



PLEASE note there may be some images of deceased persons within this publication.

New Protective Service graduates welcomed by Palm community



Queensland Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll welcomed Palm Island’s six new Senior Protective Security Officers (SPSO) into the Queensland Police Service (QPS) on Friday.

The officers, who celebrated at a socially distanced ceremony at Fred Clay Park, were the first Indigenous group of SPSOs to serve, protect and provide security services in the community after five weeks of training specifically designed for Palm Island.

The training focussed on legislative and policy frameworks, roles and responsibilities, the security environment, communication and client service, QPS culture and professional practice, and personal health and wellbeing.

Commissioner Carroll said she was incredibly proud to be at the ceremony and supported the SPSOs who had an important role ahead of them as members of the Protective Services Group.

“These graduates are looking forward to making a positive contribution to the Palm Island community,” Commissioner Carroll said. “All of the Senior Protective Security Officers can be proud of their achievements and the commitment they have made here.”

Supervisor Rob Youngblutt said it was a good day.

“We’ve given six people a job, which is the main thing, and we’ll be looking to recruit again next year,” he said.

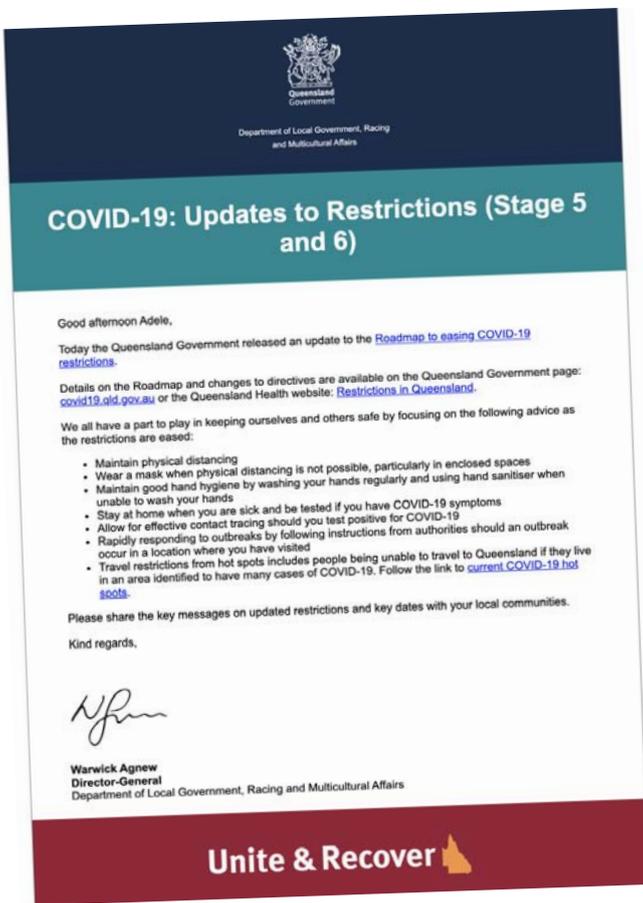
He said there were other Indigenous communities keen to follow in their footsteps.

“There’s other Indigenous communities that want to do a roll out, so we’ve got to see that we make it a success,” he said.

Palm Island Mayor Mislam Sam congratulated the new SPSO team on their initiative and commitment.

“We look forward to them making a difference for all of us,” he said.





Council recovery plan underway

Applications for Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council staff voluntary redundancies under a repair and reform plan have closed, CEO Adele Young says.

“The voluntary redundancy program is part of the repair plan enabling us to reorganise our business and improve productivity and service levels while addressing our financial deficit,” she said. “It also allows employees to self-determine their own future with the Council.”

She said the process assessing the applications is ongoing and the community should start to see some changes in the near future.

“I appreciate the enthusiasm people have shown for these long overdue reforms,” she said. “I’d like to thank all our staff for their efforts to date.”

Queensland Health would like to encourage community members to remain vigilant - it is VERY IMPORTANT to follow these rules to stop the coronavirus from spreading.

Please remember:

DO

- stay 1.5 metres away from other people — two big steps
- wash your hands often with soap and water, or hand sanitizer
- sneeze or cough into your arm or a tissue, then put the tissue in the bin
- stay home if you are sick
- get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild
- stay isolated from others until you have your test results
- call the Community Recovery Hotline on 1800 173 349 if you need any support while isolating at home, such as food or medicine
- leave your contact details at places you visit, such as restaurants, churches and cafes

DON'T

- leave the house for any reason if you are asked to isolate
- go near other people if you are coughing or sneezing
- touch your mouth, nose and eyes
- shake hands
- hug or kiss people

We're going weekly (for a bit)! OUR NEXT DEADLINE (Issue 310.1) will be this Thursday 8 October for publication on Monday 12 October!

The **Palm Island Voice** is published fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and edited by Christine Howes. Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor. You can follow us on Facebook, we have 2,655 'likes'!

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If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200

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