Dental Contribution to the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP 21)

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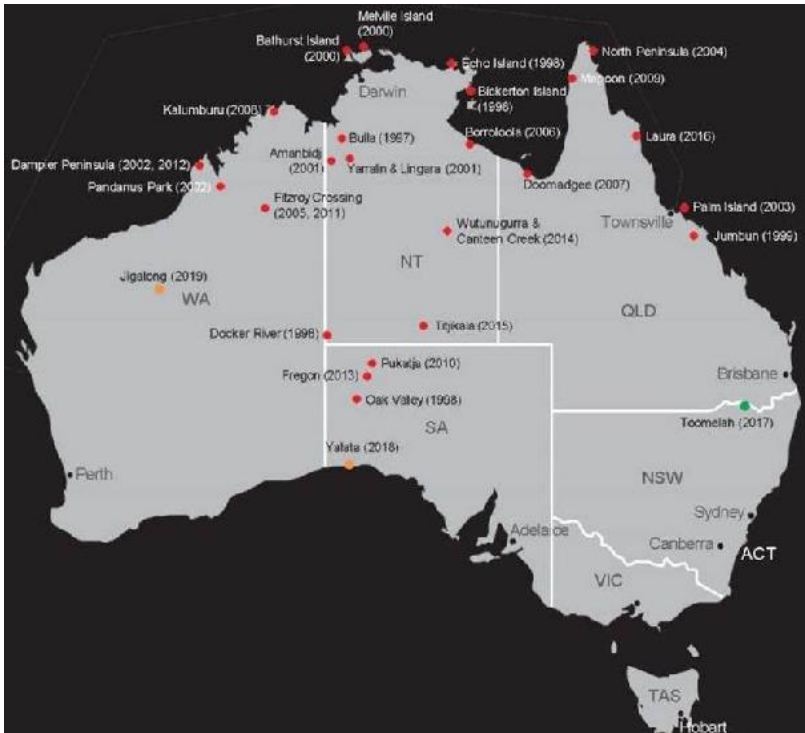
Scope

- Overview of the AACAP Program
- Community Profile - Pormpuraaw
- Patient challenges
- Provision of services
- Dental outcomes
- Lessons learnt
- Questions

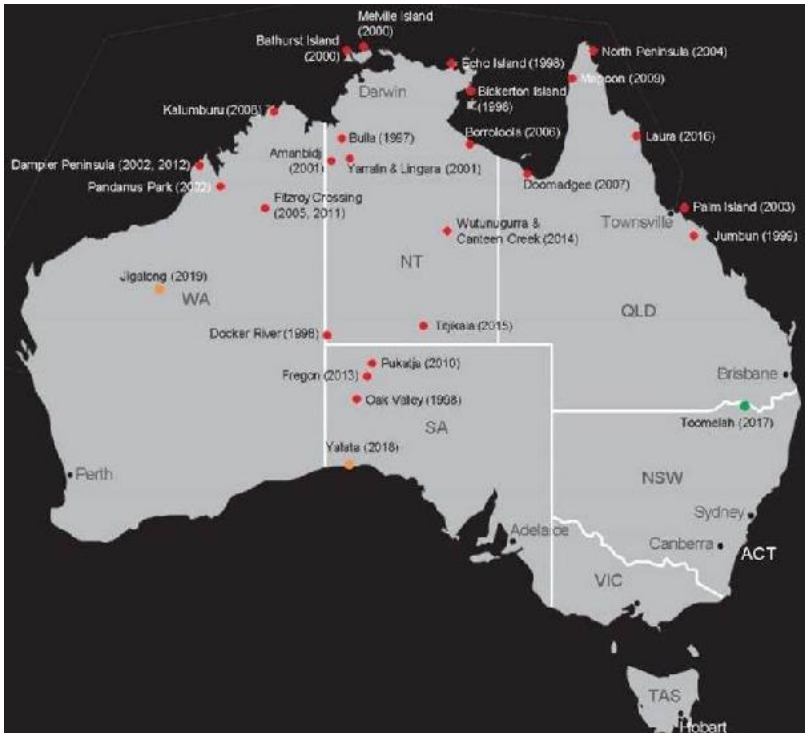
AACAP Program Overview

- Started in 1997 - Closing the Gap
- Aims to improve health and living standards of remote Aboriginal communities in Australia
- Delivers a mix of housing, road, sewerage, airfield, telecommunications, schooling or water supply upgrades

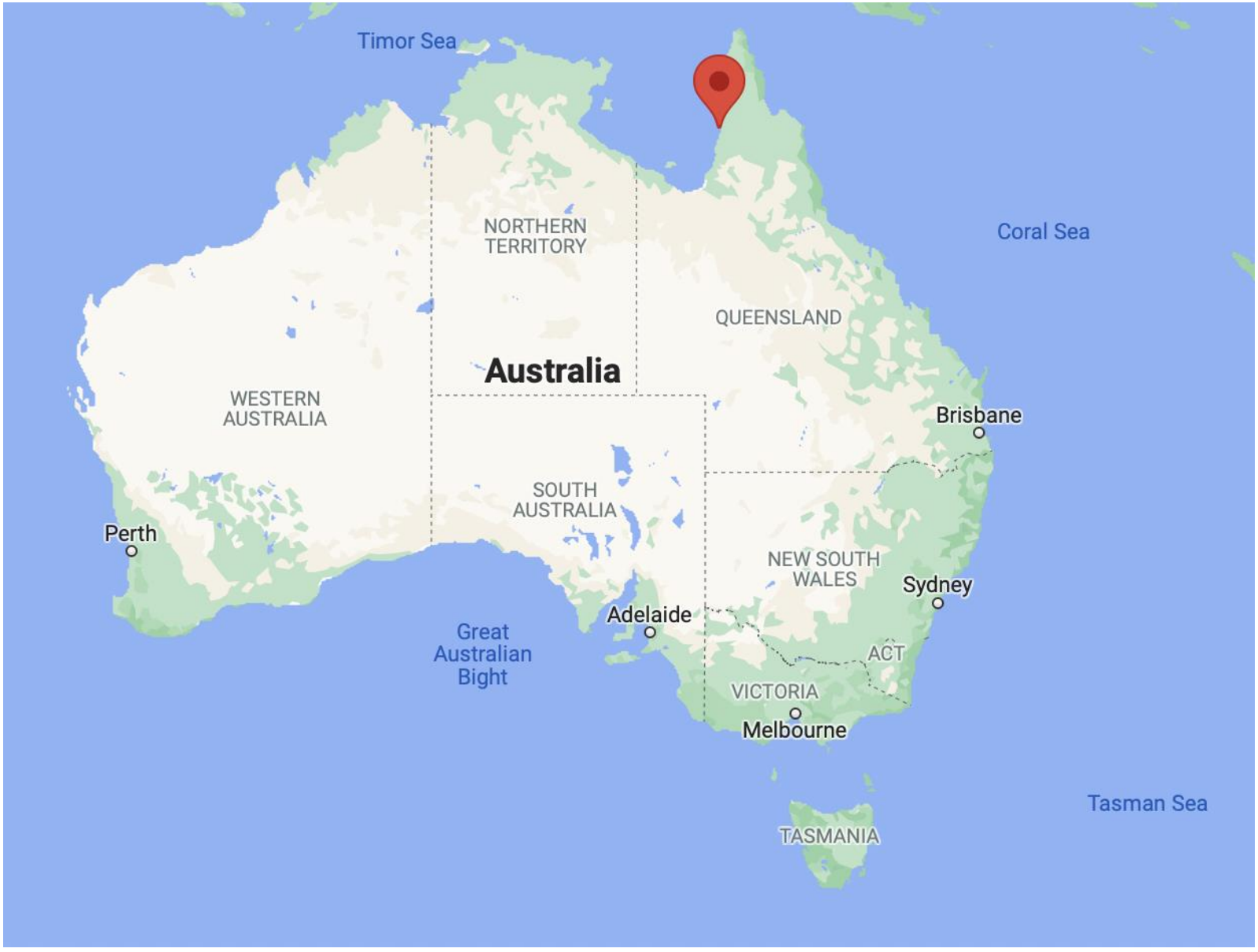


AACAP Program Overview

- Deliver training to enhance employment opportunities
- Delivers primary healthcare through integral health team (~20 pers)
- Dental team of 3 pers for support to military members AND community

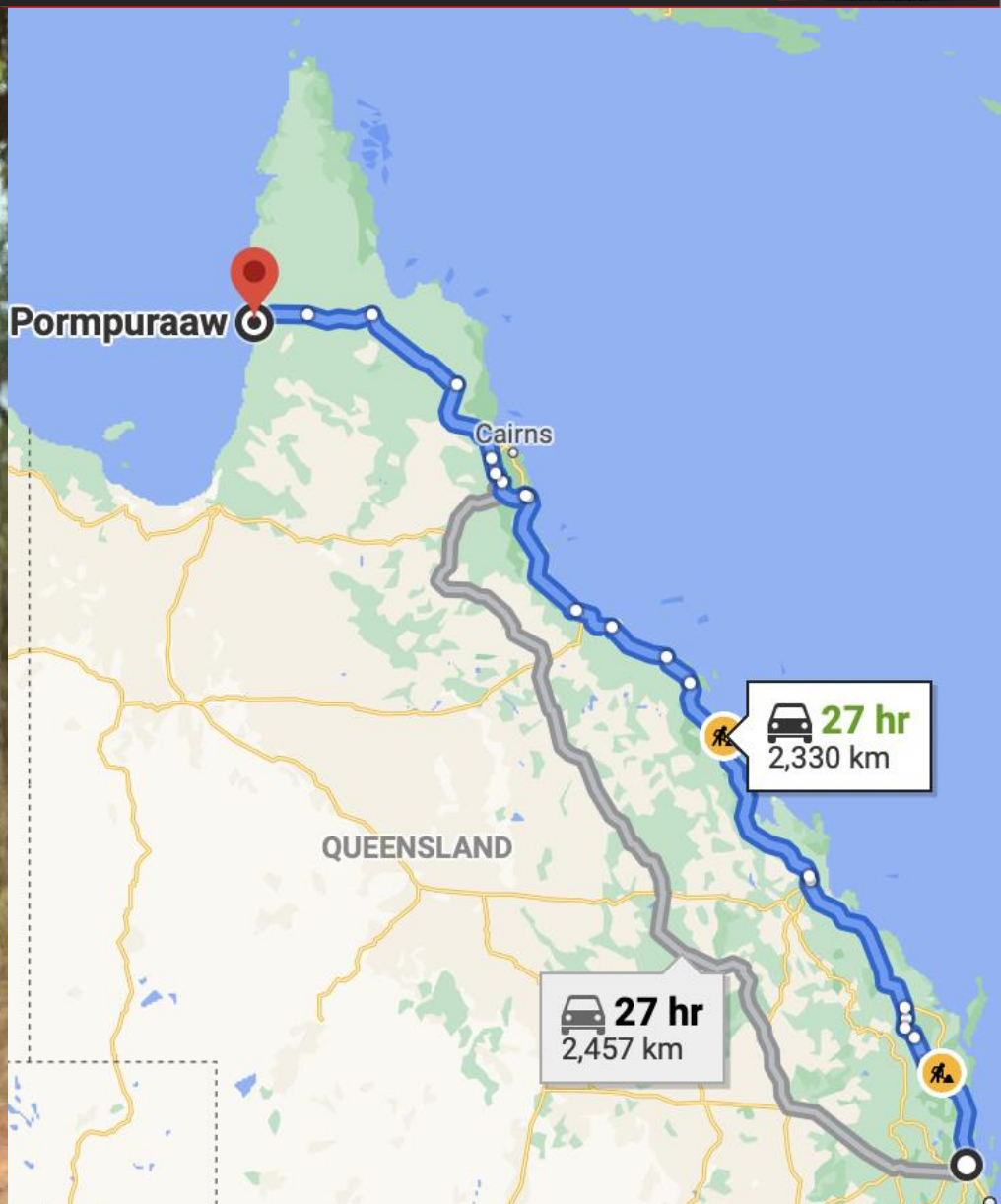


Community Profile - Pormpuraaw



Army

Community Profile - Pormpuraaw



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Community Profile - Pormpuraaw

Community Profile - Pormpuraaw

Population

Culture

Employment

Community Profile - Pormpuraaw

Leisure

Wet season

Community Profile - Pormpuraaw

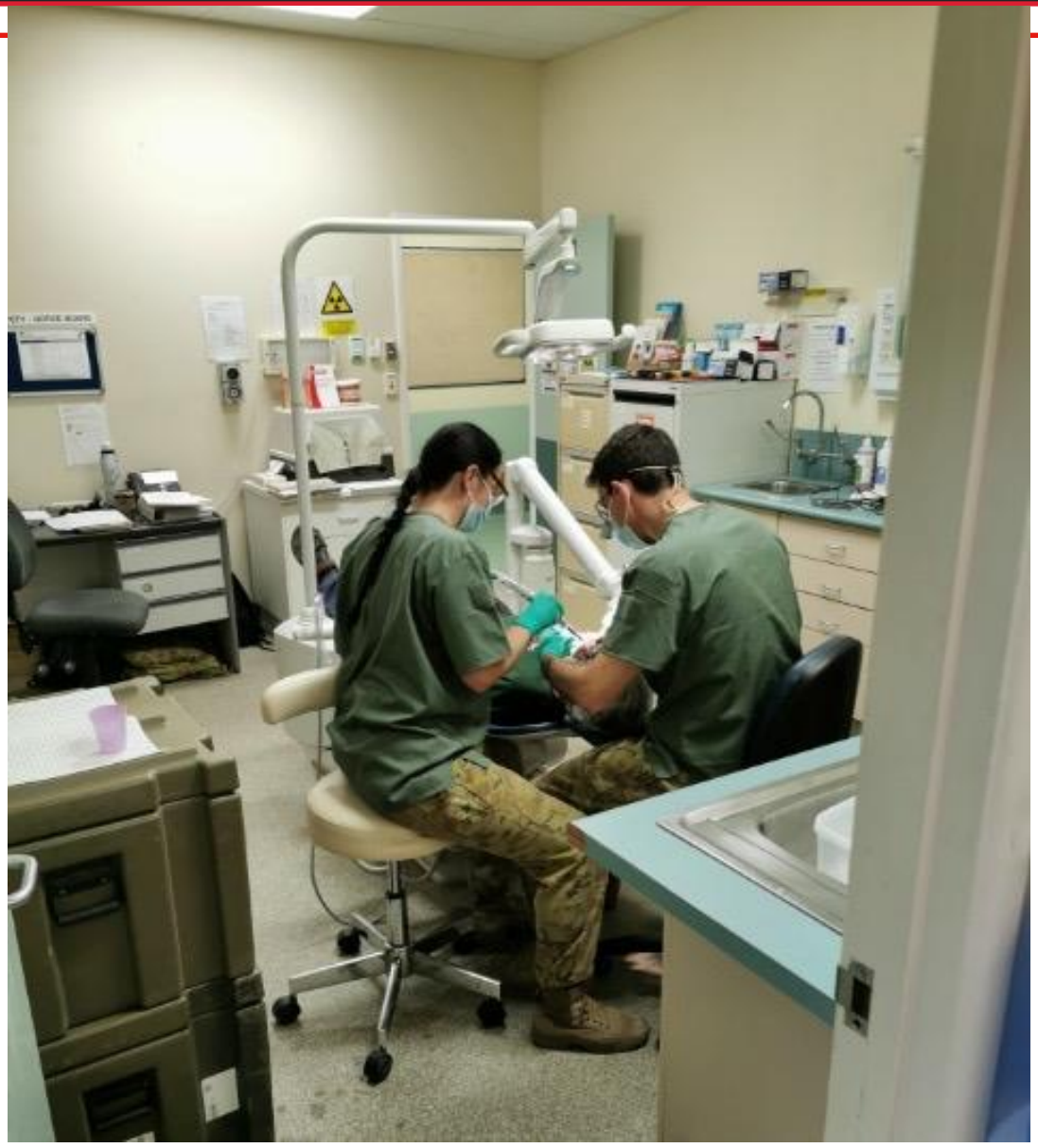
Services

Patient Challenges

- Language
- Cultural barriers
- Patient compliance
- Concept of health
- Dental Literacy
- Magnitude of problem
- Chronic disease and comorbidities

Provision of Services - at Camp

Provision of Services - Health Facility



Army

Provision of Services - School based

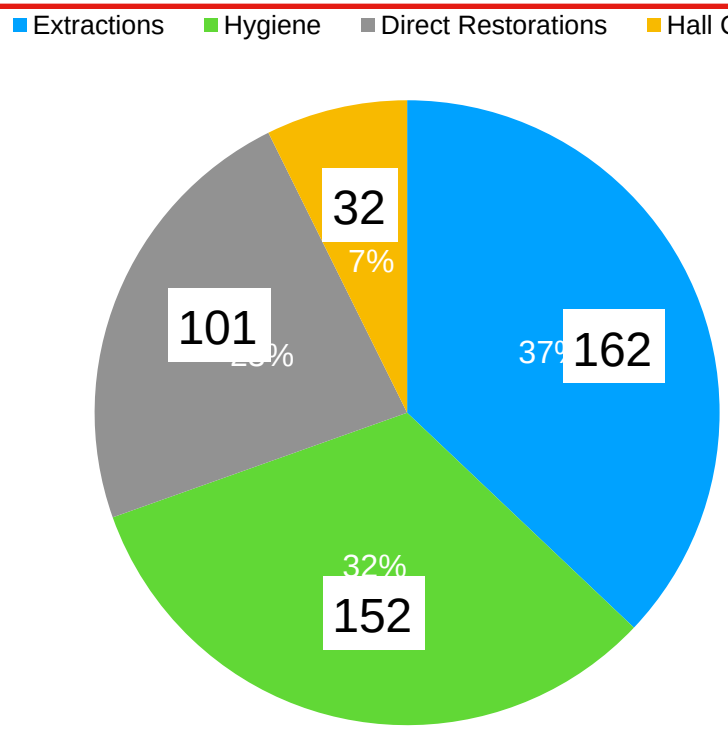
Dental Outcomes

- 6 days per week for 10 weeks

- 362 Patients seen
  - 52 military
  - 310 civilian
  - 96% of school children screened
  - 40% of school children completed treatment

- Much greater child caries experience (85%) than literature suggested (61%) for indigenous children

Dental Outcomes



Provision of equivalent of 4 years of dental services

BUT

Still seeing 10 patients a day during the last week of the trip!

Lessons Learnt

- Skills deficit (garrison vs remote community dentistry)
  - Oral surgery
  - Paediatric services
  - Dental management of complex medical conditions
- ‘One shot’ dentistry for low patient compliance
- Community involvement to develop familiarity and rapport
- It takes time and effort to foster community’s trust
- Effect of reputation on patient flow

QUESTIONS?