



Community justice groups

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General's (JAG's) Community Justice Group Program provides support to Indigenous people dealing with the justice system.

The program allocates funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to develop strategies within their communities for dealing with justice-related issues and to decrease Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' contact with the justice system. It gives members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations the opportunity to work cooperatively with magistrates, police, corrective services personnel and staff from other government agencies.

The program is an important part of the Queensland Government's response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC) recommendations.

Community justice groups (CJGs) are split into two categories – statutory and non-statutory groups.

Statutory justice groups are established in 19 Meeting Challenges, Making Choices (MCMC) communities and have a legislative role in dealing with alcohol management issues within their community.

Both statutory and non-statutory groups carry out local strategies to address justice issues and work towards reducing the over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system. They implement ideas that will improve the quality of life in their community and have the support of the local police, council and other government agencies.

Location of services

The statutory groups are located in:

- Aurukun
- Bamaga
- Cherbourg
- Doomadgee
- Hope Vale
- Injinoo
- Kowanyama
- Lockhart River

- Mapoon
- Mornington Island
- Napranum
- New Mapoon
- Palm Island
- Pormpuraaw
- Seisia
- Umagico
- Woorabinda
- Wujal Wujal
- Yarrabah.

Non-statutory groups are located in:

- Cairns
- Charters Towers
- Cloncurry
- Coen
- Cunnamulla
- Inala
- Ingham
- Innisfail
- Ipswich
- Kuranda
- Logan
- Mackay
- Maryborough
- Mossman
- Mt Isa
- Normanton
- Rockhampton
- St George
- Tablelands
- Thursday Island
- Toowoomba
- Townsville/Thuringowa.

What is the role of a CJG?

A CJG's role is to support Indigenous victims and offenders at all stages of the legal process. They encourage diversionary processes such as Murri Court, the Queensland Indigenous Alcohol Diversion Program (QIADP) and develop networks with other government agencies to ensure that issues impacting on Indigenous communities are addressed.



Who is eligible to be a CJG member?

The majority of CJG members are respected Elders, traditional owners, people from the main Indigenous social grouping of a community and community members of 'good standing'.

How is a CJG formed?

A CJG is formed when a group of community members band together on a voluntary basis to help reduce crime and social problems within their community. The group may have existed within the community for a period of time or could be newly established.

How are CJGs funded?

JAG allocated funding to CJGs on an annual basis. Groups who have been successfully operating in their community and whose services align with the goals and objectives of the CJG Program are encouraged to contact their relevant regional advisor to discuss this matter further. CJGs also receive funding from other government agencies, including the Commonwealth Government for local level initiatives.

Legislation

The following legislation is relevant to CJGs:

- *Aboriginal Communities (Justice and Land Matters) Act 1984* (statutory groups)
- *Community Services (Torres Strait) Act 1984* (statutory groups)
- *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*
- *Bail Act 1980*
- *Juvenile Justice Act 1992*.

Further information

For further information or assistance contact the CJG regional advisor in your area during business hours.

Regional advisor — Brisbane

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