

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND HOCKEY PROGRAM INTERIM REPORT 2011



8/29/2011

PART OF THE LEARN LEAD ACHIEVE PROGRAM

Building and Advancing Local Skills is an essential element of the plan to develop and strengthen the hockey program across the Torres Strait Islands. This report confirms the extraordinary circumstances required to meet these outcomes

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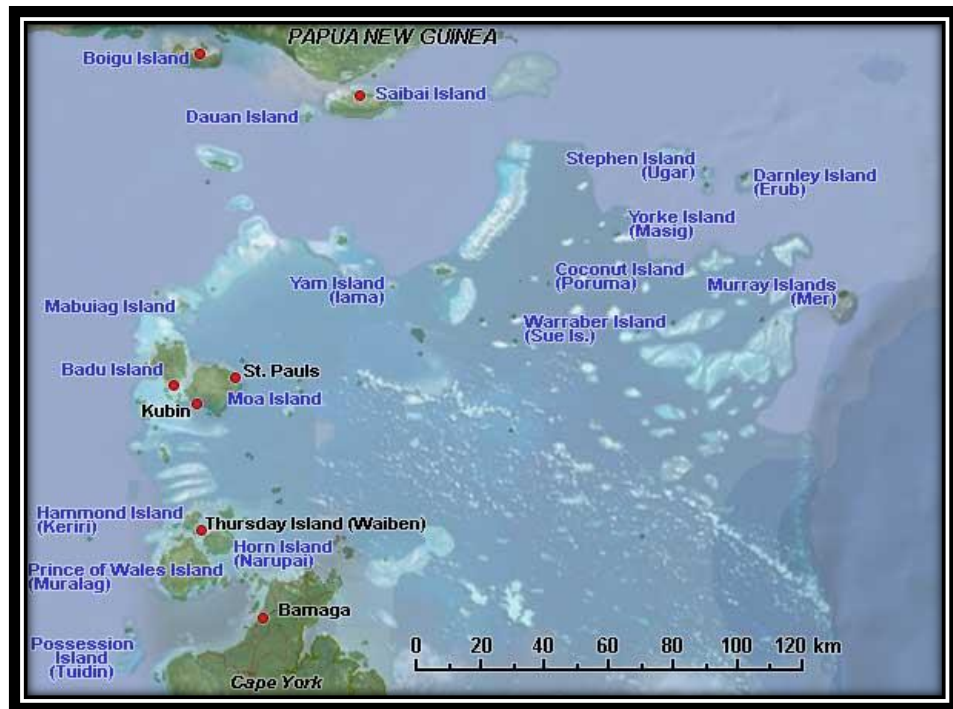
ABOUT THE TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS

The Torres Strait Islands are a group of at least 274 small islands which lie in Torres Strait, the waterway separating far northern continental Australia's Cape York Peninsula and the island of New Guinea.

The islands are mostly part of Queensland, a constituent State of the Commonwealth of Australia, with a special status fitting the native (Melanesian) land rights, administered by the Torres Strait Regional Authority. A few islands very close to the coast of mainland New Guinea belong to the Western Province of Papua New Guinea, most importantly Daru Island with the provincial capital, Daru.

Only 14 of the islands are inhabited. The Torres Strait Islands are threatened by rising sea levels due to climate change.

The islands are distributed across an area of some 48 000 km². The distance across the Strait from Cape York to New Guinea is approximately 150 km at the narrowest point; the islands lie scattered in between, extending some 200–300 km from furthest east to furthest west. The total land area of the islands is 566 km²



ABOUT THE REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS HOCKEY PROGRAM

The Sport of Hockey is a relatively new sport in the Torres Strait Island Communities. It was introduced in 2009 and with the assistance of some strong and committed program partners, the hockey program has strengthened with programs running in 7 Island communities.

The hockey program is scheduled for about 10 weeks across the August- November period. Local Programs are based on the national participation program Hook in2 Hockey and training includes the Hockey Ed coaching and officiating accreditations.

The Hockey Program culminates in the regional hockey program – Migi Kokan Hockey Competition – played in early November 2011 on Horn Island.

The **LEARN LEAD ACHIEVE** Hockey Program is based on 4 main focus areas which together combine into a whole of community program.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION – This is delivered through the Hook in2 Hockey national Program modified to meet the unique environment. This program provides the training programs which will enable communities to become better skilled and develop greater understanding of the game.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING – This also is based on the National Hockey Ed Program but modified to take into account the community facilities and needs. This coach and official accreditation allows the community to build towards sustaining programs

COMPETITION AND PATHWAYS – It is paramount to provide a vehicle for healthy competition, to be able to test each against their peers in a competition that provides ongoing opportunity for development into the mainstream hockey programs and pathways towards regional and state representation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FACILITIES – The Hockey Program does not nor will it ever have the capacity to support emerging programs in these remote communities in isolation. Partnering with local agencies and enlisting the local support is the only real and practical way to continue the much needed support required to deliver across these regions.

This report is designed to advise on how each of these focus areas are addressed and how as a result, the emerging hockey program builds a slow but steady presence across the region and opens many opportunities for participants.



Traditional Dancers of Murray Island



Murray Island Local Hockey Program

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

The aim of this project was to travel to the Island communities, engage with the local community support, deliver hockey clinics and upgrade coach and officiating skills and accreditation as well as having conversations to identify what is required to further support the program and how to overcome some of the more unique issues facing these remote communities.

The Hockey Program partners with the ASC – AASC Program (Active After- School Program) and Tagai State College as our main program partners. Communicating schedules, travel and accommodation needs as well as equipment and other issues is essential but not altogether practical from outside the region. That is why it is absolutely necessary to have a coordinated approach and clear processes and roles to follow.

The Hockey Team delivered 9 hockey clinics and 7 coaching and officiating training sessions across 7 Islands in 5 days. The area of land and sea covered across this program was estimated at over 20000sq km. Commercial air travel is restrictive and expensive with only one company providing scheduled commercial flights while another is a charter company only.

Motels and Guesthouses are limited across the majority of the Islands and in many cases they are booked out months in advance with work groups. As flight schedules require that you overnight in most cases community assistance is required to confirm accommodation availability and it is very common to have to use visiting teacher accommodation or similar resources to secure a bed.

Without planning and proper preparation, these programs have little chance of success. It is important to understand that communication is difficult across these regions and many people in leadership roles undertake more than one task. Start planning early and continue to effect communication until the process is completed to your satisfaction. In addition, build in contingency plans as transport and accommodation may change and you need to be prepared for this especially if more than one travelling.

This is exactly what happened on Darnley Island where transport was organized locally to take our Development Officer to the plane and this transport arrived later than the appointed time and our Development Officer missed the flight as a result. These arrangements were confirmed on a number of occasions but on the day – there was a

Island Communities involved in the Program include - Thursday Island, Horn Island, Badu Island, Moa Island, Mabuiag Island, Darnley Island and Murray Island.

Community Program partners include- Queensland Government – Sport and Recreation Services , DEEWR and Hockey Australia – No School No Play Program, Tagai State College, ASC – After Schools Program together with Torres Strait Island local community members and supporters.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Hook in2 Hockey Program is the national participation program designed to introduce and teach people about the game of hockey. This program was designed for mainstream hockey programs and the Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program with the assistance of local community feedback and conversations have modified this program to ensure local needs are met, local conditions are recognized.

The Remote and Indigenous Hockey Program identifies that leadership, role models and mentoring play as significant role in the development of the hockey program as the teaching of basic skills and learning about the game. As a result our young Indigenous Development Officers are tasked with delivering these programs and are encouraged to engage and interact

with the local program participants and general community. During this program, the team of Development Officers reinforced the following messages

- (a) Importance of healthy eating choices
- (b) Importance of regular physical activity to long term good health
- (c) Importance of increasing regular school attendance and the impact this has on future life choices

These are all incorporated through-out the sessions and reinforced with access to healthy snacks, plenty of water and general group discussions when taking breaks from the hockey program. This positive reinforcement is delivered by young healthy and successful Indigenous Development Officers able to affirm the messages through their experiences.

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND HOOK IN2 HOCKEY



The interest in hockey is significant and the support is strong. Below is a table setting out clinics delivered to support the Hook in2 Hockey Program and the participants involved

Date	Island Community	Development Officer – Coordinating	Language	Length of Session	Participants
23 rd August 2011	Thursday island	Wes Ferns	English	3 x 1 hr. sessions	33
	Horn Island	Ena Waianga Dalassa Savage	Torres Strait Island Creole	2 x 1 hr. sessions	26

24th August 2011	Badu Island	Wes Ferns	English	1x1 hr. session	20
	Kubin Village/Moa Island	Dalassa Savage	Torres Strait Island Creole	2x 1 hour session	16
	Murray Island	Ena Waianga	Torres Strait Island Creole	2 x 1 hour sessions	22
25th August 2011	Mabuiag Island	Wes Ferns		3x 1hour sessions	60
	Darnley Island	Dalassa Savage	Torres Strait Island Creole	1x 2 hour session	25
	Horn Island	Ena Waianga	Torres Strait Island Creole	1 x 1 hr. session	30
Totals					232

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The hockey program delivered updating of hockey coaching and officiating accreditations across the communities visited. This supports the programs focus on building community capacity to deliver local hockey programs and confirming the community 's ability to sustain hockey programs into the future

Updating of the coach training is designed to reinforce basic skills and broaden understanding of game strategies as well as understanding and application of the rules of the game

Resources were provided to each program as teaching and reference material

Date	Island Community	Development Officer – Coordinating	Language	Community Coaching and Officiating Up skilling and training
23rd August 2011	Horn Island	Ena Waianga/Dalassa Savage	English	2
	Thursday Island	Wes Ferns	English	2
24th August 2011	Kubin	Dalassa Savage	TSI Creole	2
	Murray Is	Ena Waianga	TSI Creole	2
	Badu is	Wes Ferns	English	2
25th August 2011	Mabuiag is	Wes Ferns	English	1
	Darnley Is	Dalassa Savage	TSI Creole	1
Total	7 communities			12 upgraded community hockey coach and officiating training



Thursday island from above Horn

Is

Haven't been to the Islands for months, as the plane lower itself to land on Horn Island, we saw the islands of Horn, T.I, Hammond & Prince Of Wales surrounded by the blue sea. BEAUTIFUL! It was amazing from the air. We loved it! 😊

*Ena Waianga and Dalassa Savage
Hockey Development Officers*

Sitting at Horn Island airport waiting on my flight, I wasn't keen to go to Murray Island, it was too far away and it was my first time. Travelling in the air on the plane, seeing the sea color changing from light blue to dark blue, I knew we were in the Eastern Islands of Torres Strait, I started to worry more. During the day at Murray, I was quite, after a while the kids started talking to me, I couldn't understand some of the words they said, but I got comfortable communicating with them. They knew me from my older sister use to live there. I didn't know them but they introduced themselves to me and took me for a walk on the beach and we went fishing. I loved the fishing, jiggling sardines to use as baits. Looking back personally Murray was a tough one for me, but it was worth experiencing and bringing opportunities into the community.

Ena Waianga - Hockey Development Officer

At Horn Island at the airport waiting for plane to departure at 1.15pm and arrive at Kubin village 1.30pm and session at the school start at 2.30pm after school care program start. Went to the school at 2.00pm meet up with the principle and the coordinator of after school care had 16 students attend my session. It was very good to go but my island home run a session of hockey with the kid from my island home it was a very good to see all the kids on the island to attend school just because the parents told all the kids that I was going on Wednesday to the school and teach so every the kids in the community went to school just because I was coming to Kubin for hockey haven't been to my island for 4 years as well very good wish I could stay just for two nights 16 kids attend

Dalassa Savage – Hockey Development Officer



Mabuiag Is – one of the smallest inhabited islands in the Torres Strait.

We had heaps of students enjoying playing hockey and would like to play again. The coaches understood the basics of hockey and wanted to know more advanced skills. The transport and accommodation at Horn was great. I enjoyed my experience up in the Torres Strait, especially on Murray Island because it was my first time, next time we go up, I'd love to go to places in Torres Strait I've never been to but then again it would be great to go home (Badu). My aim next time would be to really push the coaches and students to get in there and make a team that really wants to walk up the stairs to the next level like the U13's championship team. Getting the school and community involved, to support those students, whether it's sitting on the side of the field, cheering for their community to fundraising. Whatever to make hockey well known out there 😊

Ena Waianga
Hockey Development Officer



"The Queensland Government provided Hockey Queensland Inc support to assist and deliver on-going training and mentoring hockey programs to build community capacity to sustain the Torres Strait Island Migi Kokan Regional Hockey Competition to get more Queenslanders active through sport and recreation."



JULIE MCNEIL

REMOTE AND INDIGENOUS HOCKEY PROGRAM MANAGER

6TH SEPTEMBER 2011