



Katherine West Region

**RAHC**  
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



# *Community Profile*

## Yarralin

1st edition  
March 2010

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

[www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/OurServiceCentres/YarralinPigeonHoleLingara](http://www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/OurServiceCentres/YarralinPigeonHoleLingara)

[www.kwhb.com.au/27-yarralin-community-health-centre.html](http://www.kwhb.com.au/27-yarralin-community-health-centre.html)

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Katherine West Region 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.

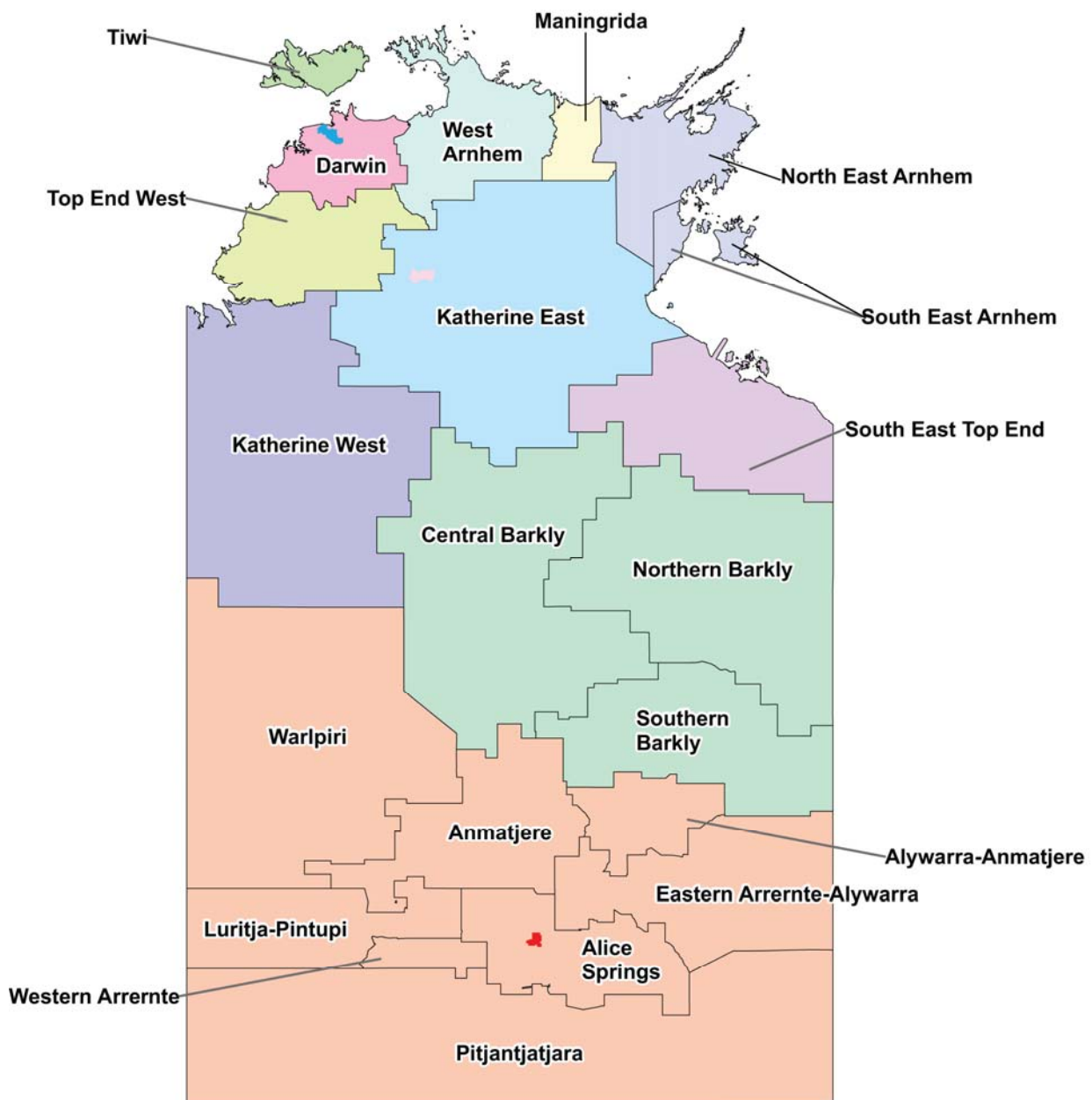
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: [enquiries@rahc.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rahc.com.au) or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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# The Northern Territory



## Legend

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Alice Springs Urban     | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Katherine East |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Barkly           | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Katherine Urban     |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightpurple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Borroloola Area | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Katherine West    |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Central Australia    | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Maningrida        |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Darwin Rural           | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Tiwi               |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Darwin Urban           | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Top End West  |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> East Arnhem       | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> 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 West Area Profile

This map of the Katherine West 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                           |
| Timber Creek            | 700        | Timber Creek Community Government Council |
| Yarralin                | 380        | Victoria-Daly Shire Council               |
| Daguragu                | 350        |   |
| Kalkarindji (Wave Hill) | 450        |   |
| Amanbidji               | 100        | Ngaliwurru-Wuli Association               |
| Lajamanu                | 700        | Central Desert Shire Council              |

\*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 have been noted to be present in this 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.

|           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| Bilinara  | Mudburra   |
| Gurrindji | Murrinpata |
| Jaminjung | Ngaliwurru |
| Jawoyn    | Ngarinman  |
| Kriol     | Nunggubuyu |
| Mayali    | Warlpiri   |
| Miriwoong | 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](http://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.



# Yarralin

Yarralin, also known as Walangeri, is an Aboriginal community located 382km South-West of Katherine. It is 16km west of the Victoria River Downs cattle station on the banks of the Wickham River. In close proximity are the Victoria and Humbert rivers, the Gregory National Park and the spectacular Jasper Gorge.

Population of the Yarralin/Bunbidee Local Government area is approx. 350. Major language groups of Yarralin community are Ngaringman, Gurindji, Bilinara and Mudburra, with access to the community is by permit only.



Yarralin community is serviced by a primary school, a crèche, a mechanic, a women's centre and a good quality general store. There is also a good quality limestone airstrip adjacent to Yarralin Community.

## History

Yarralin is a long established yet isolated community with close historical links to the Victoria River Downs cattle station where the people were, and still are employed.

Yarralin has been the focus of considerable study over the years particularly by America researcher Rose Bird who wrote the internationally acclaimed "Dingo makes us Human".

## Governance

The Council is responsible for providing services to Yarralin, Lingara (40 km from Yarralin), Pigeon Hole (98 km from Yarralin), Yinguwinarri (130 km from Yarralin) and Kulumanbulani (20 km from Pigeon Hole). These services are governed by the Northern Land Council.

## Weather in Yarralin

Temperatures range from overnight lows of 10c. in the Dry season to over 40c in the build up to the Wet season. The annual rainfall is approximately 600-700 mm

## Access

Main access is from the sealed Victoria Highway and then through the picturesque Jasper Gorge (unsealed) which is often impassable during the wet season. Alternative access is from the Buntine Highway through Top Springs. Yarralin is situated on the banks of the Wickham River and is also very close to the Victoria River.

A one-way trip from Katherine to Yarralin will take approximately 4 ½ hours. Apart from the Victoria Highway all roads are unsealed gravel and often rocky. Access to the community is by permit only. Seasonal flooding may prevent access. This is usually between December and March.

There is an airstrip at Yarralin, it is not sealed (Limestone is used as the surface). Emergency night flights leave from Victoria River Downs station, 25 minutes drive from Yarralin.

There is a mail plane service twice weekly that lands at Victoria River Downs station.



## The Clinic

Yarralin Community Health Centre  
*Also Known as Walangeri, and services the Victoria River Downs  
Cattle Station.*

PMB 195 Katherine NT 0852

Phone 08 8975 0893 | F: 08 8975 0911 | E: [yarralin\\_clinic@kwhb.com.au](mailto:yarralin_clinic@kwhb.com.au)

The Health Centre includes resident nurses, health workers, a visiting GP (from Timber Creek) specialists and allied health professionals.

Programs running in the community:

Meals On Wheels – Yes.

School screening – Yes.

Well women checks – Yes.

Well men checks – Yes.

Under 5 screening – Ongoing.

Visiting services to the community:

Paediatrics – 6 monthly.

Ophthalmology – Annually.

Optometrist – Annually.

Audiologist – Annually.

Physiotherapy – As required.

Occupational Therapist – As required.

Mental health – As required.

Adult Assessment & Coordination Team – Yes, as required.

Family Youth & Community Services – As required.

Environmental Health Officers – by KWHB.

Pharmacy

Clinic staff dispense appropriate medications according to need and eligibility to the resident population of Yarralin.

The Yarralin Health Centre is open from 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday, with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30. Staff are available after hours, on call.

Yarralin Health Centre also services the very large cattle station, Victoria River Downs. The Victoria River Station is located approximately 360 km south west of Katherine. 125 km from Timber Creek and is serviced from Yarralin, 25 km away.

## Accommodation/Vehicles

A two bedroom secure house is provided to Health Centre staff. It is furnished, linen is provided and the house is air-conditioned. A television & a telephone are within the house.

Limited internet usage is available at the clinic. No vehicle provided.



## Getting Advice

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

Yarralin Clinic – Katherine West Health Board  
PMB 195 via Katherine NT 0852  
Ph: 08 8975 0983

*Medical Officer visits from Timber Creek, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Worker*

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.*



