

The 2016 Cherbourg Dog Management Program:

A successful stakeholder collaboration story



Steven Hill

– Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council

Bonny Cumming

– Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities

Amanda Hutchings

– Queensland Health Darling Downs Public Health Unit

Gregory Simmons

– University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science

NATSIEH Conference Sept 2017



Our story...

- Video: Cherbourg Dog Management Program Community Perspectives
- Steven Hill: Thoughts from Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council's Environmental Health Worker
- Bonny Cumming & Amanda Hutchings: The 2016 Cherbourg Animal Management Program and Future plans

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Community Perspectives Video

<https://youtu.be/My18uVDojcY>

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Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council's Perspective



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The 2016 Cherbourg Animal Management Program

- Animal Management Background
- The Collaboration
- Program Components
- Program Outcomes
- Future Plans

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Animal Management Background

Animal Management within
Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council:

2 x Animal Management Workers

1 x Environmental Health Worker

1 EH Consultant

Pound (not operational)

Animal Management Local Laws
(little implementation or
enforcement)



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Animal Management Background



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The Collaboration



Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council (CASC)



AMRRIC – Animal Management in Rural & Remote Indigenous Communities



Queensland Health – Darling Downs Public Health Unit (DDPHU)



University of Queensland - School of Veterinary Science (UQ SVS)

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The Collaboration



Some of the collaboration's team members, from left to right:
Dr Greg Simmons (UQ SVS), Amanda Hutchings (DDPHU), Shamus Cobbo (CASC), Shamus' dog 'Bobus', Lara Marwedel (Merial), Melissa Pepper (AMRRIC).

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The Collaboration's Process

Mapping

- Identify relevant stakeholders
- Defining stakeholder expertise and opportunities for input

Planning

- Define the issue
- Develop short- and long-term goals
- Identify required components to achieve goals
- Tailor components to Cherbourg community physical, social, cultural and economic needs

Implementing

- Implementing project as planned

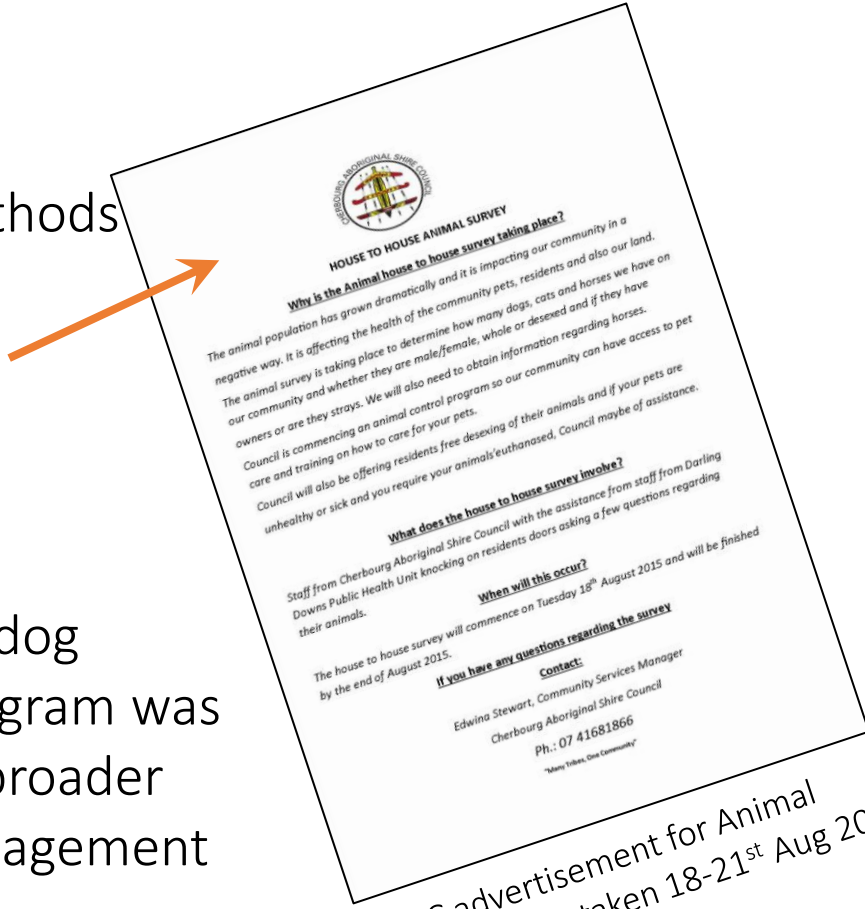
Reviewing

- Debrief with all stakeholders, seeking feedback on achieving goals and each stage of process
- Documenting review for future reference and improvement



The Collaboration's Plan

- Long term view
- Best-practice methods
- Evidence-based
- Defined goals
- Recognition that dog management program was a component of broader CASC animal management plan



CASC advertisement for Animal Survey, undertaken 18-21st Aug 2015



CHERBOURG DOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Program Evolution

MAY 2015

Escalating dog management problems lead to CASC requesting assistance

JUL 2015

Initial and follow up meeting to identify stakeholders, define issues and explore potential solutions. Following these meetings, AMRRIC invites UQ SVS to join collaborative project.

AUG 2015

CASC staff, with support from Qld Health undertake community dog census and dog owner survey

SEP 2015

First meeting with all major stakeholders; CASC, AMRRIC, Qld Health, UQ SVS. Development of program aims and consensus regarding need for long-term approach. Planning for inaugural program in Oct 2016 commences; discussion continue via email.

JAN 2016

Detailed planning meeting with CASC, AMRRIC, Qld Health and UQ SVS; subsequent ongoing discussions via email.

FEB-MAR 2016

Budget and funding proposal development. University Ethics permits sought. Ongoing investigation of CASC legislative requirements. Trial vet visit preparations.

The Program Timeline



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APR 2016

Successful trial veterinary visit to test facilities and processes

SEP 2016

Stakeholder presentation to Cherbourg Community Health Action Group to garner support and promote the 2016 program. Active community promotion of the program commences.

AUG 2016

Detailed planning meeting with CASC, AMRRIC, Qld Health and UQ SVS; subsequent ongoing discussions via email.

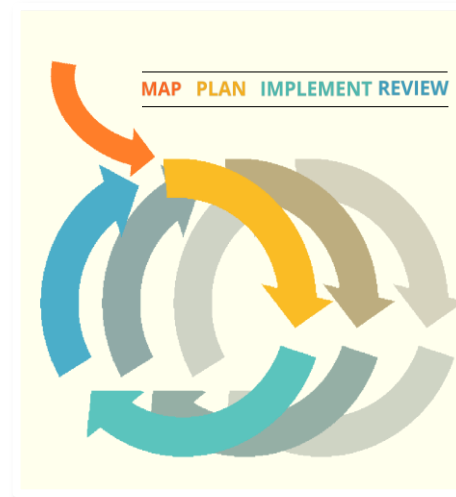
OCT 2016

Integrated veterinary and education program

NOV 2016

Feedback captured in debrief meeting with major stakeholders. Planning for 2017 commences.

The Program Timeline (continued)



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2016 Dog Management Program: Components

- Establishment of dog registration system using the AMRRIC App
- Free veterinary treatments: surgical desexing and parasite treatments on offer to Cherbourg residents who had registered their dogs
- Responsible pet ownership education program directed at school children and broader Cherbourg community



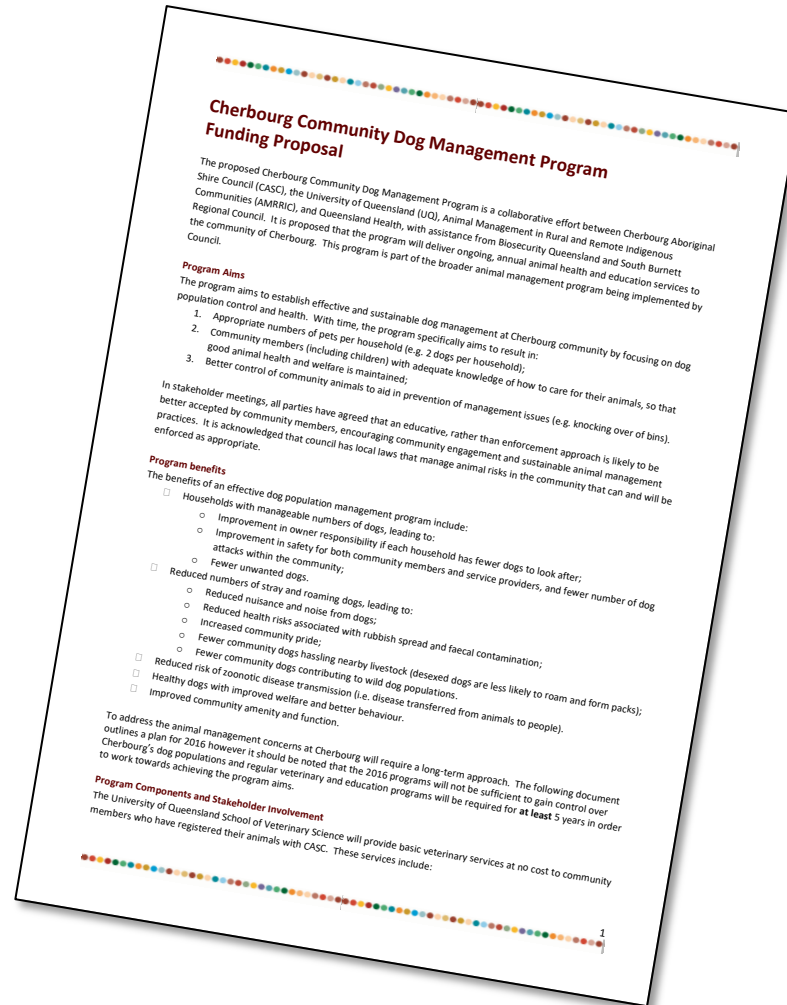
Program Components: Funding

Estimated value of total program: \$30,000

\$13,132 in actual costs

\$5000 funding contributed by CASC to fund part of both vet and education program

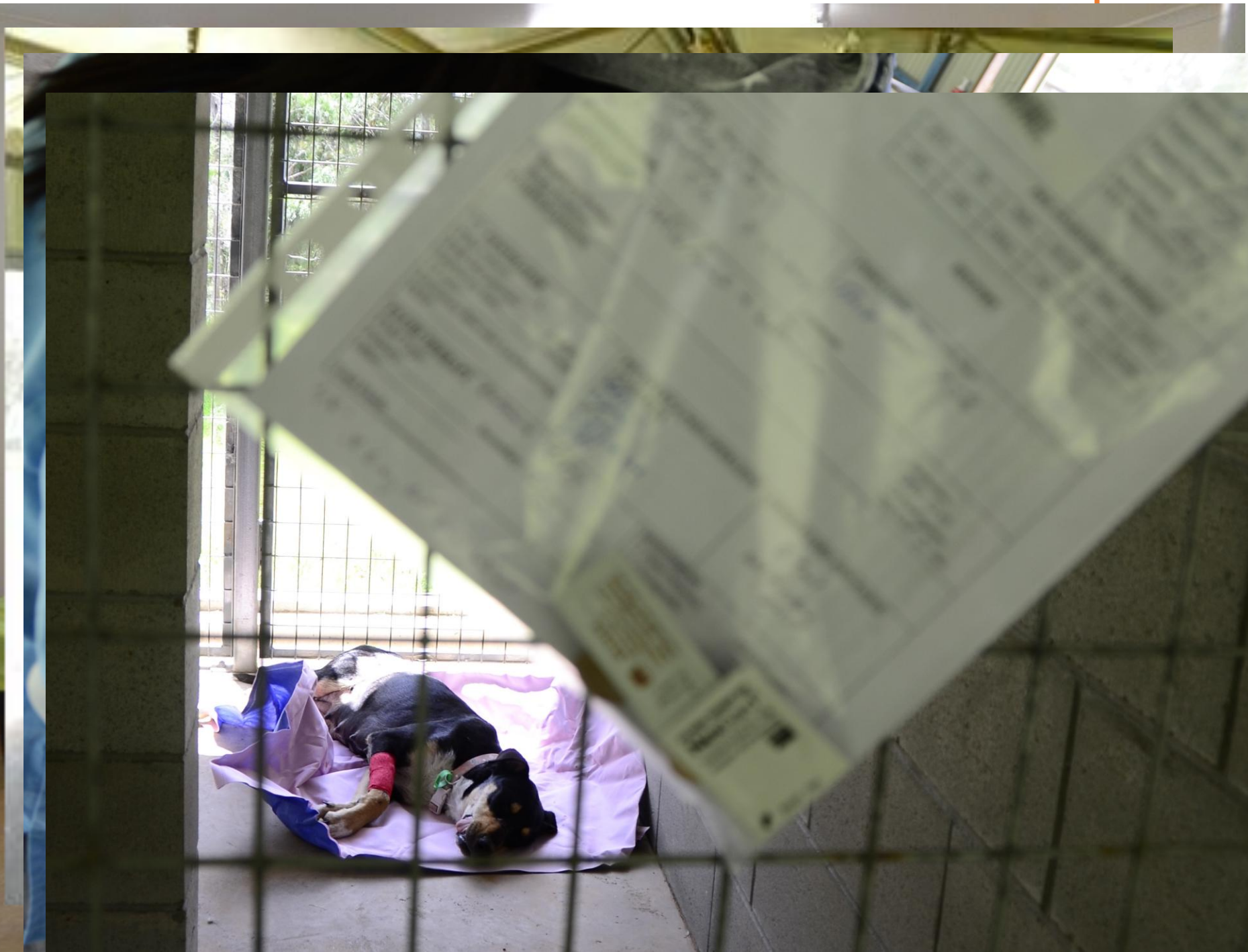
Remaining costs absorbed by CASC, AMRRIC, DDPHU and UQ SVS



2016 Dog Management Program: Components – Vet program

- UQ Vet team = 2 experienced vets, 1 vet nurse, 3 final year vet students
- Available treatments/procedures:
 - General health checks, education about animal health, disease prevention, responsible pet ownership etc;
 - Surgical desexing of dogs;
 - Microchipping;
 - Parasite treatments;
 - Emergency treatments to address animal welfare concerns; &
 - Euthanasia (only with full & informed consent of animal's owner).
- AMRRIC's App used to record treatments and population.





2016 Dog Management Program: Components – Education program

- AMRRIC Education Officer worked with CASC EHW & AMW to deliver school lessons – ‘Caring for Dogs’ .
- 131 Students were engaged in lessons – from pre-prep to Year 6.
- Posters were on display at Community Dog Health Day



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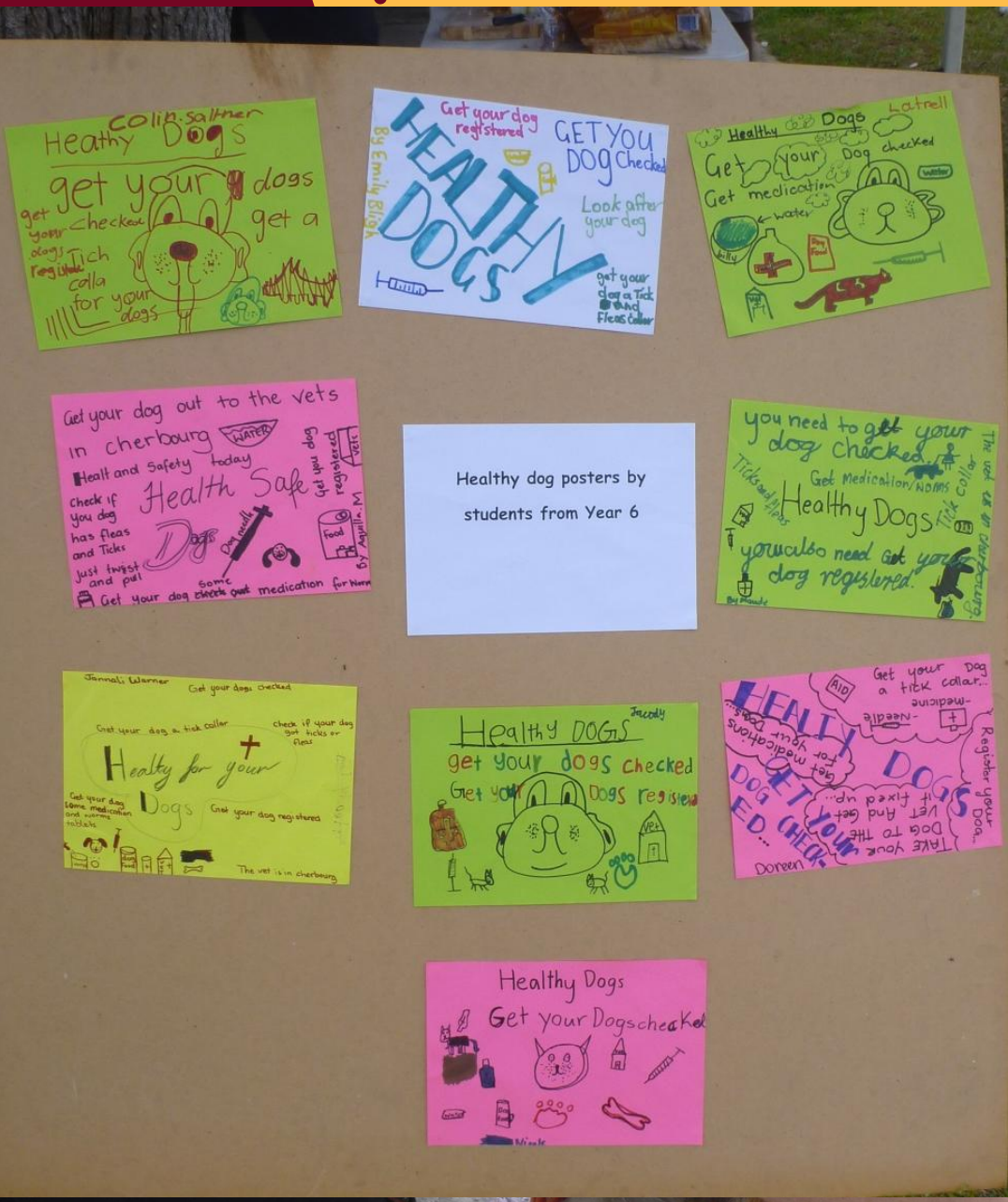


2016 Dog Management Program: Components – Community Dog Health Day

- Collaborative event hosted by DDPHU, UQ Vet School, CASC, Merial & AMRRIC
- Included:
 - Free dog checks and parasite treatments by UQ Vet students
 - Community BBQ
 - Best Looking Dog Competition
 - Healthy dogs posted by school students
 - Free dog registration
- Attendance by UQ Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit staff

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Healthy dog posters by students from Year 6

OUTCOMES

2016 Cherbourg Dog Management Program



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Program Outcomes: Two-way Learning

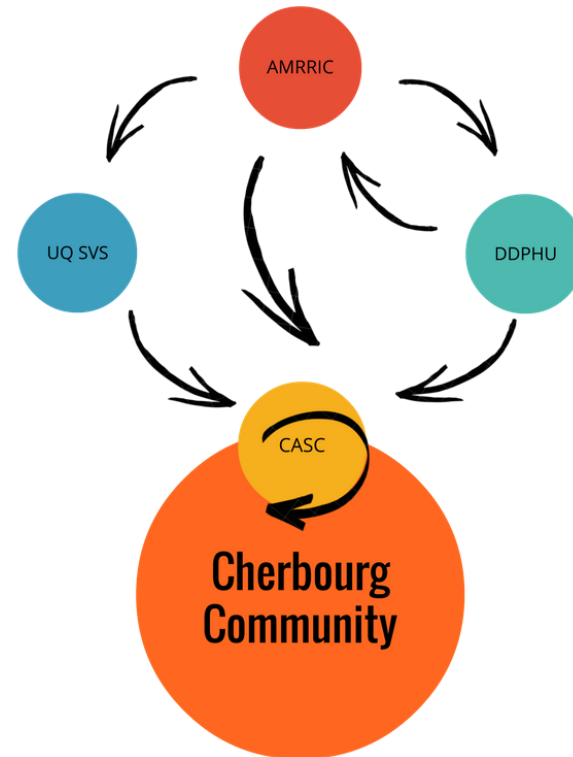
- Relationship building & Reconciliation
- *“During the two weeks at Cherbourg, we had a lot of opportunity to communicate with the local residents and look after a number of dogs. We not only learnt about veterinary science, but also about the history and culture of Cherbourg. This furthered our understanding and appreciation of the interactions between animals and human kind. Our horizon was widened in this journey.”*

-UQ Final Year Veterinary Students Shirley Lee,
Danielle Hindmarsh and Caroline Edgehill



Keys to effective collaboration

- Identifying all the relevant stakeholders
- Mutually agreed issues
- Clearly identified goals
- Collaborative planning
- Clearly understood roles and responsibilities
- Regular face to face and email/phone communication



Flow of information and services in collaboration

Future Plans: 2017 Animal Management Program



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Acknowledgements

- Cherbourg community residents
- Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Staff and Councillors
- Merial and CH2; Program sponsors
- Stacy Harris (Biosecurity Queensland) and Dr Ben Allen (University of Southern Queensland) for their catalytic initial involvement
- Local vet clinics – South Burnett Vets, Kingaroy Veterinary Surgery for their support and assistance
- University of Queensland – School of Veterinary Science Staff who championed UQ’s involvement
- University of Queensland– Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies Unit
- Queensland Health – Darling Downs Public Health Unit staff
- AMRRIC staff
- Australian Government, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; AMRRIC funder



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Abbreviations

CASC: Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council

AMRRIC: Animal Management in Rural & Remote
Indigenous Communities

DDPHU: Darling Downs Public Health Unit

UQ SVS: University of Queensland School of Veterinary
Science

EH: Environmental Health

