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Cairns City, far north Queensland: a city in paradise, but a unique challenge to crime prevention.

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Overview:



- The demographics of Cairns Far North Queensland,
 - Alcohol-Related Assault Study,
 - Defining the Late Night Entertainment Precinct (LNEP), Tourist & Backpacker Accommodation,
 - Egress Routes & Hotspots
 - Identified Issues,
 - How Cairns is addressing these issues,
 - What next ...
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CAIRNS, FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Location	2,651 km north of the University of Sydney and 1,837 km north of Griffith University in Brisbane.
Population	168,752
Weather	Tropical with 'wet' season from January to April
Economy	Chiefly tourism, but also commercial fishing, agriculture & mining.
Visitor night	500,000 per annum
Service Hub	For regional and remote communities to the north.
International Airport	Gateway to Asia and high backpacker market
Tourism	Great Barrier Reef to the East Tropical Rainforests to the North

Alcohol-Related Assault Study



1. Participants were asked to hand-draw what they perceived as the LNEP, 'hotspots' and any other areas of interest relating to alcohol-related person-to-person assault.
 2. Data of alcohol-related assaults (A-RA) were collected from the police, the ED, licensed venues (by security) and the CCTV system.
- What we found ...
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The Cairns Late Night Entertainment Precinct



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Hotels & Tourists Apartments in Cairns Inner City (n = 67+)



Backpacker Hostels (n = 27)



Hotspots & Egress Routes



What else ...?

- A-RA incidents are declining, but severity of injuries is not.
 - Verbal Abuse is more problematic and widespread than assault.
 - Women as offenders in A-RA is increasing significantly.
 - There is a spike in A-RA just before and just after lockout at 3am.
 - Street-based security intervene to prevent injury in 40% of cases. Pointing et al (2012).
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Identified Issues

- Lone female backpackers walking home from licensed venues in the early hours of the morning to their accommodation.
 - Incidents are occurring on the fringes of the CBD outside the range of the CCTV cameras.
 - Poor lighting on egress routes.
 - Environmental ‘haggling’ over tree lopping for clear sight-lines.
 - Early morning tourists and business owners mixing with late night revellers.
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Identified Issues

- Business owners demanding 'quick fix' approaches rather than taking action recommended by Council Safety Officers.
 - Cairns marketed as a 'party town' for backpackers.
 - Chronic Homeless persons with ongoing alcohol and substance abuse issues.
 - Youth violence and theft against tourists.
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Addressing the Issues

Most important points:

1. Community government and non-government agencies co-operation and collaboration.
 2. Evidence-based management for informed decision-making.
 3. Sharing data among agencies through MOUs and local level agreements.
 4. Negotiating the politics, media propaganda & outraged residents.
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Most important points:

5. The commitment of all licensed venue owners/managers ... not just *most*.
 6. A negotiated and co-ordinated approach to plural policing – police, street-based security, venue security and CCTV camera operators.
 7. Bureaucrats, red-tape and resources.
 8. The importance of community-based researchers.
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