Suggested answers

1. The turtle rehabilitation centre started in 1990 when a ranger found a turtle and brought it into the aquarium in Cairns. The aquarium then closed and they needed to find somewhere to look after this rather large turtle. The two marine biologists, Paul and Jenny were donated a piece of land and thus the rehabilitation centre was created.
2. In 2011 there was a mass stranding event caused by cyclone Larry, then flooding in Brisbane and Cyclone Yasi. This wiped out the sea grass beds off the east coast of Queensland.
3. 210 people from around the Cairns area volunteer with the organisation.
4. International and interstate students undertake placements either as part of their studies or for their own interest. They might be studying tourism, education, veterinary or environmental studies.
5. The only way that people will know what is happening to turtles is through educational tours. In this way people can understand how their behavior can be a threat to turtles. Tourism is opening people’s eyes to what is happening and what is threatening the Great Barrier Reef.
6. There are several threats that tourism bring to the reef: increased boating brings petrol into the water, sunscreen can also damage the reef, rubbish such as plastic bags and fishing line are also problematic.
7. Jenny thinks that all operators should be ecotourism approved and thinks that they should be audited. She does not see the need for plastic cups, or worst of all, plastic straws. Ecotourism operators should not be able to use plastic cups, straws or bags.
8. The law restricts the centre from allowing tourists in to see sick or injured turtles. Only fit and healthy animals are allowed to be on display.
9. Jenny thinks that tourism is very important to increase people’s understanding of the vulnerability of the environment. Young people need to be involved in educational tourism to ensure that our environment is looked after.
10. Jenny emphasises the importance of positivity and perseverance. If you put your mind to it, there is nothing you can’t do. You can make anything possible.