

Central Australia Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Yuendumu

1st edition
October 2009

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Warlpiri 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.schools.nt.edu.au/yuendumucec/

<http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=69&m=22&sm=48&crumb=33>

http://www.bushtel.nt.gov.au/northern_territory/community_search_display?comm_num=198

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Warlpiri 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.

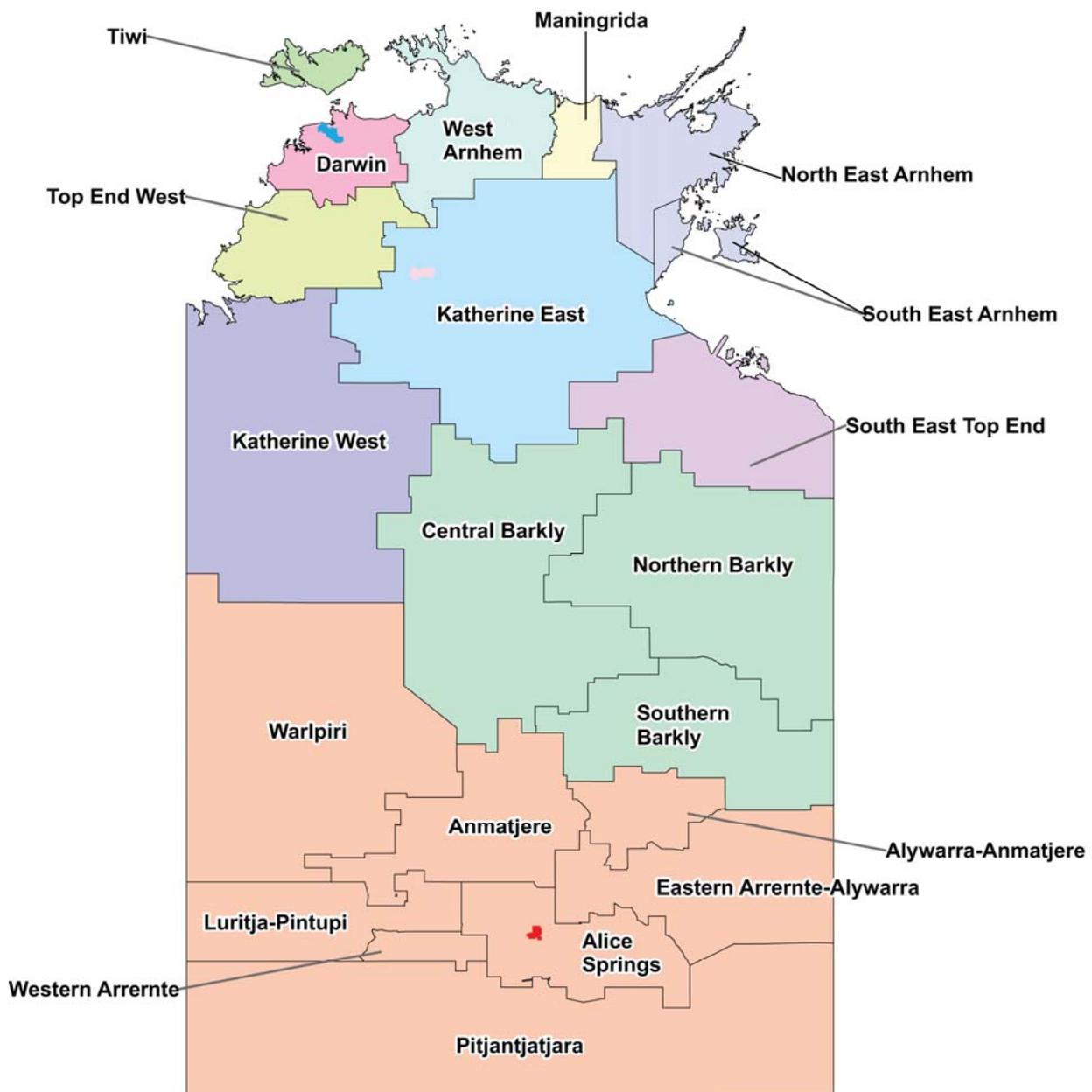
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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The Northern Territory

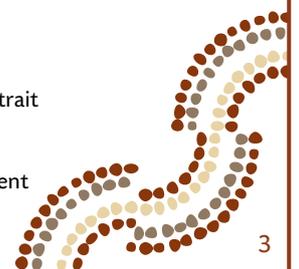


Legend

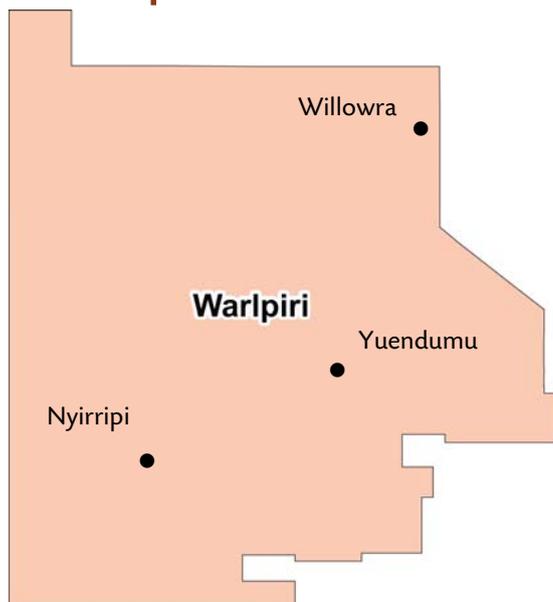
	Alice Springs Urban		Katherine East
	Barkly		Katherine Urban
	Borroloola Area		Katherine West
	Central Australia		Maningrida
	Darwin Rural		Tiwi
	Darwin Urban		Top End West
	East Arnhem		West Arnhem

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.



Warlpiri Area Profile



This map of the Central Australia – Warlpiri 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.

*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 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 Warlpiri 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.

Major Communities

Name	Population	Resource Centre
Nyirripi (Waite Creek)	300	Central Desert Shire Council
Yuendumu	1000	
Willowra	450	

Family Outstations

Name	Resource Centre
Jiwaranpa	Wulain Outstation Resource
Picininy Bore	
Ngarnka	
Mungurru	
Yartalu Yartalu	
Parrulyu	
Puyurru	Central Desert Shire Council
Putulu	
Chilla Well	
Yumurrpa	
Mala	
Yinyiripalangu	
Yuwerli	
Walkalba	
Wayililinypa	
Injirramurri	
Yatjalu	
Mount Barkly	

Yuendumu

The community is located 290 kilometers northwest of Alice Springs on the Tanami Highway and has a population of approximately 1,000–1,300 people. The vast majority of whom are Walpiri People.

Yuendumu is the largest indigenous community in Central Australia and is also one of the most studied communities in Australia. The Community Government area comprises 22,242 square kilometers and Traditional Owners control the land as part of self-determination with support from various Government Departments.

Entry Permits are required by visitors intending to stay overnight or to visit for a greater period of time. The permit applications are available from the office of the Central Land Council. (RAHC & our staff have a permit exemption as an essential service)



There are a large number of Outstations surrounding Yuendumu and most have been registered with the Central Land Council. Each Outstation is developing at its own rate.



Major Language Groups:
Walpiri & English

History

The Walpiri people are the traditional owners of the area. The establishment of cattle stations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries resulted in competition for land. The conflict and reprisals that led up to and followed the Coniston Massacre in 1928 resulted in the dispersal of people from their traditional country. Yuendumu was established by the Native Affairs Branch in 1946 for the purpose of rationing and welfare.

A Baptist Mission was established in 1947 and by 1955 many local Walpiri groups, mostly from the Granites and Bullocky Bore, were settled in Yuendumu.

Yuendumu Aboriginal Reserve, 2,199 sq km, was proclaimed in 1952, following visits by Baptist Missionaries in the 1940s. The Reserve became Aboriginal Freehold under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) 1976 and the community is now within the Yuendumu Aboriginal Land Trust Area with day to day decisions and management of the community vested in the Yuendumu Community Council.

Governance

Yuendumu Community Council is the responsible local Government body. There is also a Federal Government Business Manager in place. The Yuendumu Health Centre is operated by the Northern Territory Department of Health & Families (NTDHF). The WYN Primary Health Service is auspiced by Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) and serves the communities of Willowra, Yuendumu and Nyirripi plus a number of outstations North West of Alice Springs. These communities and outstations comprise the WYN Health Care Zone.

Infrastructure and Community Life

Recreation activities: Three sports ovals, four basketball courts and a youth centre. There are five local football teams participating in the regional competition in Alice Springs. In the off-season teams compete against each other. People enjoy social barbecues.

Nearby attractions: Warlukurlangu Artist Centre at Yuendumu, Newhaven Reserve run by Birds Australia, Old Granite Gold Mine, found 60 km south of Rabbit Flat Roadhouse, featuring the original 1930s buildings.

Services: There is a primary and secondary school and School of the Air, an NTDHF Health Centre, an aged care centre & church. The council office runs a post office and Centrelink agency. There are two stores supplying a limited range of goods and fuel with EFTPOS facilities.

There is a 24 hour police station at Yuendumu - phone (08) 8956 4004.

There are also independent organisations including the Warlpiri Media Centre, the Warukulangu Arts Centre and Mt Theo Youth Centre. Alice Springs shopping can be arranged by bush orders through the major shopping centres. There are twice weekly mail deliveries.

Telstra 3G mobile coverage is provided in Yuendumu.



Access

Yuendumu is located 290km NW of Alice Springs on the Tanami Highway – a 3 hour drive. Although only about 70km of the road is unsealed, a 4WD is recommended. Caution is required when driving on the unsealed road (the Tilmouth Well to Yuendumu leg) which is subject to surface corrugations and dust clouds. Watch for wandering stock, road trains and wildlife and ensure that your vehicle is roadworthy.

Avoid being on the highway between dusk & dawn as large animal strikes are a serious hazard. Please note that the legal driving speed around Yuendumu is 40km per hour and be aware of pedestrians and animals on the road at all times. For updates on road conditions, contact the Yuendumu police on (08) 8956 4004.

A bus service operates between Alice Springs and Yuendumu on Mondays and Thursdays.

There are regular freight services to Yuendumu which transport goods and supplies from Alice Springs

The Clinic

The NTDHF Health Centre is a large modern, well equipped Health Centre with separate men's and women's areas. The Health Centre is staffed by 2 GPs, 5 RNs & a number of AHWs.

NB. Always check with RAHC staff prior to your deployment to check current staffing levels as they fluctuate.

NB. The Yuendumu Health Centre is operated by the NTDHF Remote Services branch. WYN Health has use of the centre's facilities by arrangement with NTDHF management & arrangements are subject to the current needs of both services.

WYN Health Service (Yuendumu) Mr Peter Stewart, Manager,
Ph. 08 89564270 Fax. 08 89564136



Accommodation/Vehicles

There are a number of accommodation options for health staff in Yuendumu & these vary depending on availability. Please check with your RAHC consultant who will provide you with up to date information from WYN Health & NTDHF.

The NTDHF has a strict policy regarding vehicle use & out of hours use of vehicles is purely for Health Centre business. WYN Health has a number of vehicles based in Yuendumu. These are for Health Service use but given the nature of WYN's service the use is more varied than NTDHF.

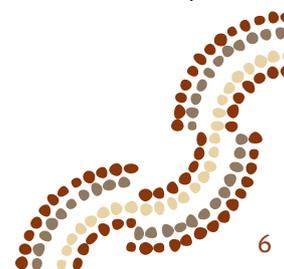
NB. Do not assume that you will have after hours use of a vehicle. Once again, check with your RAHC Consultant prior to your deployment or directly with the WYN Health Manager, Mr Peter Stewart.

Photography

No commercial photography around the community is allowed. If in doubt, ask permission before taking photographs. PAW Media, regulates photography.

Walking Around

People should not go for walks outside the Yuendumu community without consulting with traditional owners as areas may be off-limits to visitors for various reasons. You will need to exercise caution regarding the local dog population at all times, especially after dark.



Getting Advice

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

Central Desert Shire Council
1st Floor Alice Plaza Alice Springs NT 0870
Ph: 1300 360 605
info@centraldesert.nt.gov.au
www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au

Central Land Council – Yuendumu
PMB 107 Alice Springs NT 0872
Ph: 08 8956 4118

Nyirripi Health Centre
Ph: 08 8956 8835
Medical Officer fortnightly, Nurse, Aboriginal Health Worker

Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation
Yuendumu CMB via Alice Springs NT 0872
Ph: 08 8956 4188
admin@mttheo.org
Services include Mt Theo Outstation, Petrol Sniffing, Youth Development, Youth Diversionary Program

Willowra Yuendumu Nyirripi (WYN) Health Service
Yuendumu Health Clinic via Alice Springs NT 0872
Ph: 08 8956 4179
info@wynhealth.org.au
www.wynhealth.org.au

Yuelama Community Council
PMB 67 via Alice Springs NT 0870
Ph: 08 8956 4016

Yuendumu Health Centre
Ph: 08 8956 4030
Staff include Medical Officers, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers, Mental Health Counsellors, Night Patrol

Yuendumu Community Government Council
Ph: 08 8956 4000



Health Staff Accommodation



