

# Coen attendance success and evidence-based strategies

## Briefing paper

20 September 2018

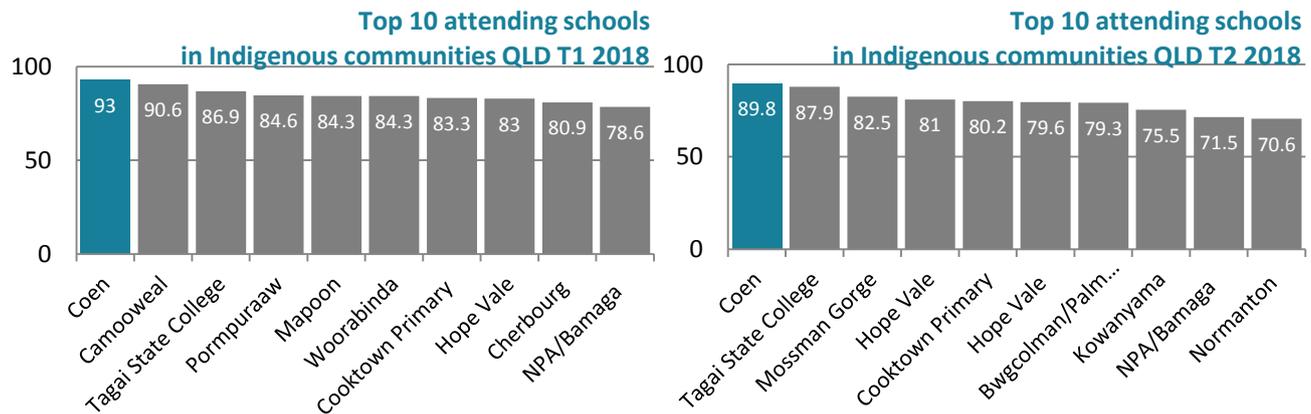
Coen Campus of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) has had the highest attendance of all majority Indigenous schools<sup>1</sup> in Queensland from 2013 to 2018.

Since joining CYAAA in 2010, attendance has improved through the implementation of a number of strategies including community engagement, family engagement and standard processes for teachers, principals and the whole school community.

A remote Indigenous school, Coen also implements Direct Instruction and explicit instruction, family engagement for student readiness and invests in teacher and leadership development. Each year more Coen students reach grade level, make the top NAPLAN national level and complete secondary school.

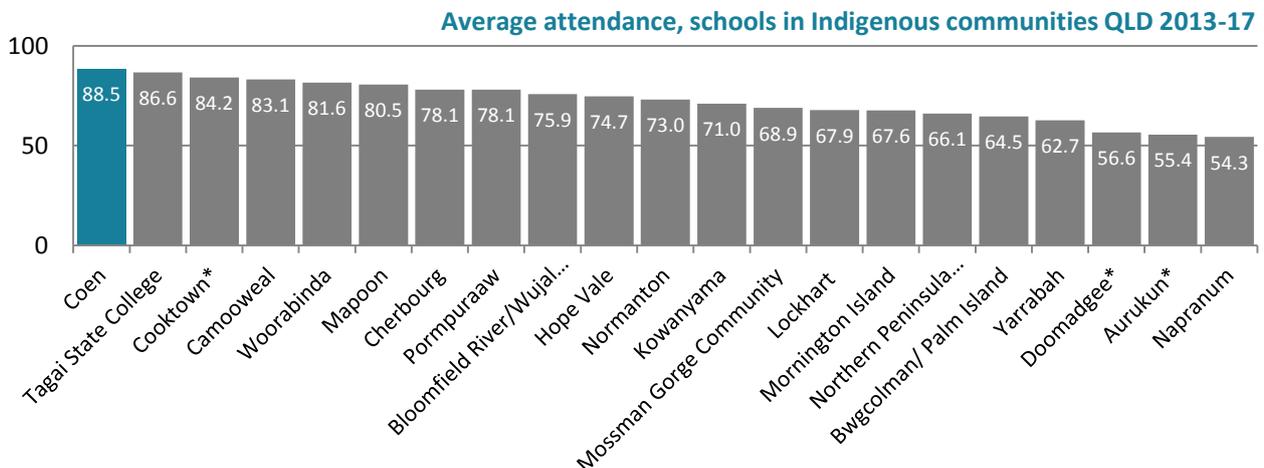
### Coen 2018 attendance is highest in Queensland

The latest Department of Education data shows that Coen has continued to maintain its first place position for attendance in 2018. The data below demonstrates not only that Coen is consistently the top performing majority Indigenous school in Queensland for attendance, but also the lack of consistency in other schools.



### Coen’s long term highest attendance record

Department of Education attendance data from 2013 to 2017 for majority Indigenous schools shows that Coen’s five-year attendance average is the highest in the state at 88.5 per cent.



\*NB: Primary figures where school has separate primary and secondary attendance records

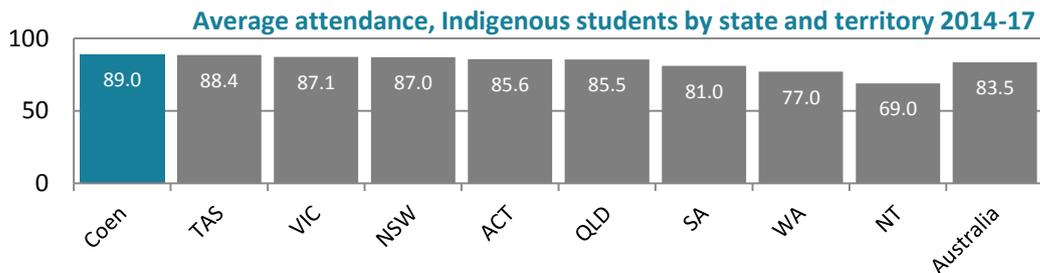
<sup>1</sup> Queensland Government data for schools in Indigenous communities with more than 40% Indigenous students.

## Coen is a top national attendance performer

Coen is the best performing majority-Indigenous school in Queensland, if not Australia. In 2017 Coen's attendance was 87.3 per cent. Data from the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA)<sup>2</sup> for the same year shows that Coen attendance is higher than the national average for Indigenous students and far exceeds the average for remote schools.

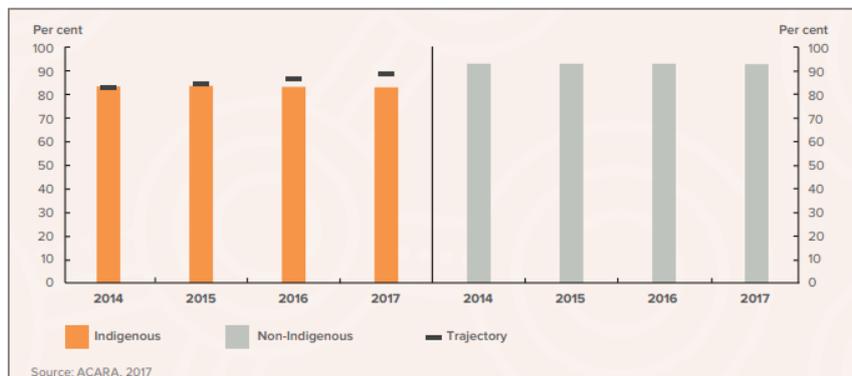
- The national Indigenous attendance for very remote areas is 64.6 per cent
- The national Indigenous attendance in all areas average is 83.2 per cent
- The national attendance rate for non-Indigenous students (all areas) is 93.0 per cent

This is a consistent trend. Over the last four years, Coen's attendance has exceeded the average for Indigenous students in every state and territory, well above the average for Australia.



In an excerpt from the Closing the Gap: 2018 Prime Minister's Report, this shows Coen to be on par with the trajectory for closing the gap on student attendance, whilst Indigenous student attendance has remained unchanged across the nation.

### Average attendance, Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students by year 2014-17



## Coen's evidence-based and proven attendance strategy

Low school participation is a social issue best addressed by influencing social norms. Coen implements an attendance case management model using the Kelman Model of behavior change, combined with push/pull incentives. The aspiration of 100 per cent attendance is what the school and community is always striving for.

Within the model, attendance is the responsibility of the community, the school and the teachers - all have a role in increasing student and family engagement in education. This includes:

- Principals and teachers use a standard set of fair, rigorous and transparent processes to action every non-attendance incident and pursue school readiness.
- The principal leads delivery of their school-wide attendance strategy and teachers lead their classroom attendance strategy, which they regularly review and adjust. These are informed by strategies proven successful in schools with poor attendance.
- The school collaborates with external and community-based service providers to coordinate a student wellbeing team that resolves students' practical issues, using the school as the service hub.

<sup>2</sup> The ACARA data is presented in the Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2018, p. 52