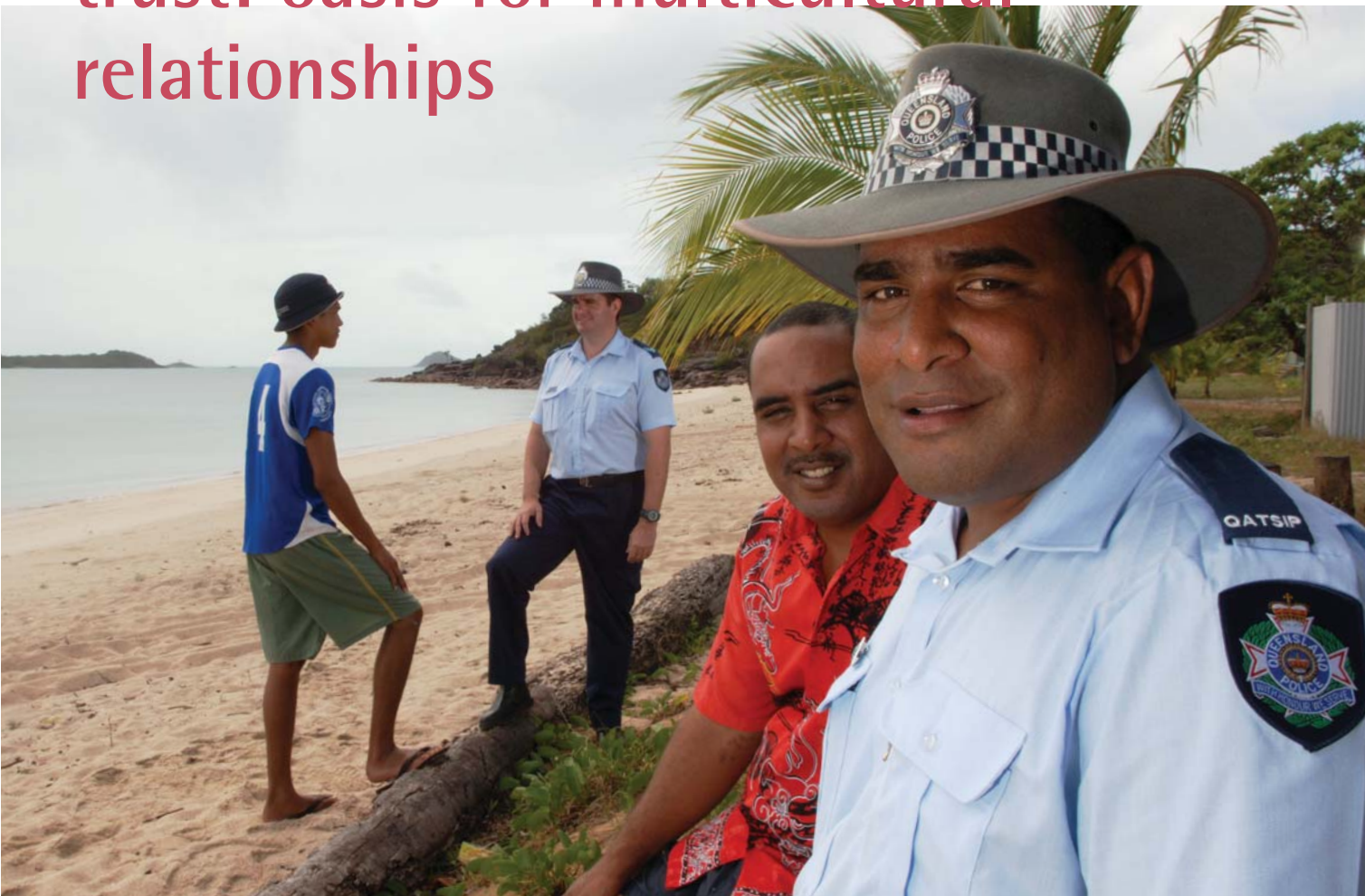


Understanding, respect, tolerance and trust: basis for multicultural relationships



Badu Island QATSIP Solomon Ahmat (right) with Thursday Island staff member Peo Ahmat (second from right). Naseli Tamwoy and Senior Constable Christopher Lee are in the background.

As our multicultural society continues to grow, so too does the Queensland Police Service (QPS) commitment to developing and maintaining effective relationships with Indigenous and ethnic communities.

This is the mission of the QPS Cultural Advisory Unit (CAU), which forms part of the Office of the Commissioner.

It also promotes understanding within the QPS about cultural diversity with input into recruitment, education, training, policy development and police procedures.

Inspector John Fox, Officer in Charge of the CAU, said the unit's foundation for building relationships was based on open communication, understanding, respect, tolerance and trust.

"Its objectives include ensuring QPS policies and programs are culturally appropriate and equitable, and identifying and providing advice on trends and emerging issues of concern to police, ethnic and Indigenous communities.

"The CAU oversees such programs as the Police Liaison Officer scheme, Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Police (QATSIP) program

and the Cross Cultural Liaison Officer scheme, all of which help forge stronger ties between police, ethnic and Indigenous communities," Inspector Fox said.

The unit is based in Brisbane with one officer also in Cairns, and it is made up of police officers and staff members with a broad range of experience. This includes specialists such as Emmanuel Anthony, Senior Advisor to the Commissioner on ethnic issues and Bill Ivinson, Policy and Liaison Officer for Indigenous issues.

"All officers work on developing and maintaining close links with peak multicultural and Indigenous groups at state and national level,

government and non-government organisations and other police services," Inspector Fox said.

The unit is responsible for the strategic directions for policing Indigenous and ethnic communities.

It also oversees the implementation of reviews, reports, policy documents and related ethnic and Indigenous issues including the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Task Force on Violence.

