



Katherine Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Katherine

Sunrise Health (East) & Katherine West Health Board

1st edition
November 2009

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Katherine Region 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:

http://www6.worldisround.com/photos/28/402/154_o.jpg

www.ktc.nt.gov.au

www.discoveraustralia.com.au/.../katherine.html

<http://en.travelnt.com/explore/katherine.aspx>

<http://www.wurli.org.au/>

<http://www.kwhb.com.au/>

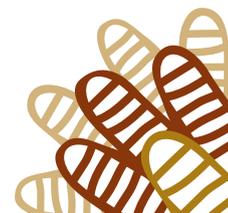
<http://www.sunrise.org.au/>

*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.

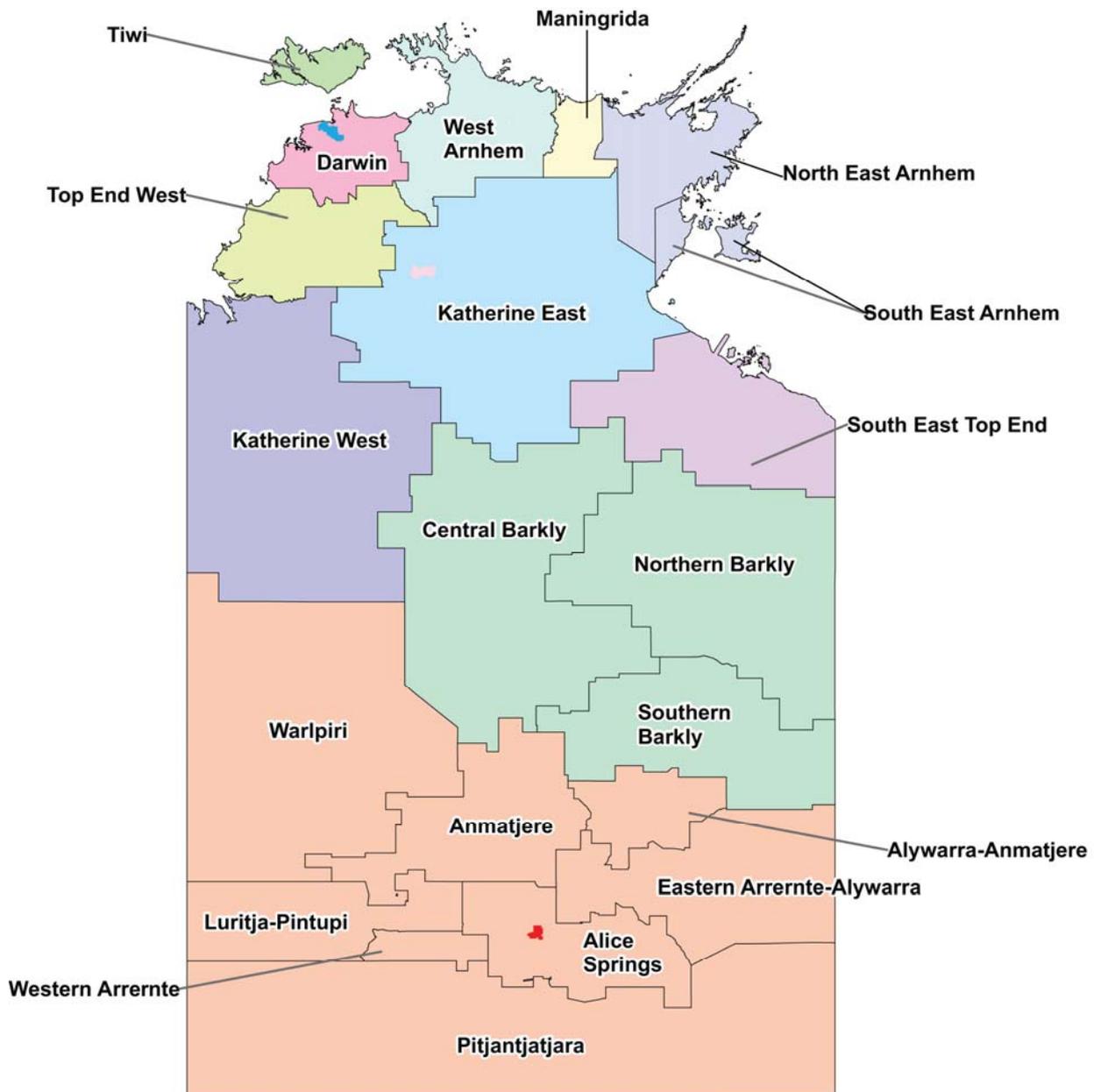
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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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.



Katherine Area Profile

This map of the Katherine 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
Katherine	3000	Katherine Town Council

Minor Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Binjari	290	Katherine Town Council
Rockhole	250	Kalano Community Association Incorporated

*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 Katherine West 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.

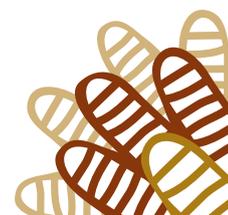
Gurrindji
Jawoyn
Kriol
Mayali
Ngarinman
Nunggubuyu
Warlpiri
Marra

Kriol is the contact language now spoken as a first language by most Aboriginal people across the region. Kriol is spoken in the Barkly and further north, but not generally far south of Tennant Creek.

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.



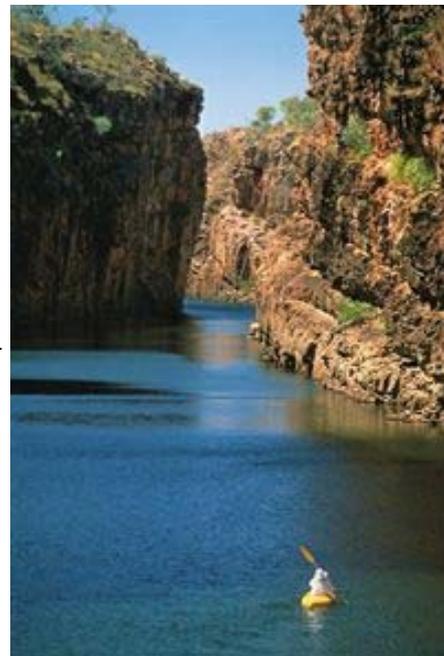
Katherine

Often called the 'Crossroads of the North' because of its location, Katherine is the fourth largest town in the Northern Territory and is located 312 kilometres south-east of Darwin.

The first people to inhabit the Katherine region were the Jawoyn and Dagomen Aboriginal people.

Explorer John McDouall Stuart passed through the region in 1862 and named the river 'Katherine' after the daughter of his sponsor, James Chambers. As with many settlements in the Territory, the town developed with the arrival of the Overland Telegraph Line and establishment of the Telegraph Station in 1872.

The town moved twice during this early development, finally establishing at its current site with the completion of the railway bridge in 1926. In 1879, after good reports from Stuart and other explorers, Alfred Giles and Alfred Woods brought stock to Katherine and built a homestead they called 'Spring Vale', with a view to establishing a pastoral empire. Today, Springvale Homestead is the oldest homestead in the Northern Territory and is open to the public.



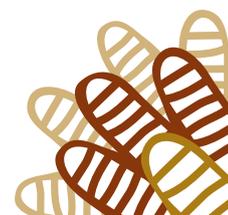
With a population of over 9,804 people Katherine is a modern regional centre that offers a wide range of services. There is a shopping centre, hospital, sports grounds, parks and gardens as well as a large number of Commonwealth and Territory Government services.

Nitmiluk National Park is one of the most spectacular features of the Katherine area and includes the Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk) less than 30 minutes' drive from town. The Katherine River is perfect for adventure activities like day or overnight canoeing trips. There are many popular picnic and swimming spots along the river including the picturesque Katherine Hot Springs.

The Municipality of Katherine covers an area of 7421 square kilometres and is located on the beautiful Katherine River, offering a range of swimming, fishing and recreational parks. The Katherine Region is 336,674 square kilometres, or almost the size of the Australian State of Victoria. The total population of the region is just over 24,000 people of which 60% identify as Indigenous.

Katherine itself marks the convergence of three main Aboriginal language groups, being Jawoyn, Wardaman and Mialli. There are, however, twenty-seven language groups in the region and these are represented in the Katherine population.

The Aboriginal people of Katherine live in different communities located in and around Katherine. The largest of these are Mialli Brumby (also known as Kalano), which is located along the northern side of the Katherine River, and Rockhole, which is fifteen kilometers from the town centre. The other living areas are Binjari, Walpiri, and Gorge Camp (Jodetluk). Naturally, many Aboriginal people also live within the Katherine township itself.



Health Services in the Katherine region

Katherine West Health Board (KWHB)

Established in 1998, the Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation is a provider of clinical, preventative and public health services to mostly aboriginal clients over a 162,000 sq/km region on the Western side of the Northern Territory, extending from Katherine in the north, the Northern tip of the Tanami Desert in the south and all the way westward to the West Australian Border.

KWHB Health Centres have teams of resident health professionals staffed by GPs, registered nursing staff, admin staff, fully trained Aboriginal Health Workers and visiting specialists, allied health professionals, community development and public health personnel. KWHB owns and operates seven fully equipped health centres in communities of varying size. KWHB also have a Dental Mobile Team that travels out to the communities listed below:

- Bulla,
- Kalkarindji/Daguragu
- Lajamanu,
- Mialuni,
- Nijburru (Pigeon Hole),
- Timber Creek
- Yarralin.

KWHB also have a mobile health team, who travel to varying outstations and cattle properties which lie on the western side of the top end.

Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation

The Sunrise Health Service Aboriginal Corporation's main purpose is to improve the health and wellbeing of the people in the region east of Katherine in the Northern Territory. This is done through their health clinics and health education, mixing together traditional Indigenous culture and the best of mainstream medicine. Most importantly, Sunrise's approach involves community people taking part in controlling their own health. Everything from financial management and governance, staff selection and service delivery priorities are directed by our Aboriginal Board and Community Health Committees. Health Centres under Sunrise Health Services are:

- Badawarrka
- Barunga
- Bulman
- Jilkmिंगgan
- Manyallaluk
- Mataranka
- Minyerri
- Ngukurr
- Weemol
- Wubalawun
- Wulgularr
- Kewulyi
- Urapunga
- Werenbun

The above communities population groups range from 20 to more than 1000 people. The majority of communities are traditionally oriented Aboriginal communities, although the township of Mataranka is an open Northern Territory town with a population base of 500 non-Indigenous and 130 Indigenous people. Additionally, there are also a number of pastoral properties with a non-Indigenous population of 100-200 people who also assess the services of the community health centres. Overall, there are around 3500 regular clients who utilise Sunrise Health Service. Sunrise have about 100-150 staff- 60% Indigenous.

Wurli Wurlinjang Health Service

Wurli Wurlinjang are a community controlled Aboriginal Medical Service located in Katherine providing comprehensive primary health care to Indigenous people of the Katherine area. The health service began in 1972. In 1983 it was relocated to Mialli Brumby and took its name from the Jawoyn land near the clinic that is associated with the mosquito dreaming path. The health service was separately incorporated in 1991, and in 1995 the premises were relocated to a new and purpose built complex within Katherine to improve access to the service for all Aboriginal people.

The clinic provides a means of accessing many of the Indigenous people in and around Katherine, and clinical staff take advantage of this by conducting thorough health checks on, and providing health education to, all clients visiting the clinic.

The clinic is staffed by Aboriginal Health Workers, one of which oversees its operation as the Clinic Coordinator. These staff provide the first point of contact for all clients of the clinic – they screen, take their history, and deliver health education. They also diagnose and treat according to their training and experience, ensuring that treatment guidelines such as those detailed in the CARPA Manual are adhered to, and act as interpreters and cultural guides as necessary. Clients are seen by a doctor as appropriate. Six consult rooms are available, and there is a fully equipped treatment room which can be utilised for emergency care and wound dressings.



Getting Advice

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

Diwurruwurru-Jaru Aboriginal Corporation
6 Pearce St Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8971 1233

Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation
Pandanus Plaza First St Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 1100

Also provides the Banatjarl Family Resource Centre, which includes a safe place for women and children, and Elders retreat, violence prevention training programs and support, 'Mother' Women's Resource Centre, offender programs and youth programs.

Kalano Aged Care Facility
Gun Club Rd Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8971 1061

Kalano Community Association Incorporated
Northbank Farm Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8972 2588

Katherine West Health Board Aboriginal Corporation
Unit 10 38 Riverbank Office Village Cnr Shea & First St Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 9300

webqueries@kwhb.com.au

www.kwhb.com.au

Provides health services to 7 communities outside of Katherine.

Services include preventive health, maternal health, child health, chronic disease, mobile health team.

Northern Land Council
5 Katherine Terrace Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8972 2799

Roper Gulf Shire Council
Po Box 1321 Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8972 9000
ceo@ropergulf.nt.gov.au

Sunrise Health
Po Box 371 Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 1120

Provides services to 9 health centres located east of Katherine along the Arnhem Highway and the Roper Highway.

Services include primary clinical care services, emergency care, health promotion, social support services, chronic disease management, nutrition programs, aged care programs, women's & maternal health, child health, aural health, men's health.

Wardaman Aboriginal Corporation
6 Pearce St Katherine NT 0850
Ph: 08 8972 3874

Wurli Wurlinjang
25 Third St Katherine NT 0851
Ph: 08 8971 0044 (Clinic)
Ph: 08 8971 1156 (Admin)

www.wurli.org.au

Also provides Binjari Health Service – includes nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers, visiting medical officer.

Social & Emotional Wellbeing Service – Wurli Wurlinjang

Ph: 08 8971 2716



Welcome to Katherine

Aboriginal people of the region are proud of their land and culture and welcome visitors to their country.



Local attractions
Wentzels (Katherine Gorge) National Park

The Wentzels (Katherine Gorge) National Park is a beautiful area with a variety of natural features. It is a popular spot for picnicking and sightseeing. The park is home to a variety of native plants and animals. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

Wentzels Visitor Centre

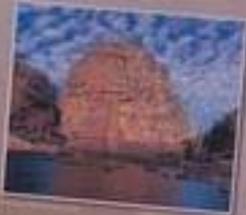
The Wentzels Visitor Centre is a great place to learn more about the park and its history. It has a variety of exhibits and information for visitors. It is a great place to start your day in the park.

Katherine Hot Springs

The Katherine Hot Springs are a natural wonder. They are a great place to relax and enjoy the view. The water is hot and mineral-rich. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

Katherine Arts

The Katherine Arts scene is vibrant and growing. There are many galleries and studios in the city. It is a great place to see and buy local art.



Katherine River

The Katherine River is a beautiful waterway that flows through the city. It is a great place to enjoy a picnic or a walk. The water is clear and the banks are lush with vegetation.

Katherine School of the Air

The Katherine School of the Air is a unique educational institution. It provides a quality education for students in a remote area. It is a great place to learn and grow.

Katherine Crossing

The Katherine Crossing is a historic site that is well-preserved. It is a great place to learn about the city's history. The crossing is a reminder of the challenges of life in a remote area.

Little Laurel Nature Reserve

The Little Laurel Nature Reserve is a beautiful area with a variety of native plants and animals. It is a great place to enjoy a walk in nature. The reserve is a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural environment.

At least 40 species of birds

At least 40 species of birds are found in the Katherine region. This is a testament to the biodiversity of the area. It is a great place to see and enjoy a variety of native birds.

O'Keefe House

The O'Keefe House is a historic building that is well-preserved. It is a great place to learn about the city's history. The house is a reminder of the challenges of life in a remote area.

Railway Station Museum

The Railway Station Museum is a great place to learn about the city's history. It has a variety of exhibits and information for visitors. It is a great place to start your day in the city.

Springvale Homestead

The Springvale Homestead is a historic building that is well-preserved. It is a great place to learn about the city's history. The homestead is a reminder of the challenges of life in a remote area.

Where to from here?

The surrounding region offers a variety of activities and attractions. It is a great place to spend a day in nature. The region is a reminder of the importance of protecting our natural environment.

Visiting north

Visiting north from Katherine is a great way to see the beauty of the region. There are many natural wonders and historical sites to see. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

Travelling west

Travelling west from Katherine is a great way to see the beauty of the region. There are many natural wonders and historical sites to see. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

Travelling south

Travelling south from Katherine is a great way to see the beauty of the region. There are many natural wonders and historical sites to see. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

Travelling east

Travelling east from Katherine is a great way to see the beauty of the region. There are many natural wonders and historical sites to see. It is a great place to spend a day in nature.

