

POST EVENT REPORT

Mackay Hospital and Health Service Closing the Gap Forum

Badi Yumi Piknini

Growing a Healthy Future



29 June 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

Mackay HHS respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and sea on which we serve our communities, and pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We also declare our commitment to reducing inequalities in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as we move to a place of equity, justice and partnership together.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides a summary of the Mackay HHS Closing the Gap Forum 2021 evaluating the success of the event by highlighting achievements and opportunities for improvement to assist with paving the way for any future events.

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**Attachments noted in this report are available from the Mackay HHS Community Engagement Team (07) 4885 6819*

INTRODUCTION

Mackay HHS Closing the Gap Forum 2021, *Badi Yumi Piknini (Growing a Healthy Future)*, was held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) on Tuesday 29 June, 2021. This significant event was welcomed by more than 120 attendees in preparation for the local response to Queensland Health's Health Equity Reform Agenda.

The high calibre of speakers stimulated discussion among local leaders, including the importance of regional networking, valuing and protecting local cultural knowledge and partnering with key health stakeholder to co-design a local Health Equity Strategy.

Key topics discussed included how adverse childhood experiences have a long-lasting effect for First Nations people, with cross-generational trauma contributing to many of the poor health outcomes experienced today.

First Nations people who attended the Closing the Gap Forum spoke of how physical and spiritual connection to country is essential for their health and wellbeing and how a holistic approach is required for healing.

The Forum provided an opportunity to highlight the challenges experienced by First Nations people in the local community. Feedback from Forum attendees along with their suggestions for change will be utilised to build the foundations of our first Mackay HHS Health Equity Strategy.

'Badi Yumi Piknini'

(Growing a Healthy Future)
Translates to 'grow you and me children' in local Yuwibara language (Badi) and Torres Strait Island broken English through the Melanesian Island groups (Yumi Piknini).

The Forum theme, 'Growing a Healthy Future' was co-designed with community. The aim of the theme is to create awareness and address the challenges associated with improving the gap for First Nations children in the early years of life.



Pictured: Aboriginal dance group, Mungoongali-Butchulla Dances

BACKGROUND

2021 marked the second Mackay HHS Closing the Gap Forum. The first Forum was held in 2019 with 100 attendees and focused on highlighting the refreshed Closing the Gap priority areas.

Prior to 2019 different variations of the Forum had been hosted by various community organisations. The event has always been a free community event for First Nations people aimed at providing a space for community members and service providers to connect and discuss health and emerging community wellbeing issues.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote and address the challenges experienced in closing the gap between the developmental outcomes of Indigenous and non-Indigenous children and youth aged 0-18 years of age (0-5 child, 6-11 youth, 12-18 young people).
- Support a community-wide shift to support improvements in early life outcomes which are responsive to our local community's needs.
- Seek to connect local community organisations to partner to enhance support for local First Nations families and integrate service delivery.

BENEFITS

- Connection and collaboration between service providers, stakeholders and funding bodies.
- Opportunity to connect with community and consumers to hear about community strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement.
- Increase awareness of support available within the local community for early childhood development, which in turn increases referrals, service integration and improves the healthcare pathways for consumers.
- Emphasis culture; strengthen and improve people's understanding of culture; opportunity to increase cultural capability of non-Indigenous people.
- Improve health literacy through education and sharing knowledge about services available to community.
- Opportunity for Healthcare Workers to meet leading researchers to gain a deeper understanding of current challenges facing First Nations people to enhance their knowledge and improve patient care.



Feedback and information collected during the post-forum evaluation process demonstrated the objectives of the Forum were successfully met.

"The KMG students were a huge asset to the day and truly demonstrated what the whole forum was about 'Growing a Healthy Future'. It was very valuable seeing our next generation front and centre on stage. "

Adrienne Barnett, Manager MARABISDA and Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member

Pictured: Courtney Pitcher, one of the KMG students who emceed the Forum

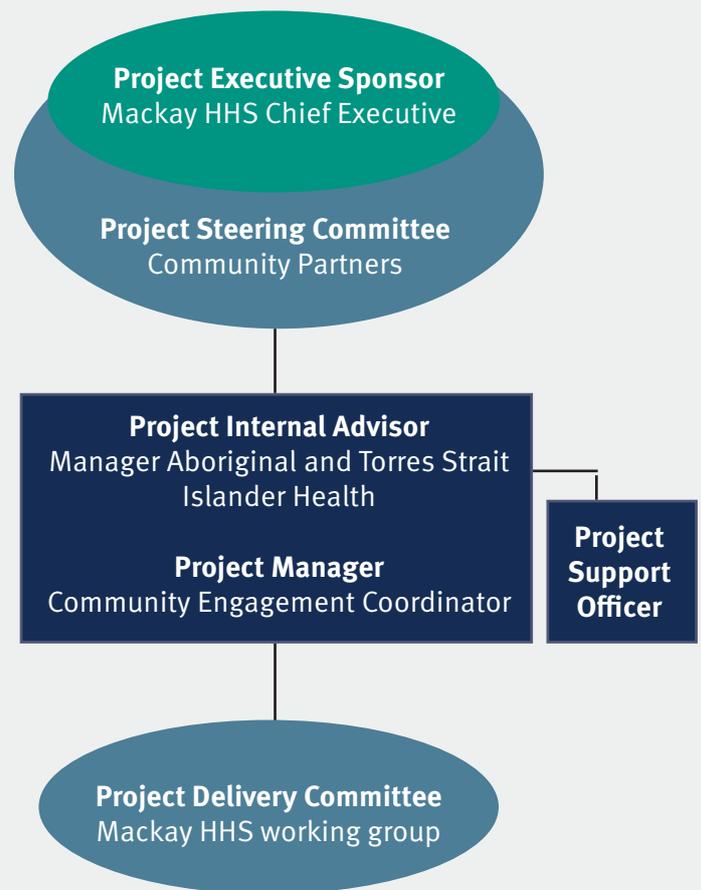
GOVERNANCE

The success of the Mackay HHS Closing the Gap Forum was largely due to the inclusive governance structure which reflected the Health Equity design principles. These principles were reflected throughout the event planning process.

Health Equity design principles:

- First Nations leadership: co-designed, co-owned and co-implemented with First Nations peoples.
- Local and regional decision-making: Designing and delivering First Nations models of care and pathways to integrate local health systems based on agreed priorities.

Underpinning these principles is ‘cultural capability’ which is demonstrated by cultural respect, cultural competency, cultural safety and the broader Queensland Government commitment to re-frame the relationship with First Nations peoples.



*See Attachment A for committee membership details

CONSULTATION

Members of the Project Steering Committee and Project Delivery Committee were engaged in co-designing the following elements of the Forum.

Planning and Design

- Theme: ‘Growing a Healthy Future’
- Name in local language: ‘Badi Yumi Piknini’
- Agenda and presenters
- Cultural performances
- Endorsement of sponsors

Branding and Promotion

- Tagline: ‘Growing a Healthy Future’
- Tagline in local language: ‘Badi Yumi Piknini’
- Artwork and branding
- Community champions promoting the message
- Endorsement of post-forum highlights video

Evaluation

- Post-forum survey
- Review of post-forum survey results
- Post-forum debrief meetings

PROGRAM

The Forum program was endorsed by the Project Steering Committee and Project Delivery Committee and focused on highlighting the complexities of early childhood development for First Nations children. The key discussion topics focused on adverse childhood events, neonatal mental health, protective factors for children and the first 3,000 days.

The Forum aimed to emphasise the importance of providing a holistic approach to care highlighting both physical and spiritual connection to country and how this is essential to the health and wellbeing of our First Nations people.

The Forum embraced culture through the inclusion of local people and groups to deliver items such as:

- the Smoking Ceremony,
- the Welcome to Country,
- the Torres Strait Islander Blessing and singing,
- playing of the Didgeridoo to bring people back together after meal breaks,
- Aboriginal dancing,
- Torres Strait Islander dancing,
- Torres Strait Islander weaving, and
- KMG school students as master of ceremonies.

Attendees were provided with interactive activities which included;

- a workshop activity by presenter Dr Jacinta Tobin,
- Q&A panel facilitated by Simon Costello, Mackay HHS Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, and
- 12 community stalls which could be visited during breaks.

Post-forum feedback from attendees was positive with many attendees commending Dr Mark Wenitong and Dr Elisabeth Hoehn for their engaging and informative presentations.

"I thought the context of information provided by speakers was both informative and vital to understanding the trauma in children."

"I appreciated all of the helpful information and knowing that the community and the hospital are willing to collaborate to grow the resilience of our children."



PROGRAM

A few minor adjustments were made to the agenda on the day, this included a change to the panel facilitator and two speakers being late apologies. The details below show the format of the event.

7.45	Registrations open
8.00	Smoking ceremony and traditional dancing Uncle George Tonga, Traditional Custodian
8.30	Welcome to Country Uncle Philip Kemp, Traditional Custodian Torres Strait Islander Blessing Mrs Matilda Christian One minute silence honouring community members
8.40	Welcome from Mackay Hospital and Health Board Adrienne Barnett, Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member
8.45	Keynote address, Indigenous health, adverse childhood experiences and epigenetics Dr Mark Wenitong, Co-Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network and Advisor Lowitja Institute Research Knowledge Translation
9.05	Queensland Health's, Health Equity Reform Haylene Grogan, Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer and Deputy Director-General, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division
9.15	First 3,000 Days Dr Elisabeth Hoehn, Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health
10.15	Connect 4 Children Strategy Erin Mulherin, Principal Project Officer, Early Childhood Education and Care, Department of Education
10.45	Morning tea, traditional dancing and community stalls
11.15	NQPHN Commitment to First Nations Health Karin Barron, Executive Director, Mackay, NQPHN
11.40	What is the Gap? Andrew Doyle, Mental Health Worker and Carolina Mazza, Child and Maternal Mental Health Social Worker, ATSICHS Mackay
12.00	Indigenous Family Wellbeing Program Mackay and Whitsundays Adrienne Barnett, Manager MARABISDA and Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member
12.15	Working with children and families impacted by trauma; a service response to an identified gap Kaiyu Van Tonder, Practice Manager for the Courage Project, Bravehearts
12.30	Let's co-design; decolonising heads, healing hearts and reclaiming our foods Dr Jacinta Tobin, Senior Paediatrician, Mackay HHS
1.00	Lunch, networking, traditional dancing and community stalls
2.15	'Healthy Start' Panel Discussion Facilitated by Simon Costello, Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Mackay HHS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Mark Wenitong, Co-Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network and Advisor Lowitja Institute Research Knowledge Translation • Adrienne Barnett, Manager MARABISDA and Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member • Dr Elisabeth Hoehn, Medical Director of Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health • Dr Jacinta Tobin, Senior Paediatrician, Mackay HHS • Justin Giblett, Executive School Director of Mackay Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School
3.15	Thank you presentations Simon Costello, Executive Director Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health, Mackay HHS and Adrienne Barnett, Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member

BUDGET

Item	Amount
Venue	\$15,100
Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC)	
Catering (provided by MECC)	
Indigenous arts and ceremonies	\$5,770
Smoking Ceremony	
Didgeridoo player	
Aboriginal dance group	
Torres Strait Islander dance group	
KMG students dance group	
Torres Strait Islander ladies singing group	
Torres Strait Islander weaving	
Presenters and MC	\$2,270
Travel and accommodation	
Flowers	
Gift cards for KMG students	
Promotional materials and marketing	\$9,700
Radio announcements on My105	
Photographer	
Videographer	
Printing of Forum program	
Printing of appreciation certificates	
Printing of pull-up banner for lectern	
Printing of table-toppers	
CTG Forum t-shirts	
Making tracks promotion gift bags	
Miscellaneous	\$460
Stationery for workshop activity	
Hard drive for storage of photos and videos	
TOTAL	\$33,300
(Less) NQPHN contribution	\$10,000
(Less) Mackay Regional Council contribution	\$7,500
(Less) Arrow Energy contribution	\$5,000
Mackay HHS contribution	\$10,800

*See Attachment B for financial statements

AUDIENCE

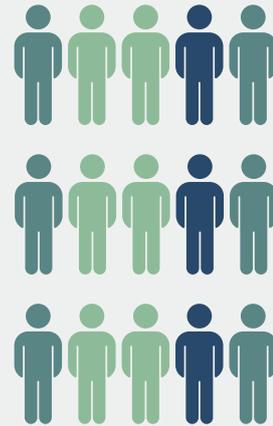
With more than 120 attendees, the Forum was well attended by a broad representation of people from across the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac communities with strong representation from each of the target audience groups: healthcare workers, educators, community members and community partners.

During the planning stage for the Forum the target audience was determined in consultation with the Project Steering Committee and aligned with the theme 'Growing a Healthy Future'. Each of the chosen target audience groups provided an essential role in addressing the complexities of early childhood development for First Nations children.

Whilst representatives from each of the target audience groups were engaged post-forum feedback from attendees indicated more advertising was required to help encourage great community member attendance, with a particular focus on engaging elders and First Nation seniors.

Target audience

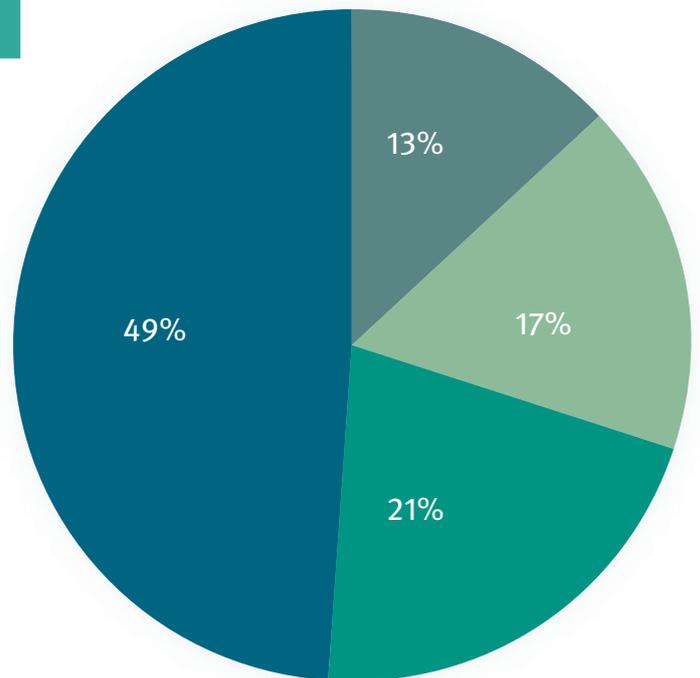
- Healthcare workers (from government and non-government organisations).
- Community members; particularly mothers and primary caregivers.
- Early childhood and primary school educators
- Community partners; Non-government organisations (NGOs) and Government Departments which provide support and have relationships with First Nations people from across the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac communities.



More than
120
attendees

Attendee overview

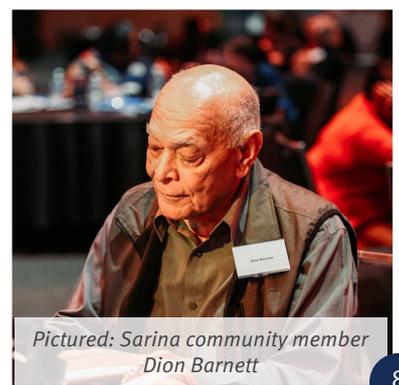
- Forum capacity was 150 people
- We received 149 registrations
- 81% of people who registered attended on the day (121 attendees)



Pictured: Whitsunday's community member Felicity Chapman



Pictured: Mackay HHS healthcare workers



Pictured: Sarina community member Dion Barnett

PROMOTION

A variety of communication channels were utilised to promote the Forum both pre-event and post-event. Promotion of the Forum resulted in an increase in ticket registrations and helped create exposure of our local community’s ongoing commitment to Closing the Gap.

Post-forum feedback from the Project Steering Committee and Project Delivery Committee indicated communication by community champions through word-of-mouth was the most successful mechanisms for promoting the Forum.

Channels

- Facebook
- My105 radio
- ABC radio
- Community champions
- Mackay HHS staff newsletter

Communication materials

- Promotional t-shirts
- Date claimer and invite
- Posters
- Mackay HHS website page
- Emails
- Forum program
- Certificates of appreciation
- Post-forum highlights video
- Post-forum evaluation survey



Pictured (left to right): Mackay ATSICHS Child and Maternal Health Social Worker Caroline Mazza and Mental Health Worker Andrew Doyle

Media Release

Forum to help Mackay HHS Close the Gap

**See Attachment C for Media Release*



Social media

Artist EOI 8 May <hr/> 14 reactions 3 shares 2,880 reach	Forum Invite 17 May <hr/> 26 reactions 22 shares 4,734 reach	Forum Invite 2 June <hr/> 12 reactions 15 shares 4,120 reach	Live video 29 June <hr/> 44 reactions 5 shares 2,768 reach	Live video 29 June <hr/> 56 reactions 5 shares 3,600 reach	Highlight video 22 July <hr/> 13 reactions 5 shares 2,100 reach
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SPONSORS

Thank you to our event sponsors for their support and generous contributions.



Following the success of the 2019 Closing the Gap Forum the Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) committed further sponsorship towards the 2021 Forum.

With support from the Mackay Hospital Foundation we were successful in securing an additional two sponsors for the Forum. This saw Mackay Regional Council (MRC) come on-board as a sponsor during the early planning stages of the Forum and then Arrow Energy towards the end during the post-forum evaluation. Arrow Energy's community grant rounds concluded after the Forum had been held, therefore their sponsorship was received post-forum and was acknowledged retrospectively where possible.

Sponsors were recognised in various ways for the contributions towards the Forum.

	NQPHN	MRC	Arrow Energy
Logo included on promotional posters/flyer's	✓	✓	
Logo included on promotional emails to community	✓	✓	
Logo included on Facebook posts	✓	✓	
Logo included on date claimer and invite	✓	✓	
Logo included on certificates of appreciation	✓	✓	
Logo included on Forum program and acknowledgement inside	✓	✓	
Logo included on making tracks promotional gift bags		✓	
Logo included on pull-up banner for lectern	✓	✓	
Logo included on post-forum highlights video	✓	✓	✓
Acknowledgement of sponsor during opening and closing speeches	✓	✓	
Acknowledgement at Committee meetings (with Community Partners)	✓	✓	✓
Membership on the Forum planning Committees	✓		
Participation in co-designing the Forum agenda	✓		
Presentation time-slot at Forum	✓		

*See Attachment E for samples

EVALUATION

The post-forum evaluation process was inclusive capturing feedback from forum attendees, stall holders, committee members and the workshop activity facilitated by Dr Jacinta Tobin.

Feedback was collected from Forum attendees through an online survey which was made up of eight questions. The survey was promoted to Forum attendees at the Forum with a QR code poster displayed on every table and after the forum via email.

Overall, the feedback from attendees was very positive with 60 percent of attendees completing a feedback form and rating the event 4.8 out of 5.

Stall holders provided feedback during the post-forum evaluation process commending the event, with no recommendations for improvement, saying it was very well run and that they would be happy to participate in future events.

Committee members from the Project Steering

Committee (community partners) and Project Delivery Committee participated in post-forum debrief meetings. Feedback from committee members was both positive and constructive, with great appreciation for the co-design process which was inclusive of community.

In summary, the feedback collected from all participants was positive and demonstrated a desire for more community consultation to be held. While there were very few suggestions for improvement the one consistent item raised highlighted the importance of ensuring the issues and problems raised at the Forum were addressed.

Feedback collected from the workshop activity facilitated by Dr Jacinta Tobin highlighted the issues and problems experienced by First Nations people in the local community, bringing them to the surface.

OUTCOMES

During the post-forum evaluation process Committee members shared their reflections on the benefits of the Forum reporting they felt we had delivered a successful event meeting the key objectives. For many attendees the event provided an opportunity to connect with services providers, stakeholders and funding bodies to discuss and increase awareness of support available within the local community.

Committee members and attendees also reported the content of the presentations was highly valuable and provided them a deeper understanding of the current challenges faced by First Nations people.

The information and suggestions from the feedback forms and workshop activity will be utilised to build the foundations of our first Health Equity Strategy. The Strategy will identify how we can address our local challenges and focus on the 'next steps', so as a community we can work together to improve the health of our First Nations people.



Pictured (left to right): Mackay HHS, Hospital Liaison Officer Annette Wano, Podiatrist Te Paeroa Dickson, Clinical Nurse Jessina Tass and Clinical Dietitian Courtney Roobottom

Summary of POSITIVE FEEDBACK

Agenda and speakers

- Excellent speakers and topics.
- Calibre of the panel members was excellent.
- The event was very well put together and organised. The presentations were very informative; the speakers were great to listen to and easy to stay focused on.
- The context of information provided by relevant speakers was both informative and vital to understanding the trauma in children.

Collaboration and community

- Everyone at the event had a vested interest in closing the gap, very motivating.
- A fantastic way to bring multiple agencies together to work collaboratively to close the gap.
- A demonstration that the community and the hospital are willing to collaborate to grow the resilience of children.
- It was wonderful to see young people engaged and participating in the forum; Students as the emcee and dance performances.

Culture and atmosphere

- Really appreciated the cultural elements.
- Cultural elements were very powerful and enhanced connection with the audience.

Co-design and governance

- The governance process with incorporation of community was essential to a whole of community approach, designed by community for the community.
- Greatly appreciated been given the opportunity to contribute to the theme and tagline for the Forum.

Summary of OPPORTUNITIES

Agenda

- It would be nice to have a young person tell their story of how they got help in the community and what it meant to them; make it personal. Live-stream or record the event as I believe it would be really good for young people in school to hear some of the information.
- Important to have the attendance of the local Member of Parliament at future forums.
- Consider having more breaks throughout the day; morning tea was too late in the morning.
- The next forum should capture and focus on how we overcome these challenges and what steps we need to take as a community.
- Workshop activity didn't work as well as it could have, need to allocate more time to it in future to allow for more productive conversation and collaboration between attendees.

Logistics

- Consider having the event outside of school holidays.
- Consider having cultural food. I feel that if it is an Indigenous event then there should be indigenous food provided.
- Consider having parts of the event held outdoors, maybe lunch or morning tea.

Promotion

- Increase promotion to community people. The information delivered would have been very helpful for young parents and families.



Pictured (left to right): Members of the Torres Strait Islander singing group Matilda Christian, Irene Lui and Theresa Tapim



Pictured (left to right): NQ PHN Executive Director Karin Barron and Mackay HHS Chief Executive Lisa Davies Jones



Pictured: Keynote speaker, Dr Mark Wenitong, Co-Chair Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Clinical Network and Advisor Lowitja Institute Research Knowledge Translation



Pictured (left to right): Mackay Hospital and Health Board Member Tom McMillan, Mackay Hospital and Health Board Chair Darryl Camilleri and NQPHN Executive Director Karin Barron



Pictured: Traditional Custodian Uncle Philip Kemp delivering the Welcome to Country



Pictured: Mudth-Niyleta Chief Executive Officer Sam Raciti



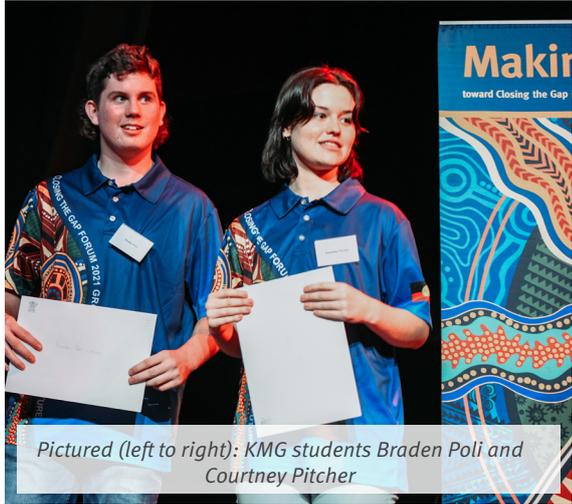
Pictured: Torres Strait Islander singing group



Pictured: Frank Cook Torres Strait Islander dance group



Pictured: Torres Strait Islander weaving



Pictured (left to right): KMG students Braden Poli and Courtney Pitcher



Pictured: Frank Cook Torres Strait Islander dance group



Pictured: Frank Cook Torres Strait Islander dance group



Pictured: KMG Torres Strait Islander dance group

