

4. METHODOLOGY

The methodology involved in-depth and group discussions with students, teachers and other stakeholders, which allowed the gathering of information during the Festival and in the months following the Festival. This allowed the evaluation to assess, to some extent, the community impact of the Croc Festivals™ in the immediate and longer term, to look at what makes the Croc Festivals™ work, and to identify the characteristics that are transferable to other community events.

4.1 LOCATIONS

There was a need to conduct comprehensive research in a range of locations to determine the immediate and longer-term community impact of the Croc Festivals™, as previous research has largely concentrated on the effects on students, teachers and schools rather than the wider community. The selection of the five locations: Weipa (QLD); Thursday Island (QLD); Port Augusta (SA); Moree (NSW); and Alice Springs (NT), was based on the following rationale:

- One of the objectives was to explore differences by location due to varying levels of experience in hosting the Festivals. The range of locations reflected a range of experience of hosting the Festival, from second time hosts (Alice Springs) to communities who had hosted the Festival more than five times (Moree).
- Thursday Island was included as it allowed the evaluation to explore the impact of the Croc Festival™ on communities that travel to attend a Croc Festival™ (i.e. travel to Weipa). In addition Weipa and Thursday Island alternate hosting the Croc Festival™, so the impact of this arrangement was also explored.

The locations also offered variety in terms of the composition of the audience, especially with regard to the number of Indigenous students attending the Festival, community infrastructure, and remoteness of the locations.

The following table details the fieldwork that was conducted as part of the evaluation:

STAGE 1: IN-FESTIVAL RESEARCH (ALICE SPRINGS, PORT AUGUSTA and MOREE)

- 2 group discussions with students
- 4 depth interviews with students
- 1 group discussion with Croc Trainees (where applicable)
- 5-10 interviews with activity facilitators & other stakeholders
- 5-10 interviews with teachers
- Observation research

STAGE 2: FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH (WEIPA, THURSDAY ISLAND, PORT AUGUSTA, MOREE, ALICE SPRINGS)

- Community meeting
- Follow-up consultations with people attending the meeting/identified through meeting
- Consultations with organisations not involved in the Croc Festival™
- Follow up group discussion with Croc Trainees (where applicable)
- Follow up interviews with teachers and principals
- One group discussion with students
- 3-4 depth interviews with students