

# Utopia

## Central Region

### Community Profile

**Pronunciation:** You-toe-pea-yah

**Alternate name:** Urapuntja  
and Amengernterneah

**Location:** 270km north east of  
Alice Springs

**NT Region:** Central

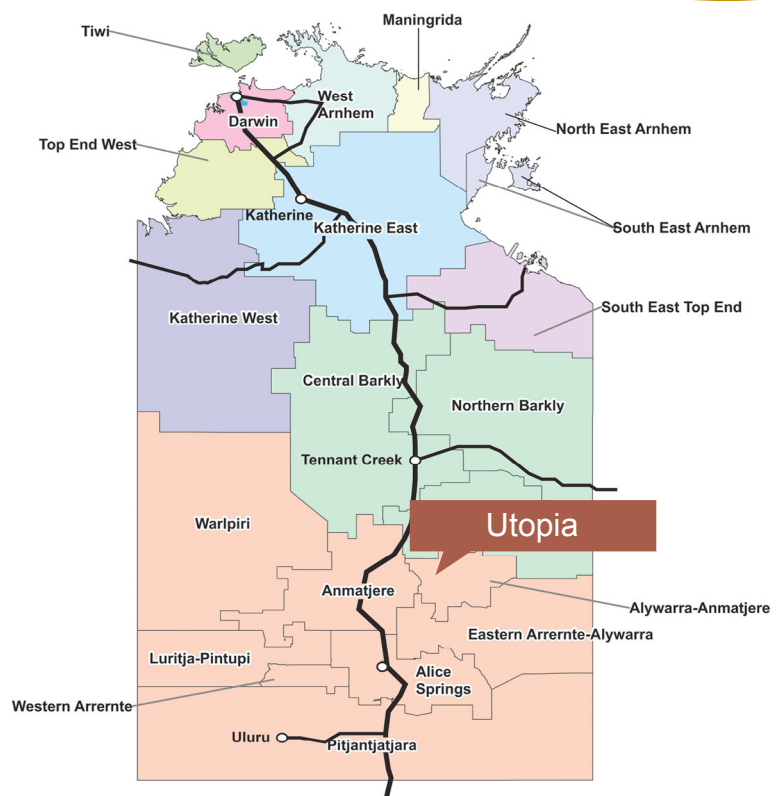
**Population:** Approx. 500 residents

**Access:** By road and air

**Language groups:** Anmatyerre  
and Alywarra

**Phone:** 4G Telstra

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



*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>
<p>The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.</p> <p>Humidity Range 20% – 50%</p> <p>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.</p>		
<b>Summer (December to February)</b>	<b>Hot and dry</b>	<b>16°C to 45°C</b>
<p>The temperature can rise above 40°C in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes.</p> <p>Humidity Range 30% – 95%</p> <p>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.</p>		

## Infrastructure, facilities and services

<b>Community</b>	<p><b>Church:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Community halls or sheds:</b> No</p> <p><b>Workforce skills or training facilities:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>School:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Library:</b> No</p> <p><b>Council Office:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Women's Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Childcare Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Aged Care Centre:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Community Safety:</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Banking:</b> There is a private ATM located in the Arlparra store.</p> <p><b>Recreational/other facilities:</b> There is an art centre, football oval and team, and a sports centre.</p>	
<b>Community store</b>	<b>Arlparra Community Store</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 9910
	Some Fresh fruit and vegetables, frozen meat and vegetables are more readily available. Limited perishables range of takeaway food. It is advised to bring specialty products and items required.	
	<b>Opening hours</b>	<p>Monday – Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm 2:00pm – 5:00pm</p> <p>Saturday 9:00am – 12:00pm</p> <p>Sunday Closed</p>
<b>Other food outlets</b>	Red-Gum store: Located on Red-Gum Cattle Station, this shop is approximately 60km from the clinic area in Utopia. Red-Gum store is open seven days a week. There is also a store at Three Bores.	
<b>Food orders</b>	Food orders may be placed online with Coles or Woolworths in Alice Springs. Please check with clinic staff regarding collection/delivery	
<b>Commercial accommodation</b>	See Urapuntja Council	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 9099
<b>Fuel</b>	Opal (unleaded) and diesel fuel are available from the Arlparra store	
<b>Police station</b>	Arlparra Police Station	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 9164
<b>Community Safety</b>	Yes, there is a community safety program.	
<b>Other police contract</b>	Police assistance line	<b>Telephone</b> 131 444
<b>Telephone/internet/mail</b>		
<b>Mobile phone<sup>1</sup>/phone</b>	4G Telstra	
<b>Internet</b>	Limited use of the internet is available in the accommodation.	
<b>Mail</b>	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>	Utopia can be accessed via road. It is a 70km drive north from Alice Springs along the Stuart Highway before turning on to the Plenty Highway for 25km (sealed) and then left on to the Sandover Highway. The Sandover Highway is a mixture of corrugated sand and gravel. Some caution is needed due to road trains and wild livestock. The road may become inaccessible during heavy rains and washouts.
<b>Air</b>	There is a sealed all-weather airstrip 2km from the Arlparra store.
<b>Regular passenger transport</b>	No regular passenger transport to Utopia.
Health centre	
<b>Health service<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Urapuntja Health Service (UHS)</b> <b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 9875 <b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.urapuntja.org.au">www.urapuntja.org.au</a> <b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:ceo@urapuntjahhealthservice.com.au">ceo@urapuntjahhealthservice.com.au</a>
	<b>Opening hours</b> Monday – Friday 9:00am – 12:00pm 12:30pm – 5:00pm Saturday – Sunday Closed
	<b>Facilities</b> Four consulting rooms, one doctor's room and one emergency room.
<b>On-call services</b>	Yes, 24/7 on call service
<b>Medical Records System<sup>3</sup></b>	Communicare
<b>Vehicles</b>	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>
<b>GPs</b>	Yes, a permanent GP is based in the clinic
<b>Visiting services</b>	Visiting services include audiology, hearing health services, optometry, ophthalmology, obstetrics, gynaecology, cardiology, podiatry, dental health services, mental health services, Women's Health Professionals and midwifery.
<b>Acute care</b>	Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) and MRaCC
<b>Other</b>	Birthing women birth in Alice Springs.
Alcohol	
<b>Alcohol<sup>4</sup></b>	This community is a dry community, no alcohol is permitted. This applies to everyone, including visitors.
Governance	
<b>Local Government</b>	The Local Government Authority is the Barkly Regional Council with two elected local authorities Ampilatwatja and Arlparra. The peak body representing the residence is Urapuntja Aboriginal Corporation. The land council is Central Land Council CLC.

<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.

## Outstations

There are 16 outstations in Utopia, they are Ampilatwatja, Irrultja, Arawerr, Irrmarne, Indaringinya, Ngkwarlerlanem, Inkawenyerre, Atnwengerrpe, Amengernterneah (Health Clinic, Urapuntja) Atheley, Iylentye, Artekerr, Inwelaye, Arlparra, Illeuwurru/ Illuraharra.

## 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.

#### 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.*

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

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Get involved  
**rahc.com.au**  
1300 697 242

#### Darwin Office

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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

