4th Indigenous Road Safety Forum, Cairns, Queensland, 29-31 October 2008

The Department, in conjunction with Queensland Transport, held the 4th Indigenous Road Safety Forum in Cairns from the 29th to 31st October 2008.

Over 70 people, with a wide range of skills and interests in Indigenous road safety, attended the forum. The program consisted of a trip to the Yarrabah Indigenous Community, a series of presentations and workshop discussions focussing on different topics affecting Indigenous road safety.

The first day of the forum gave the participants a chance to meet with the people from Yarrabah and discuss issues affecting them, including road safety. The community set up activities including dancing, spear throwing, bush walks and provided a Kup Murri lunch (a traditional Indigenous feast which is slowly cooked beneath the ground). This was followed by short talks by a number of people from Yarrabah, giving attendees a brief history of the area, its people, the facilities and challenges facing the community.

The second day of the forum consisted of a number of presentations. The presentations covered a wide range of subjects including:

- progress on addressing Indigenous road safety
- information sharing related to Indigenous road safety through the HealthInfoNet website;
- improvement of the collection of statistical data
- communicating with communities
- Indigenous road safety in rural areas
- licensing.

Facilitated workshops were held on the last day. Participants were encouraged to share information and ideas amongst their group and later presented their ideas and recommendations to the forum. The groups covered the subjects of:

- statistical data
- registration and licensing
- drink driving and drink walking
- incorporating Indigenous road safety into the national road safety strategy beyond 2010
- Aboriginal engagement in a community setting

The outcomes from these workshops are to be considered by the Indigenous Road Safety Working Group.