

Central Australia Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff)

1st edition
March 2010

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Luritja-Pintupi Area of the Northern Territory.

The information has been compiled through a number of text and internet resources, and consultations with members of the local communities.

The first version of this Community Profile was prepared for RAHC by The Echidna Group and we acknowledge and thank Dr Terri Farrelly and Ms Bronwyn Lumby for their contribution.

Other sources include:

www.gpnnt.org.au/site/index.cfm?display=34727

www.ikuntji.com.au/index.htm

www.nt.gov.au/pfes/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=71&m=30

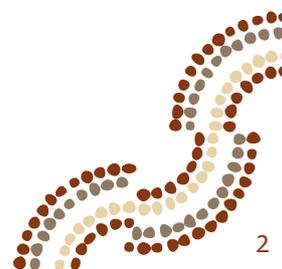
RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Luritja-Pintupi Area who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*Please note: The information provided in this community profile is correct, to the best of RAHC's knowledge, at the time of printing. This community profile will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

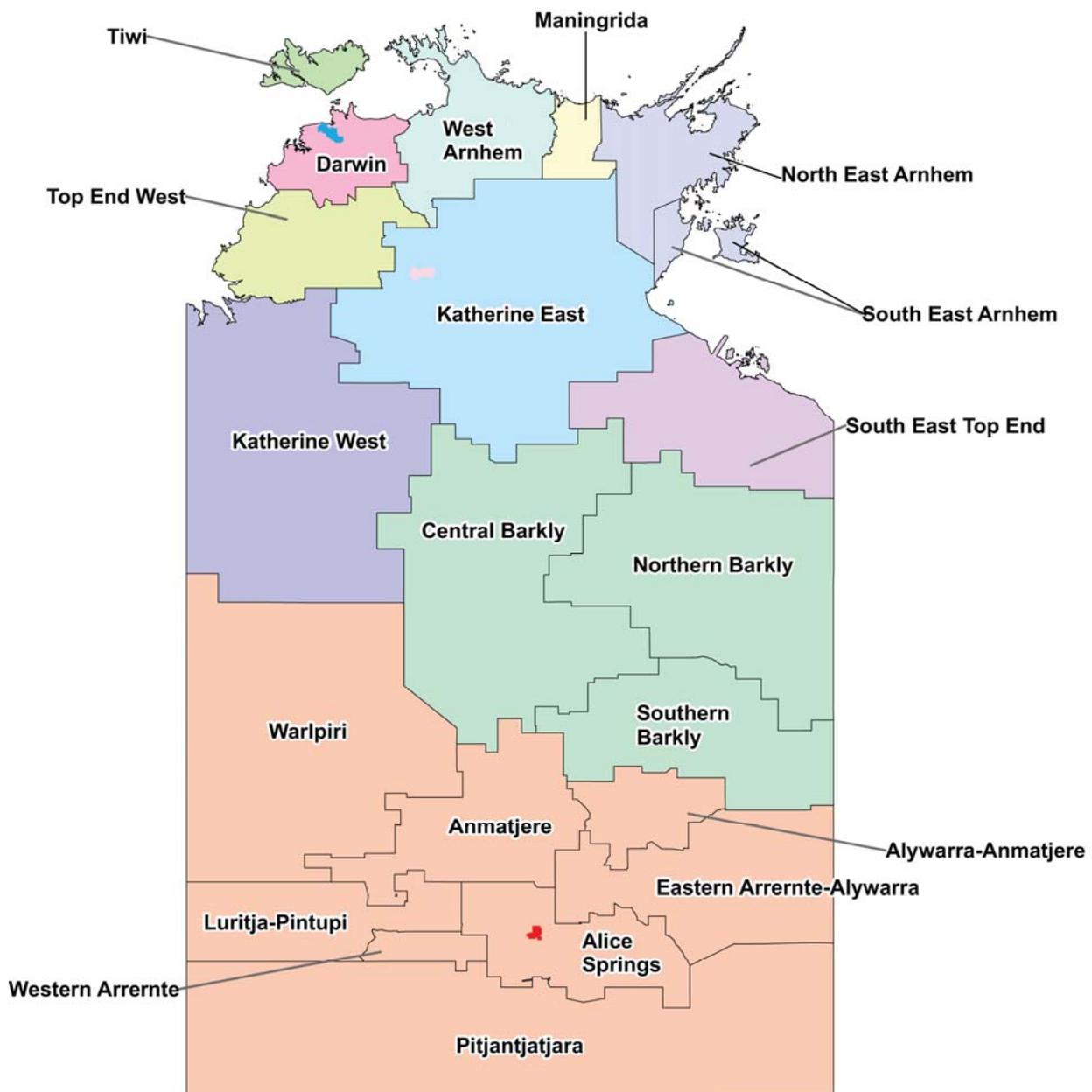
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

Photographs used in this Community Profile are copyright of the Remote Area Health Corps. Permission was sought from all individuals or guardians of individuals, before photography commenced.

© Copyright – Remote Area Health Corps, 2010



The Northern Territory

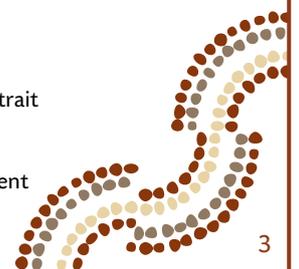


Legend

 Alice Springs Urban	 Katherine East
 Barkly	 Katherine Urban
 Borroloola Area	 Katherine West
 Central Australia	 Maningrida
 Darwin Rural	 Tiwi
 Darwin Urban	 Top End West
 East Arnhem	 West Arnhem

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 & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

The depicted areas are for the purpose of the Remote Area Health Corps Community Profiles alone, and do not represent any Aboriginal language group, land or cultural group boundaries.



Luritja-Pintupi Area Profile

This map of the Central Australia – Luritja-Pintupi Area has been taken from the map of the Northern Territory, adapted from the OATSIH Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.



Major Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Kintore (Walungurru)	450	MacDonnell Shire Council
Mount Liebig (Amunturrngu)	280	
Papunya	400	
Haasts Bluff (Ikuntji)	200	

*The population figures refer to the number of Aboriginal peoples living in the community, and are estimates only.

It should be noted that in many Aboriginal communities, population figures can fluctuate dramatically, due to a number of factors including seasonal changes (wet and dry seasons), and ceremonial activity.

Communities can also be known by several names – this may include the European name given to it after colonisation, and several Aboriginal names.

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the Luritja-Pintupi region. However it should be noted that as a result of colonisation, the growth of towns, and the transient nature of some Aboriginal peoples, there may be many different Aboriginal languages evident in a given area.

Alyawarre	Kutkatja	Warlpiri
Anmatyerre	Mudbarra	Warnmanpa
Central Arrernte	Luritja	Warrumungu
Eastern Arrernte	Ngaanyatjarra	Western Arrernte
Jingili	Pintubi	Yankunytjatjara
Kaititj	Pitjantjatjara	Wuriaki
Ngaatjatjarra	Southern Arrernte	
Pertame	Wambaya	

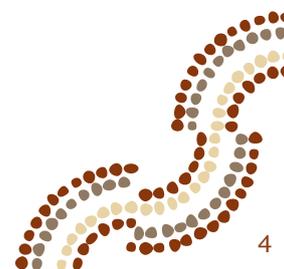
Aboriginal Interpreter Service

www.dlghs.nt.gov.au/ais

NT Dept of Local Govt & Housing

Central booking service 08 8999 8353

The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.



Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff)

IKUNTJI "where creeks cross"

Ikuntji is nestled within the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges - to the north is Ulampawarru & Anyali (Mt. Edward & Mt. William), and to the south is the stunning Mereenie Bluff.

History

The area in which the present settlement of Ikuntji is located was first seen by Europeans in 1872 when Ernest Giles travelled through the Luritja region. It was not until the turn of the century that pastoralists began to move this far west. Displacement of other language groups from their traditional areas saw people of the Pintubi come from the desert further west, the Warlpiri from the Tanami Desert to the north, the Arrarnta from the centre and some of the Pitjantjatjara people from the south.



Finke River Mission established a ration depot near the current site of the Ikuntji community soon after the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Reserve was proclaimed in 1941.

The people using the depot were mainly Kukatja people from close by and Pintubi people who moved in from further west either in response to its establishment or who had previously moved east to be closer to Hermannsburg. There were also some Pitjantjatjara, Aranda and Warlpiri people. The main employment then was the cattle operation which started at the community in 1944. By the mid to late 1950's there were approximately 1,000 people living in or near Haasts Bluff. In 1954 control of the community at Haasts Bluff was handed over to the Northern Territory administration and later to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA). At this time, due to the large numbers of people who had moved into the area and problems with the quality and quantity of water at Haasts Bluff, it was decided to establish a new community nearby. Work began on Ikuntji community in 1956. In March 1957 people began to move across and in October 1960 Ikuntji was officially opened. A significant percentage of the Haasts Bluff population was relocated.

The community at Ikuntji became self managing when the DAA transferred control to the community in 1979 and this also started the outstation movement which saw many of the people living in the area begin to move back to their traditional lands. The Ikuntji Community Council was incorporated on 11th November, 1985.

Governance

The local governing body - Ikuntji Community Council - was incorporated in 1985. It has 12 Council Members and aims to meet once a month. Services provided by the council include garbage disposal, maintenance of parks, maintenance & upgrade of roads & airstrip, workshop repairs, management of essential services & public utilities. Local Government is provided by MacDonnell Shire Council.



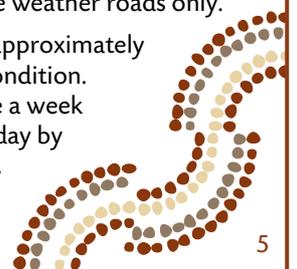
Access

Ikuntji is located 250km west of Alice Springs. It takes 3 hours to drive there. The access road to Ikuntji is both sealed and unsealed. By air, it takes 5 minutes to drive to the closest airstrip in Ikuntji then 45 minutes to fly to Alice Springs. There are two access routes to Ikuntji. The first is via the Tanami Highway, of which the first 138 kilometres from Alice Springs is sealed road and the rest is good dirt road. There is a turnoff 18 kilometres before Ikuntji which heads south west to Ikuntji.

The alternative route is on the sealed road directly west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive to Glen Helen. There is another 110 kms of unsealed road which continues west to Ikuntji. This road may become impassable in heavy rain.

Road: The existing major internal road system consists almost entirely of formed sealed roads. The main access road to Ikuntji is a 10 metre wide formed road which is in good condition. Outstation access roads are flat blade four metre wide roads. These are in a fair condition, but are fine weather roads only.

Plane: There is a day/night airstrip at Ikuntji. It is located approximately 3 km south west from Ikuntji Community and is in good condition. At night it is lit by kerosene pods. Presently, it is used twice a week by the mail plane (Tuesdays & Thursdays) and each Thursday by the Flying Doctor. There are also Service & charter flights.



Health Centre

Ikuntji community has a Health Service called Ikuntji Health Service. It is a Northern Territory Health Service that covers the community and the outstations.

Ikuntji Community Health Service
PMB via Alice Springs NT 0872
Phone 08 8956 8547/8472
Fax 08 8956 8547

Hours of operation/on-call:
Health Centre hours are: Monday - Friday: 8 am -12 pm & 1 pm - 5 pm. At Ikuntji, the RN and AHWs are on call locally for emergencies after 12pm weekdays and on weekends. A DMO is on call in Alice Springs for phone consultations and evacuation support.

Staffing:

- GP's: 1 DMO that works 1 day per fortnight
- RN's: 1 RN who works 10 days per fortnight
- Aboriginal Health Workers (AHW): 2 Part Time AHW

Accommodation & Vehicles

Type of housing available: There is a 3 bedroom brick house for the RN. The house is furnished with white goods supplied, as well as a TV, radio, linen & bedding, electricity, water, laundry facilities, telephone/fax/ e-mail/internet and air-conditioning. The medical centre has a vehicle for work related purposes.

Keeping the Peace

Ikuntji is covered by the Police presence at Papunya. Phone: (08) 8956 8510

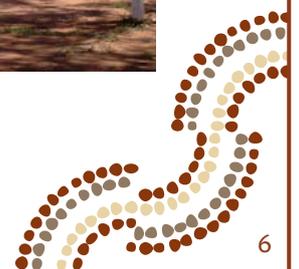
Infrastructure and Community Life

Languages spoken in Ikuntji include; Luritja, Western Arrarnta, Pintubi and Warlpiri languages. Ikuntji. Luritja is a western desert language closely related to Pintubi. Most people speak a number of other languages depending on their family background and personal experiences; most commonly these would be Pintubi, Warlpiri, Arrarnta and Anmatyerre. English is spoken to some degree by most people and there is a wide range of competencies in English.

Facilities

Store –The community has a store that stocks dry goods, frozen food, clothes, some white goods and general merchandise. Fast foods are available to be microwaved, fresh fruit and vegetables can be flown in by Ngurratjuta Air. Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat are available but limited.

- Primary School
- Laundry
- Church (Lutheran)
- Mechanical workshop
- Cemetery
- Rubbish dump
- Health Centre
- Sporting facilities, basketball courts
- Parks & gardens
- Ablution block
- Guest accommodation
- BRACS - radio
- Ikuntji Women and Art Centre / Ikuntji Artists Aboriginal Corporation



Getting Advice

The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Ikuntji. Care has been taken to ensure these details are correct, however unfortunately some may change or be unattended.

Ikuntji Community Council
Eso Community Hse Haasts Bluff
Tanami NT 0871
Ph: 08 8956 8586

Ikuntji Health Service
Ph: 08 8956 8547 or 08 8956 8472
Staff include visiting Medical Officer, Nurse, Aboriginal Health Workers

MacDonnell Shire Council
First Floor Alice Plaza Todd Mall Alice Springs NT 0870
Ph: 1300 360 959
info@macdonnell.nt.gov.au



