

# Aputula

## Central Region

### Community Profile

- Pronunciation:** Ap-put-choo-la

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- Alternate name:** Finke

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- Location:** Southeast of Alice Springs

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- NT Region:** Central

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- Population:** Approx. 266 residents

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- Access:** By road and air

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- Language groups:** Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Southern Luritja, and Arrernte

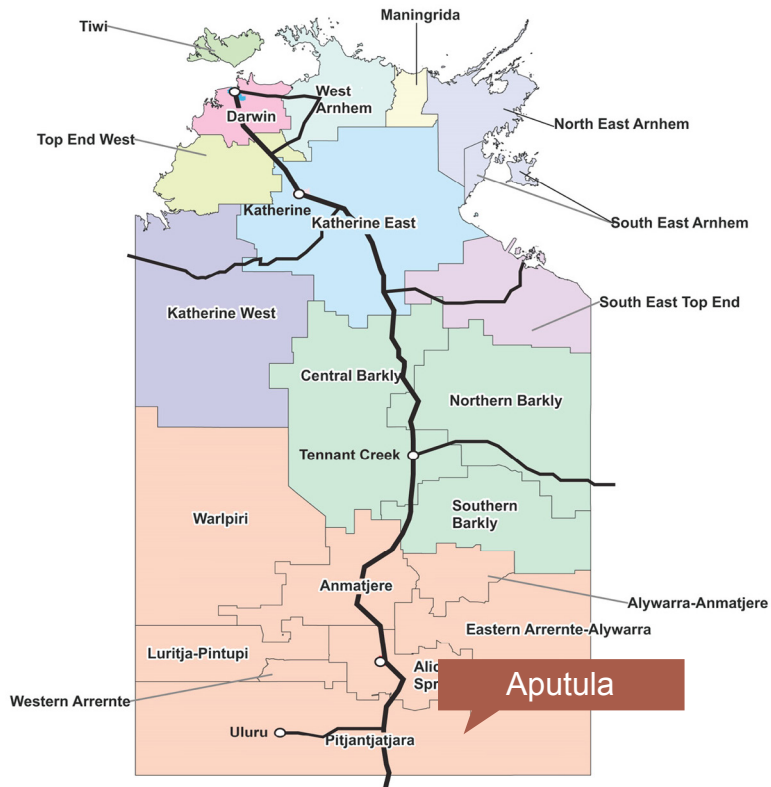
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- Phone:** 3G Telstra

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- Internet:** Only personal use of internet in the accommodation

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*This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management and Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory*

### Climate (Central)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
<b>Winter (June to August)</b>	<b>Cooler and dry</b>	<b>-7°C to 32°C</b>
The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 20% – 50%	Fine weather with minimal rain is the norm with the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards between the June to July period. Spring (Sept-Nov) and Autumn (Mar-May) in Central Australia see warm days and cool evenings.	
<b>Summer (December to February)</b>	<b>Hot and dry</b>	<b>16°C to 45°C</b>
The temperature can rise above 40°C in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 30% – 95%	Central Australia has a semi-arid climate. In the summer months, the days are generally hot, sometimes very hot. If rain is to fall, it is more likely in the summer months, which may lead to road closures.	

## Infrastructure, facilities and services

<b>Community</b>	<p><b>Church:</b> Yes Finke seventh-day Adventist Church</p> <p><b>Community halls or sheds:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Workforce skills or training facilities:</b> Yes CatholiCare NT</p> <p><b>School:</b> Yes, Aputula Primary School</p> <p><b>Library:</b> No</p> <p><b>Council Office:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Women's Centre:</b> No</p> <p><b>Childcare Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Aged Care Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Community Safety:</b> Yes, Community Care Program</p> <p><b>Banking:</b> Yes, An ATM is located at the community store.</p> <p><b>Recreational/other facilities:</b> Yes, there is a sports recreation hall for activities such as softball and an oval which is used for activities including football. The Tatts Finke Desert Race is held annually in June.</p>
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<b>Community store</b>	<b>Aputula Store</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0968
	Healthy fresh fruit and vegetables are available although prices are higher due to transportation. Frozen meat and household goods are also often available. It is advisable to bring in as much fresh produce as possible and any speciality products/ items required.	
	<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday – Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm 2:00pm – 4:00pm Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm Sunday Closed

**Other food outlets** The Aputula store sells takeaway food including salads, sandwiches and some fried foods. Alternatively, Kulgera Roadhouse is 147km west of the community.

**Food orders** Food orders may be placed online with Coles or Woolworths in Alice Springs. Please check with clinic staff regarding collection.

<b>Commercial accommodation</b>	<b>Contact the Regional Council</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0966
	<b>Kulgera Roadhouse</b> (located 147km East of Aputula)	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0973

**Fuel** Diesel and unleaded petrol are available.

<b>Police station</b>	Finke Police Station (unmanned)	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0961
	Kulgera Police Station	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0974

**Community Safety** Yes

**Other police contract** Police assistance line **Telephone** 131 444

### Telephone/internet/mail

**Mobile phone<sup>1</sup>/phone** 3G Telstra

**Internet** Limited use of the internet is available in the clinic.

**Mail** Mail can be lodged via the Health Centre. Please check with the staff.

<sup>1</sup> Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory. See link – <http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/our-coverage/>

## Access

<b>Road</b>	Aputula is accessible by road. From Alice Springs, travel 270km on the Stuart Highway, at the Kulgera Roadhouse turn left onto Finke Road and drive 147km to Aputula. Finke Road is a dirt road. It is recommended to allow a five hour drive time.	
<b>Air</b>	The sealed aerodrome is situated 1.2km from the community.	
<b>Regular passenger transport</b>	<b>Centre Bush Bus</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8953 0127
	There are passenger services to Aputula from Alice Springs on Tuesday and Friday.	

## Health centre

<b>Health service<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Aputula (Finke) Community Health Centre</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0961
		<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:aputula.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au">aputula.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au</a>
		<b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.nt.gov.au">www.nt.gov.au</a>
	<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday – Friday Saturday – Sunday
		8:00am – 5:00pm Closed
	<b>Facilities</b>	One emergency room and three consulting rooms.

<b>On-call services</b>	Yes, 24/7 on call service.
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<b>Medical Records System<sup>3</sup></b>	PCIS
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<b>Vehicles</b>	Aputula has two vehicles, not for personal use. The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. <b>**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take DIESEL fuel.</b>
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<b>GPs</b>	Yes, visiting service only.
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<b>Visiting services</b>	Visiting services include dietetics, midwifery, podiatry, ophthalmology, dental, hearing and women's health services. Women's health professionals, mental health professionals and an ENT nutritionist also visit the clinic.
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<b>Acute care</b>	St Johns Ambulance and Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).
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<b>Other</b>	Birthing women birth in Alice Springs.
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## Alcohol

<b>Alcohol<sup>4</sup></b>	This community is a dry community, no alcohol is permitted. This applies to everyone, including visitors.
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## Governance

<b>Local Government</b>	The local council is MacDonnell Shire Council. The land council is the Central Land Council (CLC).
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<b>Outstations</b>	None
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<b>Permit system</b>	A permit is required for all visitors to the community who are not on official government business. Permits are obtained from Central Lands Council.
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<sup>2</sup> For more detailed description of the health centre and their services, please contact the Health Service directly.

<sup>3</sup> Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community.

<sup>4</sup> It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory.

## Other tips and relevant information

### Other tips/relevant information

Be prepared for the variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.

Whenever possible, avoid being on the road from dusk till dawn. Apart from the unfenced cattle station, the region has a population of feral horses, donkeys, dogs and the occasional camel along with a native population of Kangaroos and Dingoes. All of which are a significant road hazard.

On arrival, please check with the Health Centre to understand any health or social issues within the community. They can also let you know of any sacred sites to avoid.

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#### Disclaimer

*This information is prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. However, Aboriginal communities, like any community, can change as the population shifts and people move on. Please contact the RAHC Regional Coordinator or the Health Centre Manager to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your RAHC placement. RAHC also values any input you can provide to improve our Community Profiles.*

#### Darwin Office

Level 4, Darwin Central Offices, 21 Knuckey Street, Darwin NT 0800  
T 08 8942 1650 F 08 8942 1676

#### Canberra Office

Unit 34, 2 King St, Deakin ACT 2600  
T 02 6203 9588 F 02 6203 9598

#### Alice Springs Office

Centre for Remote Health, Cnr Simpson & Skinner St, Alice Springs 0870  
T 08 7904 4003 F 08 8942 1676

