



CAPE AND TORRES
HEALTH COMMISSIONING

Strategic Plan

2025 – 2030



516-518 Mulgrave Rd, Earlville QLD 4870



secretariat@cathc.org.au



www.cathc.org.au

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional and Cultural Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work to improve healthcare for the entire population with the CaTHC region. In particular, we respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country through the Torres Strait, Northern Peninsula and Cape York regions and recognise their continuing connection to the lands, waters, winds, cultures and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.

Gum nuts of the native Eucalypt



The Board and Executive of CaTHC are pleased to present this first Strategic Plan for community-led commissioning in the Cape York, Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait regions.



Chairperson

Aileen Addo



Deputy Chairperson

Flora Warrior



Director

Patricia Yusia



Director

Ned David



Director

Bruce Gibson



Director

Falen Passi



Vast & beautiful land and sea

The CaTHC region spans a vast and beautiful geographical area, covering approximately 130,238 square kilometres in the Far North of Queensland. Stretching across Cape York, the Northern Peninsula Area and the Torres Strait Islands, the region is home to ancient rainforests, rugged ranges, sweeping savannahs and pristine coastlines with vibrant marine ecosystems.

The region encompasses 13 Local Government Areas, and is home to an estimated 26,000 people, including more than 17,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Ten of the 13 LGAs have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations greater than 80%. The majority of people (81.6%) live in areas classified as Very Remote Australia, while the remaining 18.4% reside in Remote Australia.

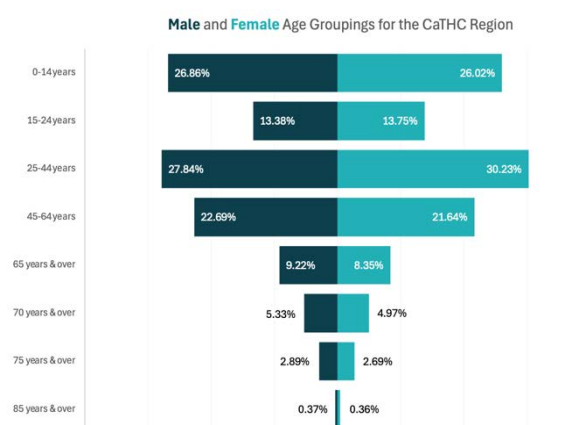
The region is a place of deep cultural significance where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have lived for tens of thousands of years, maintaining their connections to Country, culture and kin.

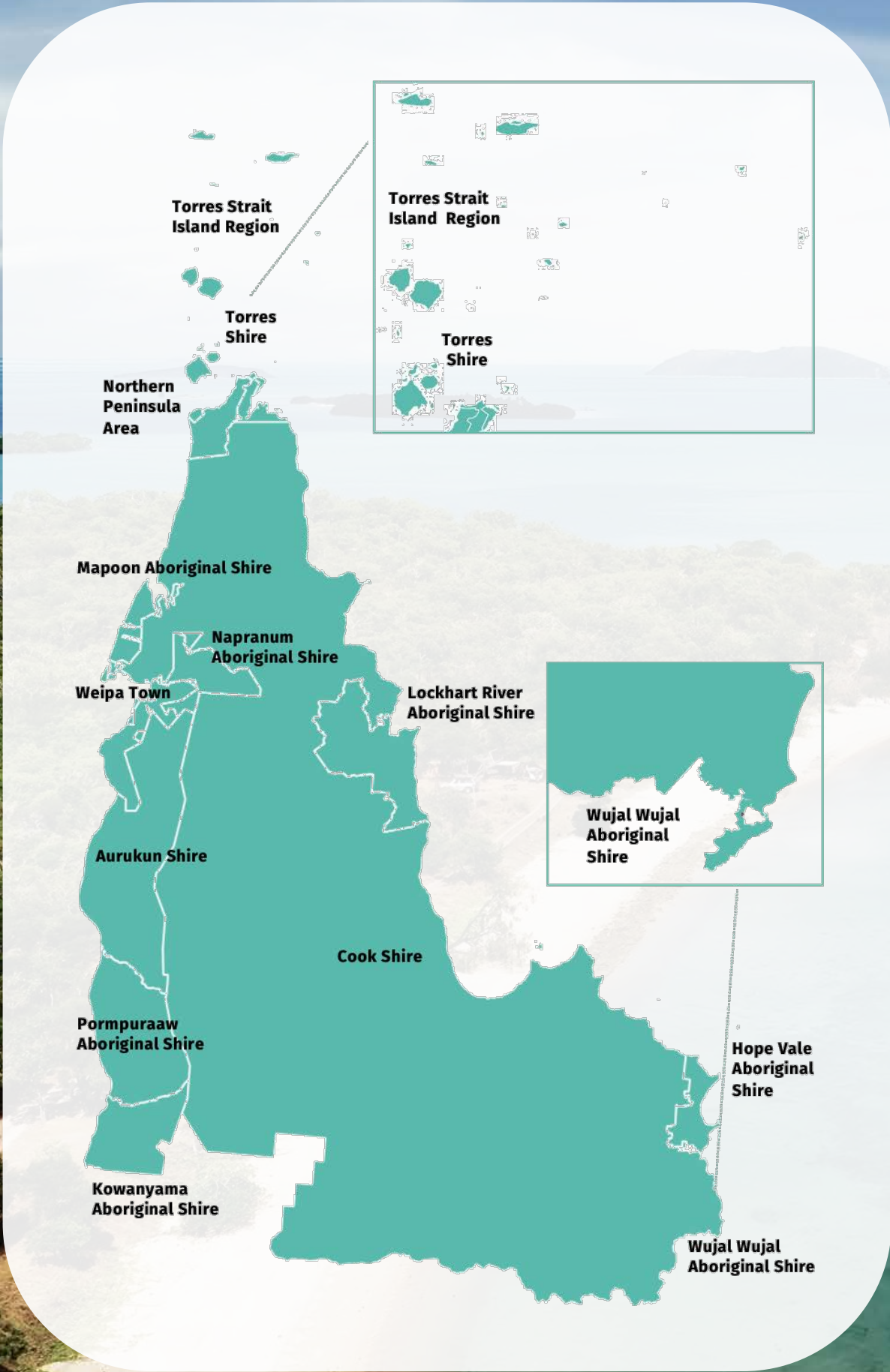
LGA	Estimate of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander population	Estimate of Total population	Proportion of population identifying as Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Aurukun	1,047	1,154	90.73%
Cook	1,285	4,761	26.99%
Hopevale	940	1,026	91.62%
Kowanyama	1,019	1,147	88.84%
Lockhart River	567	673	84.25%
Mapoon	401	465	86.24%
Napranum	867	924	93.83%
NPA	2,609	2,908	89.72%
Pormpuraaw	522	644	81.06%
Torres	2,661	3,502	75.99%
Torres Strait Island	4,118	4,286	96.08%
Weipa	1,026	4,251	24.14%
Wujal Wujal	271	293	92.49%
CaTHC region	17,333	26,034	66.58%
Queensland	273,119	5,460,420	5.00%
Australia	983,709	26,648,878	3.69%


The population in the region is very young compared with the rest of Queensland, with more than one quarter of the population aged 0-14 years, and 70% of the population under 44 years. The median age is 29 years. The privilege of ageing well is not experienced by many, with the median age at death just 62 years, close to 20 years earlier than the rest of Queensland.

The region presents complex health, social, political, economic, and environmental challenges for its residents. Its vast geography – coupled with challenging weather conditions, poor housing, inadequate infrastructure and limited economic opportunities – creates significant barriers to accessing health services. These challenges affect people needing to access services, their families, communities, health funders, policymakers, and service providers alike.

Despite these challenges, the communities of the CaTHC region are strong, resilient, and deeply connected to their land, culture, and traditions. There is a profound sense of pride in our rich histories and a collective determination to drive meaningful change. Community members welcome the opportunity to improve our own health and wellbeing and are eager to work collaboratively toward solutions that reflect the strengths, values and aspirations of the people of these beautiful lands and waters.





An aerial photograph showing a complex network of winding rivers and coastal waterways. The land is covered in dense green vegetation, likely mangroves, interspersed with sandy or lighter-colored patches. The water is a deep blue-grey. The coastline is highly irregular with many inlets and peninsulas. A white text box is in the top left corner.

Aerial view of coastline and river systems, Cape York.

“ Our vision is to have **healthy, self-reliant communities in Cape York, the Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait Islands.**

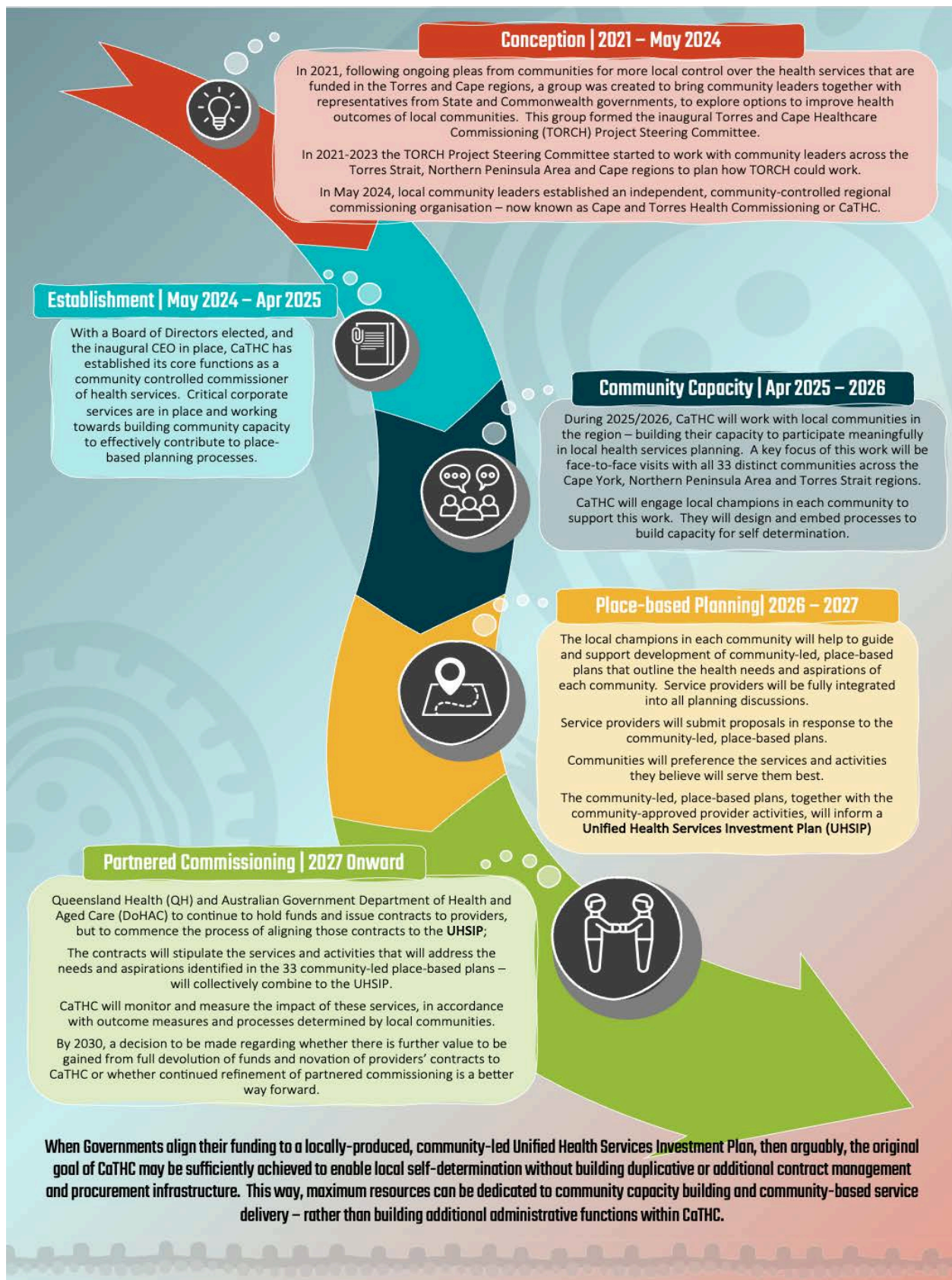
Our mission is to **plan and fund local health services, based on community aspirations and provider capabilities.** ”



Our goals are to:

1. Achieve **measurable improvements in health** outcome indicators of importance to the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations of Cape York, NPA and the Torres Strait Islands;
2. Stimulate greater participation in **self-care, illness prevention and disease management**;
3. Establish **world-class place-based planning**, led by community members and involving all local health service providers in the 33 communities of the Cape, NPA and Torres regions;
4. Ensure **sufficient resources** are equitably available across Cape York, NPA and Torres Strait communities, taking into consideration changing demographics and environmental impacts;
5. Exemplify **community-control, trustworthiness, accountability and efficiency** in every aspect of our operations;
6. Attract **investment beyond government health funding** to address social determinants identified through community-led planning; and
7. Grow a **fit-for-purpose local workforce** to promote a more sustainable health care system for the future.

Our five-year Plan



Our Operating Model

CaTHC has committed to a clear and effective operating model which will guide our work.



The model has three core components:

People in Communities	The first and most critical element of CaTHC's operating model is the people who live in the Cape York, Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait regions. They are the heart of the model.
Service Provider Network & Workforce	While good health requires a high degree of personal responsibility, CaTHC recognises the critical role that service providers play in supporting communities to achieve healthy outcomes. CaTHC is committed to partnering with service providers to create the ideal environment to support communities to achieve their outcomes.
Commissioning Cycle	CaTHC is a commissioner unlike any other in Australia – with responsibility for whole-of-population and whole-of-system planning. This means, in addition to engaging all 33 unique communities across the Cape York, Northern Peninsula Area and Torres Strait regions to understand their health and wellbeing needs and aspirations, and then investing in solutions to address those needs, CaTHC will also work to redesign the system to ensure optimal outcomes for its communities.

Partnered Commissioning

