

From: FARLOW, Lyn
To: PORTER, Stephen; KUSKOPF, Cliff
Subject: Aurukun teachers leave over safety fears
Date: Tuesday, 24 November 2015 8:58:22 AM

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/aurukun-teachers-leave-over-safety-fears-20151123-gl66j1.html>

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National Queensland

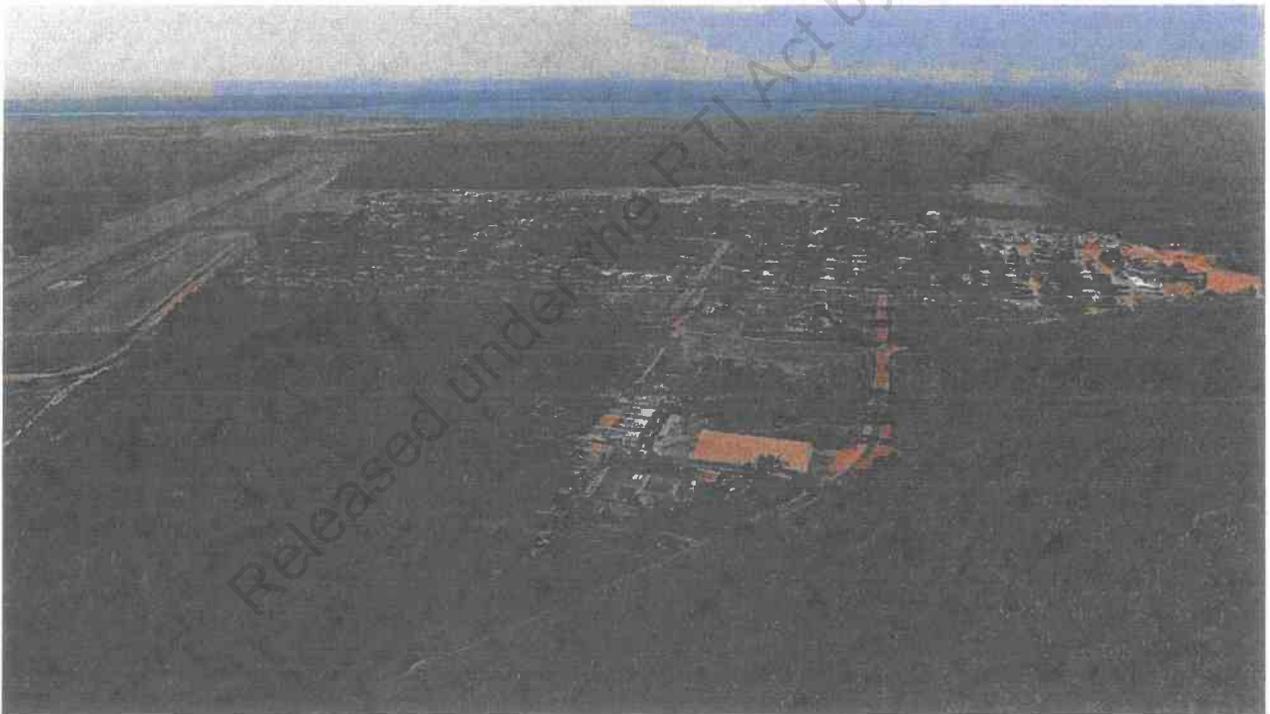
This was published 5 years ago

Aurukun teachers leave over safety fears

November 24, 2015 – 8.25am

Some teachers have left a remote Queensland town over safety fears after a weekend of violence that saw a man killed and a police car shot at.

A 43-year-old man will front court in Aurukun, on Cape York, on Tuesday, charged with murdering a man who was run down in a night of violence on Saturday.



A man was killed in Aurukun, on Cape York, on the weekend. ALEX ELLINGHAUSEN

Police cars were also damaged and another vehicle was set alight on the night the 30-year-old was killed, and a local school was put in lockdown on Monday over concerns shots had been fired nearby.

AAP

[Stay informed. Like the Brisbane Times Facebook page](#)

RAMSTROM, Yukie

From: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 3:42 PM
To: WATTERSTON, Jim
Cc: BUTTON, Selwyn; SEELEY, Nick; HOWARTH, John; WALTON, Patrea; MCCABE, Kath; HUNT, Jeff; GODKIN, Vicki; SCHAUMBERG, Kenneth
Subject: RE: Aurukun

Dear Jim

I have a comprehensive plan in place to support the staff of CYA Aurukun Campus. Communication has been ongoing yesterday and today with the current Executive Principal Finn Buckley (based in Hopevale). My office is coordinating all of the response and ongoing support around this matter given they are all departmental staff.

Leigh Schelkes will travel to Weipa/Aurukun tomorrow to support this response as a Principal Coach. Leigh will report directly to me. This approach has been confirmed and is supported by CYA – Lyn McKenzie. CYA are very aware that I am managing this issue.

I will continue to keep you updated.

Deb

3pm Update:

- Aurukun is still unstable – additional police on ground. Gun has just been located.
- School went into lockdown this morning after incident at the shop.
- Staff are very worried – elders advised staff that things are not good.
- Police has advised that 35 additional staff are on the ground and body being taken out at 2pm today – there may be some unrest at this point.
- HOC at Aurukun advised staff that if they didn't feel safe they could make their way to Weipa. 7 staff have made the choice to travel to Weipa. 16 staff are remaining in Aurukun.
- Store is not open – there is an issue around food and power for staff if the store remains closed. They haven't had access to shop for a few days.
- School can open tomorrow if advised safe to do by police. 15 students arrived at the school plus 9 little ones from the day care that didn't open today.
- Leigh Schelkes is the incoming Executive Principal for 2016 and will travel to Weipa/Aurukun tomorrow to support the staff and re-establish confidence.
- RD is in constant contact with Executive Principal and Police on the issue.

Regards

Deb



Deborah Dunstone
Regional Director
Far North Queensland Region
Department of Education and Training

P: 07 4037 3877 | **E:** deborah.dunstone@dete.qld.gov.au |
Floor 2 Queensland Government Building 17-19 Sheridan Street | Cairns QLD 4870
PO Box 6094 | Cairns QLD 4870

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RAMSTROM, Yukie

From: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2015 10:35 AM
To: Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au; Dave Stewart
Cc: SEELEY, Nick; WATTERSTON, Jim; WALTON, Patrea; HUNT, Jeff
Subject: DET Update re Aurukun - summary of teleconference

Morning Christine and Dave

As discussed below are my notes for the teleconference (thought this might help you with the minutes):

FNQ Regional Director Deb Dunstone and QPS Acting Chief Superintendent Brett Schafferius – have been in regular communication since Sunday. DET has appreciated this support from QPS. The Officer in Charge Peter James has also been in contact with the Head of Campus in Aurukun Kon Kalos. Whilst the situation remains tense in community there is ongoing communication between QPS and DET.

Staff are very aware via their local community contacts and Elders that work within the school how tense the situation remains. They appreciate the additional Police presence but understandably feel how tense and for some, how frightening this situation has been.

An issue for staff yesterday was the perception that all other NGO agencies had sent staff home or out of community. With the Council and shop also closed they understandably felt vulnerable and that the messages were mixed around community. Significant communication occurred to support staff during this time. Staff were offered the opportunity to travel to Weipa if they felt they needed to leave community. This was supported by DET. Only 8 staff to date have made their way to Weipa. The school did go into lockdown yesterday around the time of the incident at the shop. Staff thought they heard gun shots at this time. Elders were also advising staff that they thought things were going to get worse in town in the lead up to the Funeral on Thursday.

DET Update 10am Tuesday:

- Mr Leigh Schelks is travelling to Aurukun this morning to support the Head of Campus and Staff. Leigh will be the Executive Principal of CYA in 2016. Leigh will report directly to the RD. Additional support will be provided if required once Leigh is able to assess the situation.
- 6 Teachers and 2 Teacher Aides are currently in Weipa. The HR Director is liaising with these staff and we will individualise their capacity to return to community. EA services have also been offered to these staff. We expect some work cover claims.
- 16 staff have remained in Aurukun. We will continue to support Staff who ask to travel out to Weipa.
- School is open today – attendance is very low – 35 students. 13 Staff are providing support to students.
- We are liaising with the Psychologist that is working with CYA to provide some additional face to face support for teachers requiring this in Aurukun.
- The RD has briefed the QTU President and Local Organiser – given staff, their Parents and Partners were phoning requesting support and outlining their concerns for their welfare (this settled after the weapon was located). QTU President very supportive of current plan by DET.
- RD is in constant communication with CYA and will provide ongoing support as required.

All is well managed at this point – there are no major concerns – just lots of support happening.

Regards

Deb



Deborah Dunstone
Regional Director

Far North Queensland Region
Department of Education and Training

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RAMSTROM, Yukie

From: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2015 12:24 PM
To: WATTERSTON, Jim
Cc: WALTON, Patrea; SEELEY, Nick; MCCABE, Kath; MCMASTER, Lorna; HUNT, Jeff; HOWARTH, John; GODKIN, Vicki
Subject: RE: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015
Importance: High

Afternoon Jim

Aurukun Update for 1pm Sit Rep report:

Police report quiet night last night in community.

Funeral is underway – 10am start

36 students are at school

All staff are present today

s47(3)(b) staff will leave community s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest and we are negotiating for them to work a few days next week at their 2016 school – they already had approved transfers.

Leigh Schelks is continuing to support the school leadership and school community support strategy – this response by the Region has been acknowledge as being highly effective in supporting staff.

There is still concern around how things will go for the next few days following the funeral.

Please let me know if any other info is required or if you need me to join the teleconference this afternoon.

Regards

Deb

From: MCMASTER, Lorna **On Behalf Of** WATTERSTON, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 4:46 PM
To: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Cc: SEELEY, Nick; MCMASTER, Lorna; MCCABE, Kath
Subject: FW: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015

Hi Deb

Can you please provide an update at 1pm tomorrow as to the current situation at Aurukun – what is the current 'mood' is there anything we can update Jim on.

Cheers Lorna

Lorna McMaster

Executive Officer to the Director-General

Department of Education and Training

P: 07 303 44752 | F: 07 303 44769 | M: s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public | E: lorna.mcmaster@dete.qld.gov.au | <http://dete.qld.gov.au>

From: Christine Castley [<mailto:Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 2:52 PM
To: Dave Stewart; Ross Barnett; Michael Schaumburg (DSD); Michael Hogan (Communities); WATTERSTON, Jim; Ian Stewart (Queensland Police); Clare O'Connor (Clare.O'Connor@datsip.qld.gov.au); Jill.Newland@health.qld.gov.au;

DUNSTONE, Deborah; Taylor.PaulG@police.qld.gov.au; Michael Linnan; Michael Walsh (Health); Kathrin Jensen
Cc: Tina Culpo
Subject: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015

Jim, I have accepted this meeting at 3.30pm tomorrow. Deb is also in the email trail for this email. Cheers Lorna

Dear Directors-General

Please find attached sit rep, following discussion from our teleconference yesterday. I note that it had been planned to hold a further teleconference today, but this has proven difficult to organise with various diaries.

It will be important that we have a further up to date sit rep for today, given that the funeral is planned for tomorrow. Can I therefore please ask that you provide us with updated information to inform today's sit rep as soon as possible, but no later than 5pm today. Please email your updates to Kathrin Jensen (kathrin.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au).

We will arrange for the next teleconference to be scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Regards
Christine



Christine Castley

Senior Executive Director

Social Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

P 07 30039367 M

s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Int

Executive Building, Level 14, 100 George Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

PO Box 15185, City East, QLD 4002

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Incident Detail Report

Date/Time Report Run: 20/10/2021 9:17:58 AM

Incident ID: INC-92038

Entered By: s47(3)(b) - Contrary

Incident Status: Reviewed

Reporting Details

Reported Date: 1/12/2015

Reported Time: 2:00 PM

Reported By Staff: s47(3)(b) - Contrary

Reported By Student:

Reported By Other Person:

Other Person Address 1:

Other Person Address 2:

Other Person Suburb:

Other Person State:

Other Person Post Code:

Other Person Phone Number:

Other Person Employer:

Type of Other Person:

Reported To:

Incident Details

Incident Date: 21/11/2015

Incident Time:

Incident Location: Aurukun State School

Actual Incident Address 1:

Actual Incident Address 2:

Suburb:

State:

Post Code:

Summary of Incident: houses and classes in lockdowns with gunman and riots

Detailed Description:

On Saturday night a group of people were walking around town firing a shot gun into some locals houses and into the air. the teachers were laying on the ground in their houses with the lights off. This continued for several hours. A local man was killed by being hit by a car. s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest
s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest This went on till about 12.pm. On Sunday extra police were flown in and things were quiet. s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest
s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest Gun Shots were let off at about 9.30am. We went into lock down for 3 hours. Some teachers left school, some left town and some stayed at school. The fighting has continued all week and is still happening 1/12/2015.

Immediate Action Taken:

Teachers were in lock down in their houses Saturday/Sunday. School was in lock down on Monday for 3 hou Teachers were given the choice to evacuate s47(3)(b) -

Supervising Officer:

Kostantinos Kalos

Elected Workplace H&S Rep:

Evacuation Details

Did an evacuation occur?:

No

Did a lockdown occur?:

No

Locations Involved:

Incident Types

Incident Types:

Security Threat

Dangerous Event?:

No

Security Threat

Type of Security Incident:

Aggressive Act

Details of Security Incident:

Person Threatened

Staff Member Threatened:

Student Threatened:

Other Person Threatened:

Unknown

Other Person Address 1:

Other Person Address 2:

Other Person Suburb:

Other Person State:

Other Person Post Code:

Other Person Phone Number:

Other Person Employer:

Immediate Response:

If Other, please specify:

Resolution Outcome

Reported to Police?: Yes

Police Report Number:

Further Details:

Incident Review

Incident Classification: B - Investigation is Required

Immediate Actions Reviewed?:

Further Actions?:

Details of Further Actions: This record has been marked as "reviewed" as part of the changeover to the new incident classifications. Please review all incident record screens for accuracy. Amend as required and press SAVE. Then complete this Incident review screen (deleting this text and completing this field). Ensure the review tick box is checked and press SAVE.

Further Actions Undertaken By:

Legal Action Anticipated?:

Incident Confirmation

Details Reviewed: Yes

Additional People to Notify:

Assign Investigator

Investigation required?:

Person Responsible:

Incident File Attachments:

Finalisation - Officer In Charge

Signed Off By:

Date Signed Off:

Sign Off Comments:

Finalise this record?: No

Sign Off Comments:

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WILLIS, April

From: VALENTINE, Phillip on behalf of Alert, School
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 11:18 AM
To: WATTERSTON, Jim; WALTON, Patrea; SEELEY, Nick
Cc: MCALLISTER, Danielle; STEVENSON, Hayley; KLUCK, Desmond; ALDERTON, Sue; ROCHE, James; PERRY, Rebecca; HOWE, Catherine; HEFFERNAN, Cathy; DLO, Minister; KITZELMAN, Angela; PANKRATZ, Jenna
Subject: School incident - Aurukun - Community Unrest - 21 & 22 November 2015 (Cook) update
Attachments: Aurukun - Community Unrest Nov2015.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Morning All,

Please find attached the updated report regarding the incident in Aurukun.

The situation in Aurukun has apparently escalated.

Staff are contacting the QTU directly. QTU has emailed this office.

Staff are reporting gunshots in the vicinity of the school. The school is in lockdown with approx. 20 students in attendance.

Police have yet to confirm reports of gunshots to us.

We have talked to Police and they will present a plan to the Regional Director re: moving staff safely. First option is self evacuation via road to Weipa.

Regards



**Queensland
Government**

Phillip Valentine | Executive Officer
State Schools – Operations
Department of Education and Training

P: 3513 5843 | **E:** phillip.valentine@dete.qld.gov.au
Floor 9 | Education House | 30 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15033 | City East QLD 4002

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School incident alert notification

**Region to provide dot points concerning critical incidents involving staff or students.
RD to approve all incident reports**

Statement as at: 23/11/2015

Status: UPDATE # 1

School: CYA Aurukun

Region: FNQ

School contact name: Kon Kalos (OIC Aurukun) or
Finn Buckley – Principal CYAA

Regional contact name: John Howarth or Deb
Dunstone

Telephone: 4083 4333 or 40427200/40609888

Telephone: 40373842 or 40373871

Electorate: Cook

Date of incident: 21 & 22 November 2015

Incident involving: *(delete non-applicable categories)*

Other..... Community unrest

International Student involved: No

Nature of incident: *(delete non-applicable categories)*

Other..... Community unrest

Emergency services involvement: Yes

Lockdown: No

Media involvement: Yes

Summary:

- Police are investigating several incidents in Aurukun Saturday night including the suspicious death of a man.
- At around 9.20pm, police responded to reports that a 30-year-old man had been hit by a motor vehicle.
- The man was taken to the Aurukun Clinic where he later died.
- Earlier in the evening, at around 7.15pm, police responded to reports a firearm had been discharged and upon arrival a police car was struck by shotgun pellets.
- Soon after, officers located a group of men who began throwing rocks at the police vehicle and later in the evening a vehicle was set alight.
- Police believe the incidents may be linked and are appealing for anyone who may have information to come forward.
- Officers from Weipa and Cairns arrived in Aurukun this morning to assist with investigations into the incidents

Actions

- The region is in close contact with Police command.
- The region is monitoring the situation and will act on Police advice in relation to staff safety.
- A staff meeting was held this morning to discuss the situation.
- Plans are being formulated should staff be required to evacuate.

Outcome

- School is operating as normal.

Risks

What are the identified risks and how are they being mitigated or managed?

- Some potential risk to staff if violence escalates, however current advice is that the situation has calmed down.

Media

Has CEP been advised?

- With this.

Have any media outlets arrived or approached school?

- No

Updates:

Region to complete this section only when/if updating information

- **The situation in Aurukun has apparently escalated.**
- **Staff are contacting the QTU directly. QTU has emailed this office.**
- **Staff are reporting gunshots in the vicinity of the school. The school is in lockdown with approx. 20 students in attendance.**
- **Police have yet to confirm reports of gunshots to us.**
- **We have talked to Police and they will present a plan to Deb Dunstone re: moving staff safely. First option is self evacuation via road to Weipa.**

Date of update:

- **13/11/2015 11:00 hours**

Approval

**APPROVED – Y
PRINCIPAL**

**APPROVED – Y
REGIONAL DIRECTOR**

WILLIS, April

From: VALENTINE, Phillip on behalf of Alert, School
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 11:30 AM
To: STEVENSON, Hayley; Alert, School
Cc: WATTERSTON, Jim; WALTON, Patrea
Subject: RE: School incident - Aurukun - Community Unrest - 21 & 22 November 2015 (Cook) update

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Confirmed with John Howarth – 23 November 2015 is the correct date.

Regards



Phillip Valentine | Executive Officer
State Schools – Operations
Department of Education and Training

P: 3513 5843 | **E:** phillip.valentine@dete.qld.gov.au
Floor 9 | Education House | 30 Mary Street | Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15033 | City East QLD 4002

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From: STEVENSON, Hayley
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 11:26 AM
To: Alert, School; VALENTINE, Phillip
Cc: WATTERSTON, Jim; WALTON, Patrea
Subject: RE: School incident - Aurukun - Community Unrest - 21 & 22 November 2015 (Cook) update

Hi Phil

Can you please confirm with the region the date of this alert. Is it at 11am today – the date looks to have been mistyped.

Hayley Stevenson
Director, Office of the Deputy Director-General, State Schools

T: 07 303 44760 | **E:** hayley.stevenson@dete.qld.gov.au | **M:** 0488 755 413

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Cc: MCALLISTER, Danielle; STEVENSON, Hayley; KLUCK, Desmond; ALDERTON, Sue; ROCHE, James; PERRY, Rebecca; HOWE, Catherine; HEFFERNAN, Cathy; DLO, Minister; KITZELMAN, Angela; PANKRATZ, Jenna
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Flag Status: Completed

Hi Jim

Plan to date:

- Aurukun is still very unstable – additional police on ground. **Gun has just been located.**
- School went into lockdown this morning after incident at the shop.
- Staff are very worried – elders advised staff that things are not good.
- Police has advised that 35 additional staff are on the ground and body being taken out at 2pm today – there may be some unrest at this point.
- HOC at Aurukun advised staff that if they didn't feel safe they could make their way to Weipa. 7 staff have made the choice to travel to Weipa. 16 staff are remaining in Aurukun.
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- Leigh Schelkes is the incoming Executive Principal for 2016 and will travel to Weipa/Aurukun tomorrow to support the staff and re-establish confidence.
- RD is in constant contact with Executive Principal and Police on the issue.

Regards

Deb



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Leigh Schelkes will travel to Weipa/Aurukun tomorrow to support this response as a Principal Coach. Leigh will report directly to me. This approach has been confirmed and is supported by CYA – Lyn McKenzie. CYA are very aware that I am managing this issue.

I will continue to keep you updated.

Deb

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Regional Director
Far North Queensland Region
Department of Education and Training

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WILLIS, April

From: WATTERSTON, Jim
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 8:53 PM
To: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Cc: WALTON, Patrea; SEELEY, Nick
Subject: Fwd: Aurukun Unrest - summary of events
Attachments: Document3.docx; ATT00001.htm

Thanks Deb for your great leadership during this crisis. Please find attached the summary from today's DG teleconference. It's not quite accurate but it is better than the view presented in the actual conference.

I'll be in Rocky tomorrow but don't hesitate to ring if needed. Thanks for doing the teleconference tomorrow.

Hopefully it will be Christmas before we know it!!!!!!

Jim

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Christine Castley <Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Date: 23 November 2015 at 8:08:57 PM AEST
To: Clare O'Connor <Clare.O'Connor@datsip.qld.gov.au>, "Michael Hogan (Communities)" <Michael.Hogan@communities.qld.gov.au>, "Michael Schaumburg (DSD)" <Michael.Schaumburg@dsd.qld.gov.au>, "Michael Walsh (Health)" <michael.walsh@health.qld.gov.au>, "Jim Watterston(Education)" <jim.watterston@dete.qld.gov.au>, "Ian Stewart (Queensland Police)" <commissioner@police.qld.gov.au>, Ross Barnett <Barnett.RossE@police.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Dave Stewart <Dave.Stewart@premiers.qld.gov.au>, Kathrin Jensen <Kathrin.Jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Aurukun Unrest - summary of events

Dear Directors-General

Following today's teleconference, please see attached one pager re the events in Aurukun.

Regards
Christine

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Situational report on Aurukun unrest as at 23 November 2015

Background

The unrest is reported to have commenced on the evening of Saturday, 21 November 2015. There are reports that up to 12 people were involved.

While the reasons for the unrest are yet to be fully established, it is understood that it was precipitated by alcohol-fuelled violence following from the unsuspecting death of a young Aurukun woman recently.

Shots were fired and rocks thrown at a police car and another vehicle was torched. Around 9:20pm a man was hit by a car and taken to the Aurukun medical clinic where he died.

Queensland service responses

Queensland Police Services (police) – police state that the community is currently calm and no arrests have been made at this stage. However, a community member is assisting the police and is likely to be charged. The firearm used on Saturday evening is now in police possession.

In addition to the ten police based in Aurukun, a further 21 police have been flown to Aurukun, including an experienced officer. This officer has held discussions with the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor of Aurukun Shire Council and with one of the family groups in dispute.

Following the investigation and restoration of calm, police numbers are expected to reduce to usual numbers. Mediation with conflicting families will commence when appropriate.

In the meantime, police will visit each of the services operating in Aurukun to discuss safety and offer patrols if needed.

Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy (CYAAA) school - contrary to some reports, teachers have not been advised by the Queensland Government to vacate Aurukun. The school was open on 23 November 2015 with 22 students in attendance.

Some teaching staff were distressed and travelled to Weipa and all CYAAA teaching staff have left Aurukun.

The school's new executive principal is travelling to Weipa on 24 November 2015. It is hoped that teachers will return to Aurukun with her.

Queensland Health – the Aurukun health clinic is open and additional mental health staff are being sent to Aurukun to assist families affected by the unrest.

Restorative Justice Program – indications are that the program has referred five people to Weipa Community Care (Women's Shelter) to support some local people (women, children and elderly).

Queensland's Department of Justice and Attorney-General is liaising with the program staff to ascertain how they might be able to support people who may need to leave the community in the short term.

Aurukun retail store – DPC understand that the store has been in 'lock-down' – it is unclear whether the store has re-opened.

Non-government services – non-government service staff including the Royal Flying Doctors Services and Apunipima Community based health centre are not operating in Aurukun today.

Next Steps

The Queensland Government will continue to closely monitor developments in Aurukun including the anticipated funeral of the young Aurukun woman later this week which may be a further flash point.



WILLIS, April

From: BUTTON, Selwyn
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2015 10:46 AM
To: WALTON, Patrea
Subject: RE: DET Update re Aurukun - summary of teleconference

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thanks

From: WALTON, Patrea
Sent: Tuesday, 24 November 2015 10:42 AM
To: BUTTON, Selwyn
Subject: Fwd: DET Update re Aurukun - summary of teleconference

FYI and consideration

Patrea Walton | Deputy Director-General, State Schools
Department of Education, Training and Employment
Queensland Government
Level 22 | Education House | [30 Mary Street](#) | Brisbane Qld 4000
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Begin forwarded message:

From: "DUNSTONE, Deborah" <Deborah.DUNSTONE@dete.qld.gov.au>
Date: 24 November 2015 at 1:35:28 PM NZDT
To: "Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au" <Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au>, Dave Stewart <Dave.Stewart@premiers.qld.gov.au>
Cc: "SEELEY, Nick" <Nick.SEELEY@dete.qld.gov.au>, "WATTERSTON, Jim" <Jim.WATTERSTON@dete.qld.gov.au>, "WALTON, Patrea" <Patrea.WALTON@dete.qld.gov.au>, "HUNT, Jeff" <Jeff.HUNT@dete.qld.gov.au>
Subject: DET Update re Aurukun - summary of teleconference

Morning Christine and Dave

As discussed below are my notes for the teleconference (thought this might help you with the minutes):

FNQ Regional Director Deb Dunstone and QPS Acting Chief Superintendent Brett Schafferius – have been in regular communication since Sunday. DET has appreciated this support from QPS. The Officer in Charge Peter James has also been in contact with the Head of Campus in Aurukun Kon Kalos. Whilst the situation remains tense in community there is ongoing communication between QPS and DET.

Staff are very aware via their local community contacts and Elders that work within the school how tense the situation remains. They appreciate the additional Police presence but understandably feel how tense and for some, how frightening this situation has been.

An issue for staff yesterday was the perception that all other NGO agencies had sent staff home or out of community. With the Council and shop also closed they understandably felt vulnerable and that the messages were mixed around community. Significant communication occurred to support staff during this time. Staff were offered the opportunity to travel to Weipa if they felt they needed to leave community. This was supported by DET. Only 8 staff to date have made their way to Weipa. The school did go into lockdown yesterday around the time of the incident at the shop. Staff thought they heard gun shots at this time. Elders were also advising staff that they thought things were going to get worse in town in the lead up to the Funeral on Thursday.

DET Update 10am Tuesday:

- Mr Leigh Schelks is travelling to Aurukun this morning to support the Head of Campus and Staff. Leigh will be the Executive Principal of CYA in 2016. Leigh will report directly to the RD. Additional support will be provided if required once Leigh is able to assess the situation.
- 6 Teachers and 2 Teacher Aides are currently in Weipa. The HR Director is liaising with these staff and we will individualise their capacity to return to community. EA services have also been offered to these staff. We expect some work cover claims.
- 16 staff have remained in Aurukun. We will continue to support Staff who ask to travel out to Weipa.
- School is open today – attendance is very low – 35 students. 13 Staff are providing support to students.
- We are liaising with the Psychologist that is working with CYA to provide some additional face to face support for teachers requiring this in Aurukun.
- The RD has briefed the QTU President and Local Organiser – given staff, their Parents and Partners were phoning requesting support and outlining their concerns for their welfare (this settled after the weapon was located). QTU President very supportive of current plan by DET.
- RD is in constant communication with CYA and will provide ongoing support as required.

All is well managed at this point – there are no major concerns – just lots of support happening.

Regards

Deb



Deborah Dunstone

Regional Director

Far North Queensland Region

Department of Education and Training

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WILLIS, April

From: WATTERSTON, Jim
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2015 3:42 PM
To: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Cc: WALTON, Patrea; SEELEY, Nick; MCCABE, Kath; MCMASTER, Lorna; HUNT, Jeff; HOWARTH, John; GODKIN, Vicki
Subject: RE: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015

Thanks Deb. Teleconference went well. Appreciate your help.

Jim Watterston

Director-General

Department of Education and Training
Queensland Government

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From: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2015 12:24 PM
To: WATTERSTON, Jim
Cc: WALTON, Patrea; SEELEY, Nick; MCCABE, Kath; MCMASTER, Lorna; HUNT, Jeff; HOWARTH, John; GODKIN, Vicki
Subject: RE: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015
Importance: High

Afternoon Jim

Aurukun Update for 1pm Sit Rep report:

Police report quiet night last night in community.

Funeral is underway – 10am start

36 students are at school

All staff are present today

^{s47(3)(b)} staff will leave community ^{s47(3)(b) - Contrary to Public Interest} and we are negotiating for them to work a few days next week at their 2016 school – they already had approved transfers.

Leigh Schelks is continuing to support the school leadership and school community support strategy – this response by the Region has been acknowledge as being highly effective in supporting staff.

There is still concern around how things will go for the next few days following the funeral.

Please let me know if any other info is required or if you need me to join the teleconference this afternoon.

Regards

Deb

From: MCMASTER, Lorna **On Behalf Of** WATTERSTON, Jim
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 4:46 PM

To: DUNSTONE, Deborah
Cc: SEELEY, Nick; MCMASTER, Lorna; MCCABE, Kath
Subject: FW: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015

Hi Deb

Can you please provide an update at 1pm tomorrow as to the current situation at Aurukun – what is the current 'mood' is there anything we can update Jim on.

Cheers Lorna

Lorna McMaster

Executive Officer to the Director-General
Department of Education and Training

P: 07 303 44752 | F: 07 303 44769 | M: [REDACTED] | E: lorna.mcmaster@dete.qld.gov.au | <http://dete.qld.gov.au>

From: Christine Castley [<mailto:Christine.Castley@premiers.qld.gov.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 2:52 PM

To: Dave Stewart; Ross Barnett; Michael Schaumburg (DSD); Michael Hogan (Communities); WATTERSTON, Jim; Ian Stewart (Queensland Police); Clare O'Connor (Clare.O'Connor@datsip.qld.gov.au); Jill.Newland@health.qld.gov.au; DUNSTONE, Deborah; Taylor.PaulG@police.qld.gov.au; Michael Linnan; Michael Walsh (Health); Kathrin Jensen

Cc: Tina Culp

Subject: Aurukun Sit Rep 24/11/2015

Jim, I have accepted this meeting at 3.30pm tomorrow. Deb is also in the email trail for this email. Cheers Lorna

Dear Directors-General

Please find attached sit rep, following discussion from our teleconference yesterday. I note that it had been planned to hold a further teleconference today, but this has proven difficult to organise with various diaries.

It will be important that we have a further up to date sit rep for today, given that the funeral is planned for tomorrow. Can I therefore please ask that you provide us with updated information to inform today's sit rep as soon as possible, but no later than 5pm today. Please email your updates to Kathrin Jensen (kathrin.jensen@premiers.qld.gov.au).

We will arrange for the next teleconference to be scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Regards
Christine



Queensland
Government

Christine Castley

Senior Executive Director

Social Policy

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

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