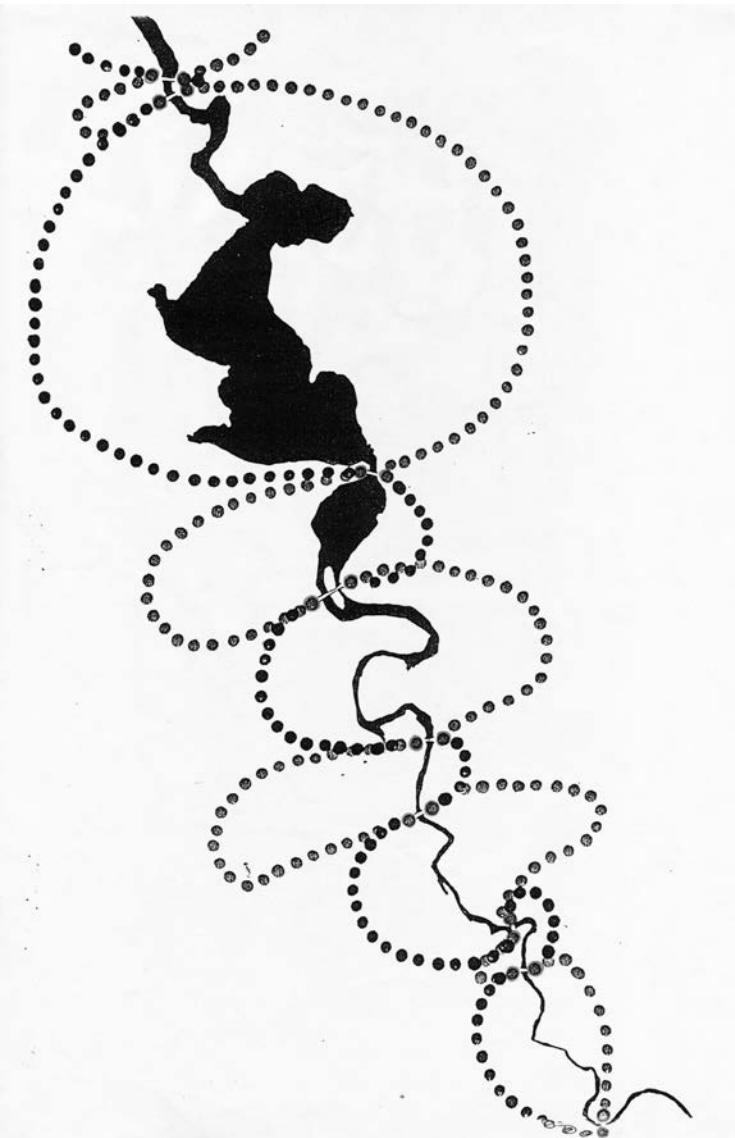


Pamela Croft. 1990. *Living in the City*.

Some facts...

- 73.6% of Indigenous people in Australia now live in city urban or regional urban areas, 8.8% live in remote areas and 17.7% live in very remote areas.
- 27.5% (125, 580) of Australia's Indigenous people live in Queensland, 29.4% (138,507) live in NSW. (56.9% live in NSW & QLD).
- Over 50 % of Indigenous people are under 20 years of age.
- 86.5% of all Torres Strait Islanders live on the mainland, and of these, 63.4% live in Queensland.





BRISBANE

Some 41, 369 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population or 23% of the Queensland Indigenous population live in the greater Brisbane area.

Brisbane	41, 369
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Victoria	30, 143
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South Australia	25, 556
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Tasmania	16, 768
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ABS. 2006. Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. ABS: Canberra.

Queensland	138, 507
Major urban populations in QLD	86, 932
Brisbane	41, 369
Cairns (inc. hinterland area)	18, 267
Cape York	6, 944
Sydney	41, 800
Melbourne	14, 132
Perth	21, 300
Darwin	10, 754
Alice Springs	4, 494
Adelaide	16, 996
Torres Strait Islands	7, 106

ABS. 2006. Population distribution, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. ABS: Canberra.



Connections to Place

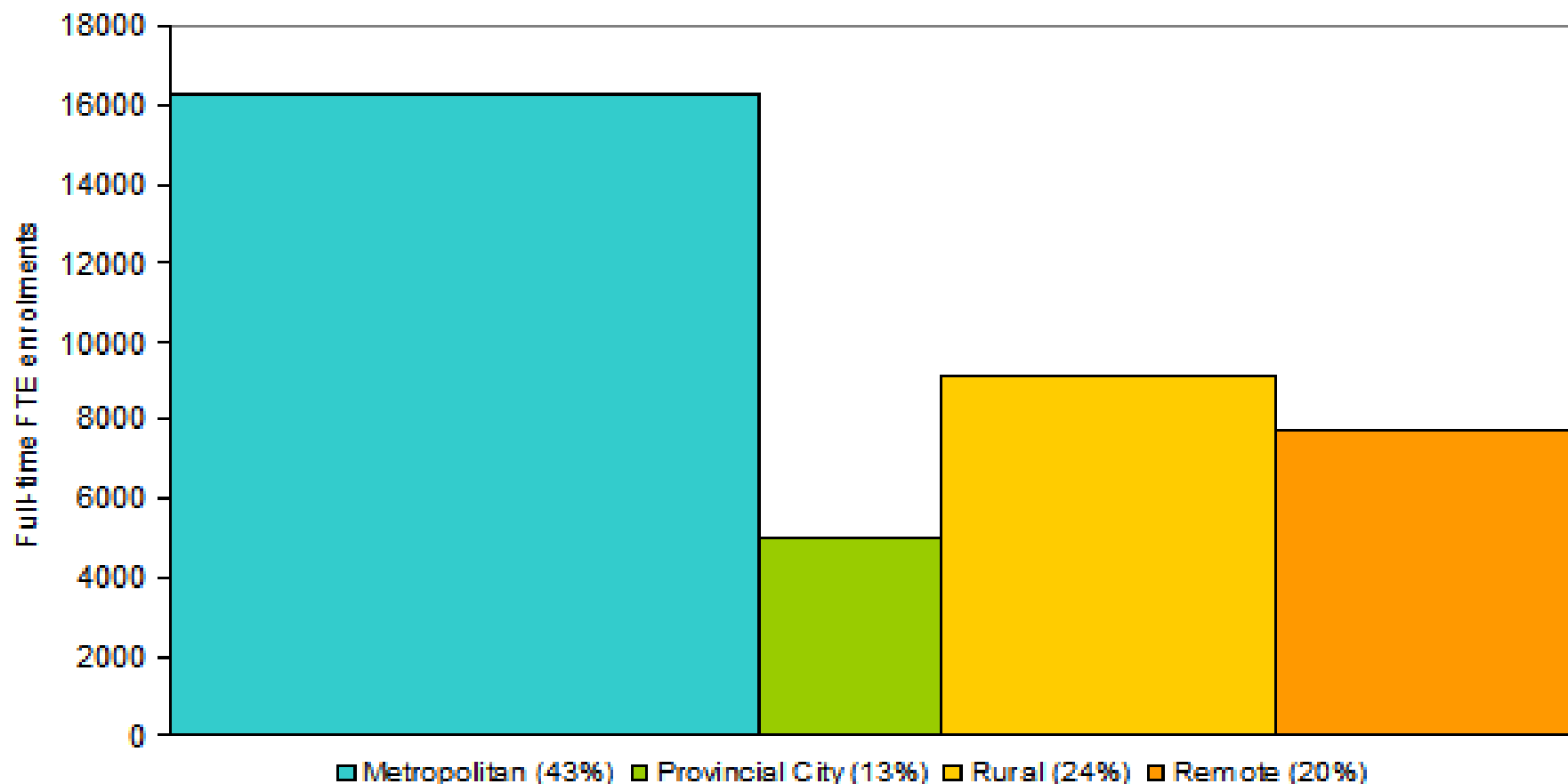
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people still maintain a sense of feeling for the people and country “back home”.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may have links to their traditional lands and links to other parts of the country that have been created since colonisation.
- Some urban residents are Traditional Owners for that urban area just as there are Traditional Owners in other geographic areas.
- There might be traditional, colonial and contemporary connections to place.



Urban Indigenous Education

December 2008

Full-time Indigenous enrolments as at Jul-07 : Geographical distribution - Education Queensland Zones



Total full-time FTE Enrolments = 38 114

Source: ENR080708.xls ESDMPRR07

Urban/SEQ environmental scan

- Majority of Indigenous people in Queensland live in urban areas – 30% in South East Queensland (SEQ)
- Student numbers doubled in SEQ 1997 – 2007
- 80% in most disadvantaged socio-economic index for areas (SEIFA) decile
- 85% of SEQ schools with Indigenous students
- Lower results than non-Indigenous urban, rural and remote students

Urban/SEQ consultation

- Pressure to fit into dominant culture
- Lack of partnerships with parents/community
- Cultural understandings, cultural competence of school-based staff
- Lack of career planning
- Lack of Indigenous education workers

Response

- Regionally based Indigenous strategies
- Pilot programs focusing on urban issues
 - Indigenous education support structures
 - Aspirations program identifying potential
 - induction for urban teachers who will teach in schools with high numbers of Indigenous students
- Queensland government systems/structures for remote not mirrored for urban population

Closing the Gap for Indigenous Australians - COAG

Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed to 6 targets

1. to close the gap in life expectancy within a generation
2. to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
3. to ensure all Indigenous four years olds in remote communities have access to quality early childhood education within five years
4. **to halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for Indigenous children within a decade**
5. **to halve the gap for Indigenous students in year 12 attainment or equivalent attainment rates by 2020**
6. to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

Current situation

- Cannot close gap without focus on urban students
- Ministerial Committee, Employment, Education and Training, Youth Affairs (MCEETYA) literacy and numeracy in low SES funding
 - Urban Mobility
- No additional Federal government funding focusing on Indigenous education
 - Low SES National Partnership
 - Quality teaching
 - Literacy and numeracy
- 2009 Federal Government workshop

kuril dhagun

Indigenous knowledge centre





STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND



Conclusion

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do live in urban areas...
deal with it!
- Questions?

Acknowledgements

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- State Library of Queensland
- Queensland Department of Education, Training and the Arts

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