

# Palm Island Voice



FREE!

## Issue 346

7 March 2022



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

# Stay alert 4 COVID

After more than 60 days of COVID on Palm Island our Local Disaster Management Group has finally reverted to twice weekly meetings, instead of being 24/7 watch, with no loss of life and much improved vaccination rates.

Mayor Mislam Sam said the move was now to a watching brief as the COVID outbreak entered a new stage.

“The story of this outbreak is Palm Island has gone from very poor vaccination rates to very high rates, now at nearly the same rate as the rest of Queensland,” he said.

“This did not happen by accident, it took massive commitment by many and residents stepping up as requested. Finishing off the boosters is our current focus. We can’t drop the ball.”

He stressed there was still work to do.

“We still have active COVID in our community – on Saturday we had a reported 29 positive cases and we know the total number of infected

people is probably closer to 100,” he said.

“The reality is, living with some level of COVID in our community is our new normal. We need to continue to ensure our vaccinations are completed.

“Protection for children from 5–years and over is critical. Please continue to wear our masks anytime, we can’t socially distance. Don’t rely on government rules, just be sensible and protect yourself.”

He said he was grateful to everyone who had stepped up.

“The Palm Community responded marvellously by observing our stay home requests, increased vaccination campaigns and widespread testing, allowing us time to

slow down the spread and help the vulnerable members of our community to finish their vaccinations,” he said.

“My personal thanks to everyone for their selfless service and dedication whether staff or residents.

“Many people have had to work two roles during this time and they stepped up without complaint.

“64 days ago I asked for people’s support to come together and face this threat shoulder to shoulder – united.

“Palm Islanders rallied and did exactly what they were asked to do and the results speak for themselves – thank you.”

The LDMG will continue to meet twice weekly and provide daily updates.





## Careers with Queensland Health

### Administrative Officer (Identified)

**Location:** Palm Island, Queensland

The Joyce Palmer Health Service is currently seeking an Administrative Officer to join their team on a permanent full-time basis.

#### About your opportunity

As an Administrative Officer – Receptionist/ Medical Records, you will be the face of the Health Service, managing patient travel, general enquiries, answering the phone and directing calls.

This role will provide effective and efficient, confidential administrative support. The incumbent will help in making a difference to the health outcomes of people on Palm Island by supporting health workers, doctors and nurses at Joyce Palmer Health Service.

Joyce Palmer Health Service will provide you with the required training to assist you in this role, so that you will be familiar with all administration systems and help in general training to support career progression.

For further information regarding the key duties and responsibilities, please view the job vacancy online: <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV408479>.

#### Role requirements:

- The Administration staff usually provides service from 8:00am to 8:00pm Monday to Friday. The successful candidate is required to participate in the roster covering these hours. During Public Health Concerns, you may be required to work weekends on a rotating basis.
- The appointee must be able to source their own accommodation on Palm Island.
- COVID-19 vaccination requirements: It is a mandatory condition of employment for the employee to be and remain vaccinated against COVID-19, as per Health Employment Directive 12/21 (PDF) and Queensland Health Human Resources Policy B70 (PDF).

Generous remuneration package value up to \$73,625 p.a. comprising salary range of \$55,604 to \$64,529 p.a. (AO2), 17.5% leave loading, 12.75 % employer contribution to superannuation. Other employment benefits may include: professional development, salary sacrificing options, shift and locality allowances, corporate discounts, wellness programs and the Employee Assistance Program.

**Contact Details:** Veronica Harapeet 0427 023 443

**Job Ad Reference:** TV408479

**How to Apply:** <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-TV408479>

**Closing date:** Wednesday 16th March 2022

**You can apply online at [www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartjobs.qld.gov.au)**

*A criminal history check may be conducted on the recommended person for the job.  
A non-smoking policy applies to Queensland Government buildings, offices and motor vehicles.*



## Our new normal - living with COVID

**“Queenslanders are all transitioning to a new reality of some level of COVID being around in our community. We now have on Palm a vaccination rate in the high 80% overall and it is without a doubt the key factor in avoiding the potential high hospitalisation and death rate occurring in other large indigenous communities,” Mayor Mislam Sam said.**



# Cash for cans and bottles is back!



*ABOVE: Indigenous entrepreneur Deb Marsden put her hand up to supply Palm Island with signs for the LDMG's COVID-19 campaign. Palm Island Council was only too happy to support a local business and the LDMG has distributed her signs all over the island at the request of community members. A great initiative, well done Deb!*



*Christine Logan (above) has recently started work at the Palm Island CEQ store and she couldn't be happier. She said she was very grateful to have gotten through the interview and to have secured local employment. Well done Christine & CEQ!*

Cash for cans and plastic bottles is on again after Palm Island Council gave the green light last month to a new partnership.

The Council, HIHAT Aboriginal Corporation, Jenagar RTO and Containers for Change in Brisbane have worked together to re-establish the service.

Mayor Mislam Sam visited the new site at Manbarra Road Waste Depot, and said he was delighted, as was previous contractor, Lilybeth at Coolgaree Hotel.

Jenagar RTO Managing Director Garth Beauchamp said they would be assisting with training for the project in the coming months.



HIHAT Managing Director Janelle 'Nugget' Whitehead said she would work with the partners to coordinate the training and project management rollout across the island.

Senior Sergeant Dave Rutherford said he was also happy to see the new initiative in the community.



# VACCINATIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

Primary Health Centre: 7 days a week: call 4445 4401

A visit to your home: call 0459 924 304 to arrange a time

## JPHS and Health will keep up their testing regime and virtual ward throughout March.



“We have faced a very serious threat and come through without significant illness or loss of life to this point. Preparation for COVID had been ongoing since March 2020. The level of effort, strategy, planning and community engagement and the execution of a world class health response over the past two months by LDMG members and the community has been simply extraordinary,” Mayor Mislam Sam said.



**OUR next DEADLINE\* (Issue 347) will be**  
**Thursday 17 March**  
**for publication on MONDAY 21 March!**

The **Palm Island Voice** is published \*weekly if we have paid advertising, or otherwise fortnightly by the Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council. For advertising rates and/or more information contact the Editor on 0419 656 277 or at [chowes@westnet.com.au](mailto:chowes@westnet.com.au) Members of the Palm Island community and local organisations are welcome to submit birthdays, community information, pics, yarns and letters to the Editor, Christine Howes. You can also follow us on Facebook! We have 2,811 'likes'!

The **Palm Island Voice** is free and online at <http://www.chowes.com.au>

**Operating Hours for Palm Island Council are Monday–Friday 8am – 5pm**

If you have any questions please contact Reception on 4770 1177 or 4770 0200  
Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has 5,094 'followers' on Facebook!!!