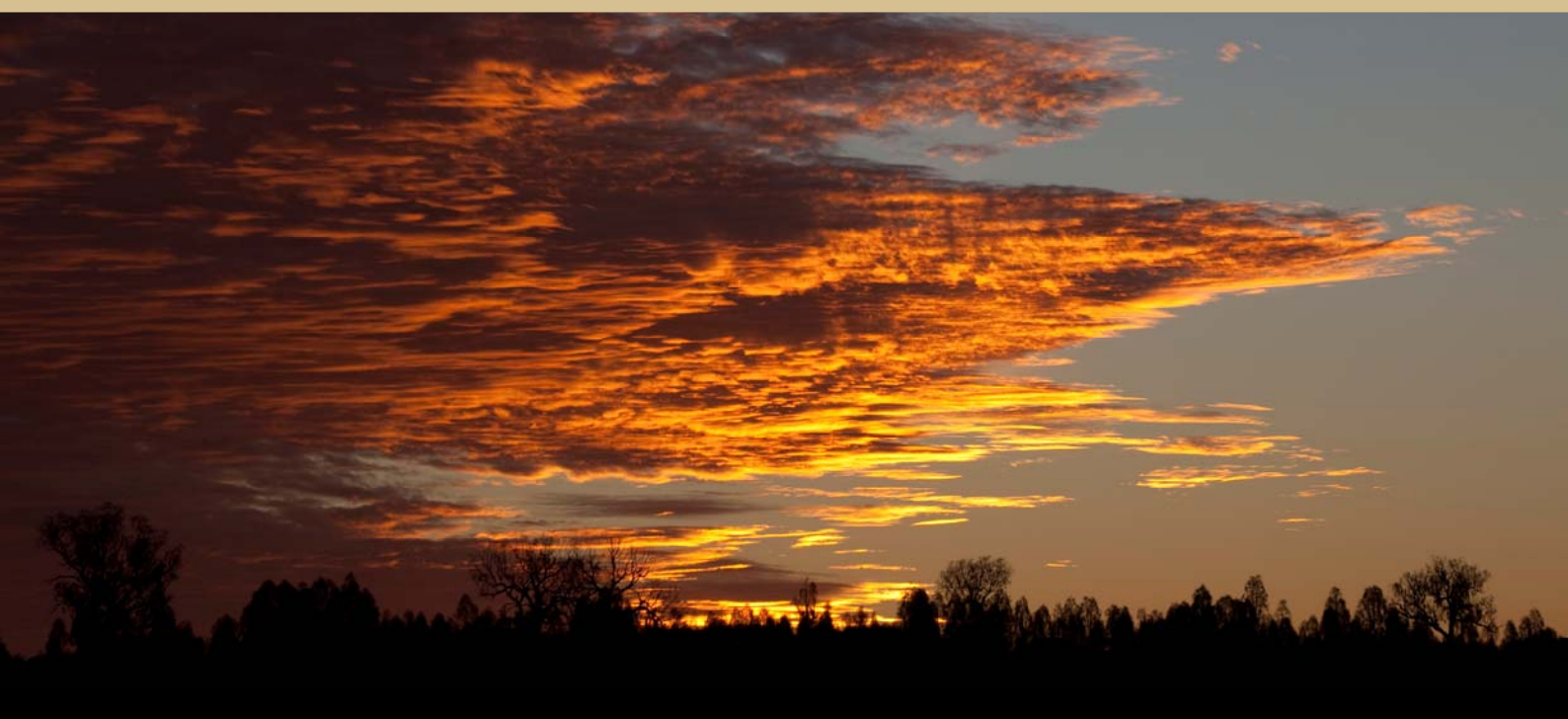
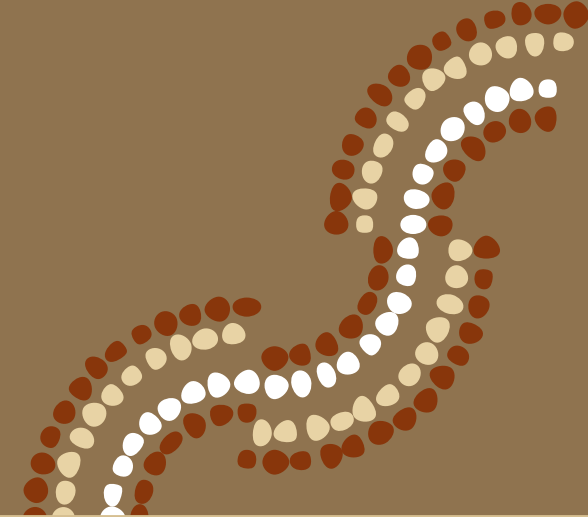


Central Australia Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Finke (Aputula)

1st edition
September 2009

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Pitjantjatjara 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://www.outbacksecrets.com/finke.html>

http://www.bushtel.nt.gov.au/northern_territory/community_search_display?comm_num=36

<http://directory.ntschoools.net/SchoolProfile.aspx?asset=00355&childAsset=00355>

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

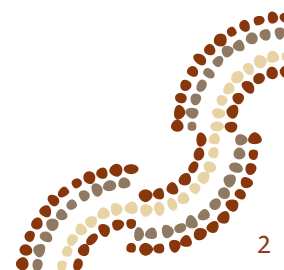
RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Pitjantjatjara Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*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.

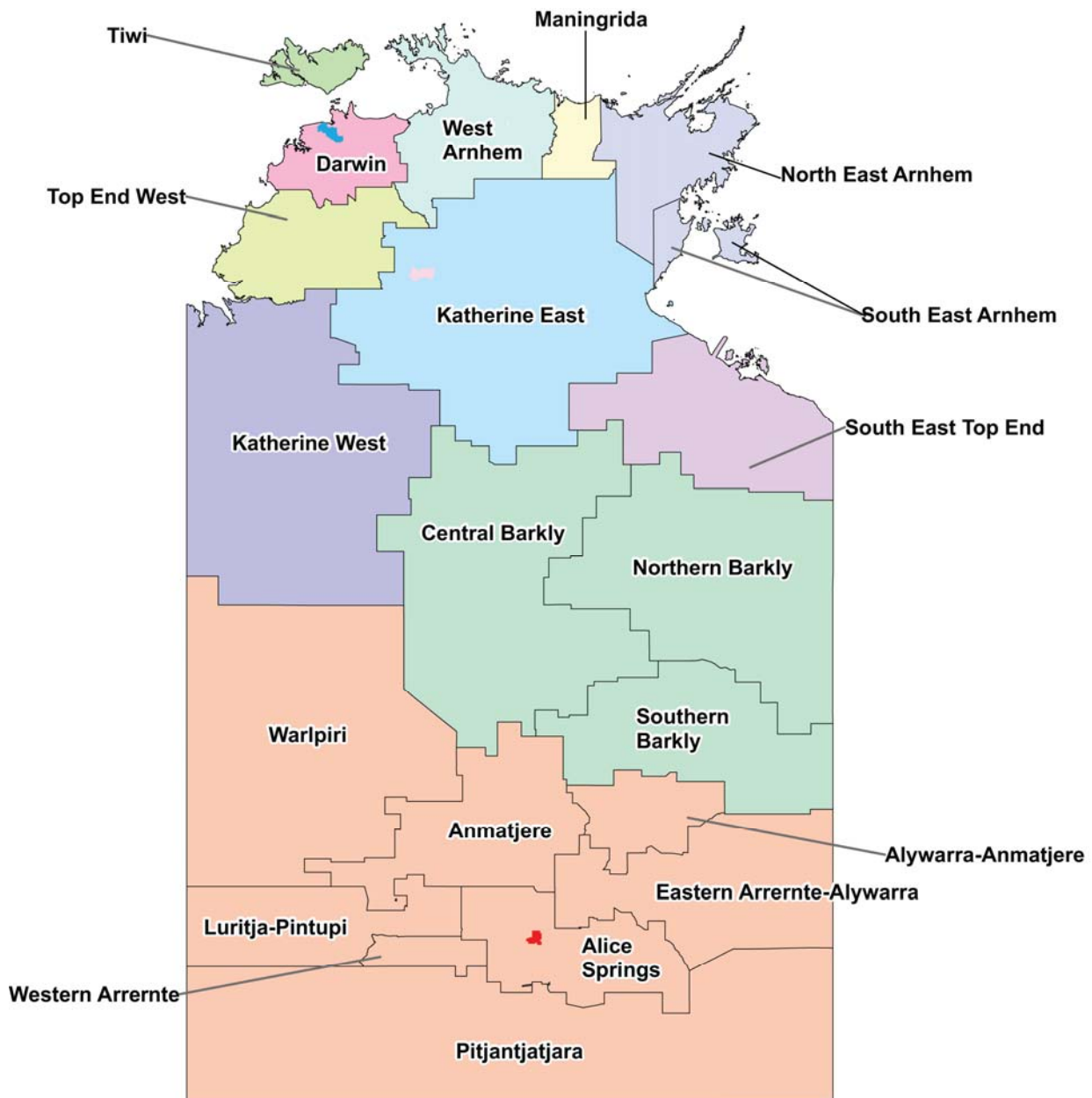
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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The Northern Territory

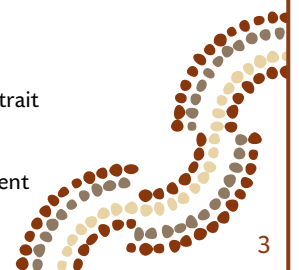


Legend

 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.



Pitjantjatjara Area Profile

This map of the Central Australia – Pitjantjatjara 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.

Major Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Yulara	1800	Yulara Town Council
Kulgera	20 (400-600 in surrounding area)	MacDonnell Shire Council
Finke (Aputula)	250	
Titjikala	235	
Imanpa	190	
Mutitjulu	300	
Kaltukatjara	275	

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the Pitjantjatjara 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	

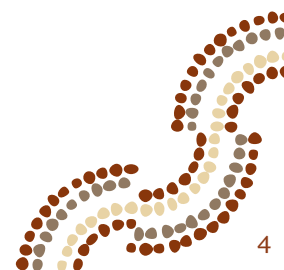
Aboriginal Interpreter Service

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.



Finke (Aputula)

Finke, otherwise known as Aputula is a remote community south of Alice Springs near the South Australian Border. The population is approximately 200 people.

History

Prior to white settlement the Aputula area was the land of the Southern Arrernte People. The township of Finke is just north of the South Australian border in the Northern Territory & was originally settled as a railway town, telegraph station & a service centre to the surrounding 100,000 hectares of cattle stations. The old Ghan railway crossed the Finke River just north of the township. Any major flood in the river washed out the rail bridge so the settlement developed primarily to repair the rail crossing. In 1976 the Australian Inland Mission (Uniting Church) established a health clinic.



In 1981 when a new railway line was opened through Kulgera 150km to the West, most services moved there with it. The Indigenous community of Aputula stayed & was supported as a Uniting Church Mission.

In 1990 the Finke Land Claim was heard & as a result 100klmsq of land surrounding Aputula is now held in Aboriginal Land Trust

Governance

Aputula Community Council are the local Government body. The Health Centre is managed by the Northern Territory Department of Health & Families, Remote Services Branch.

Infrastructure and Community Life

The major languages spoken in Aputula are Yankunytjatjara, Southern Arrernte, Luritja & Pitjanjara. English is also spoken as a second language in many cases.

A Community Store is open and sells basic supplies, including fuel and mechanical repairs. The store also sells take away food but does not have a deep fryer & will sell only salad packs & fruit to kids during school days.

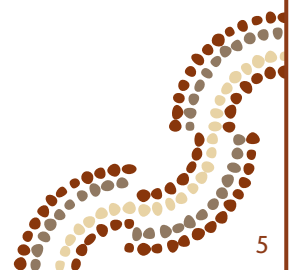
The town consists of 36 houses, 10 shelters & a public ablution block. The roads within town are sealed. There is a 24 hour airstrip 980 metres long which is equipped with pilot activated lights.

Town water is supplied from 2 bores drawing from the artesian basin. Power is provided by a diesel generator. The school has 3 fulltime teachers & 2 assistants. The school runs a healthy kids program that amongst other projects provides school kids with breakfast each day. There is one football oval, a children's playground, basketball court & softball diamond.

The annual Finke Desert rally is held in June & is considered one of the worlds premier rally events.

Access

Access from Alice Springs is via Eridunda over a distance of 434 km, 143 km of which is unsealed, which takes about 4.5 hours. To travel via Titjikala from Alice Springs is only 235 km on the unsealed Old South Road 4wd track.



The Health Centre

The Health Centre has 9 rooms with separate men's & women's waiting areas & consulting rooms. There is an emergency treatment room, pharmacy, office & laundry.

The Health Centre is staffed by 2 RANs, 2 AHWs & a visiting District Medical Officer (DMO).

The Health Centre can be contacted on (08) 8956-0961.

NB. *Always check current staffing levels with your RAHC consultant prior to your placement.*

Accommodation & Vehicles

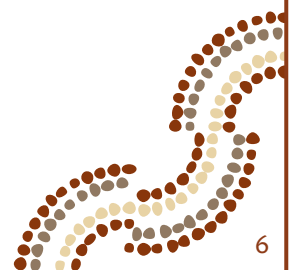
There is a single bedroom flat available for visiting health professionals., complete with all whitegoods, TV, telephone, linen & laundry facilities.

The Health Centre has two 4WD vehicles for it's use. One is the community ambulance.

NB. *The NTDHF has a strict policy in place regarding out of hours use of departmental vehicles & all use must be logged.*

Community Security

Kulgera Police Station, is the closest police station to the Apatula Community and is approximately 250 km's away.



Getting Advice

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

Aputula (Finke)

Clinic – nurse and health worker – 08 8956 0961

Council – Aputula Community Council – 08 8956 0966

Aputula Women’s Resource Centre – 08 8956 0976

Community Centre – 09 8956 0965

Aputula NPY Women’s Council Office – 09 8956 0638

Aputula Reconnect Program – 08 8956 0966

Aputula Community Service

PMB Finke via Alice Springs NT 0872

Ph: 08 8956 0961

Staff include Medical Officer, Nurse, Aboriginal Health Worker

