



Katherine West Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Lajamanu

1st edition
August 2009

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.schools.nt.edu.au/lajacec/

www.nt.gov.au/pfes/index.cfm?fuseaction=page&p=53&m=22&sm=48&crumb=33

www.kwhb.com.au/23-lajamanu-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.

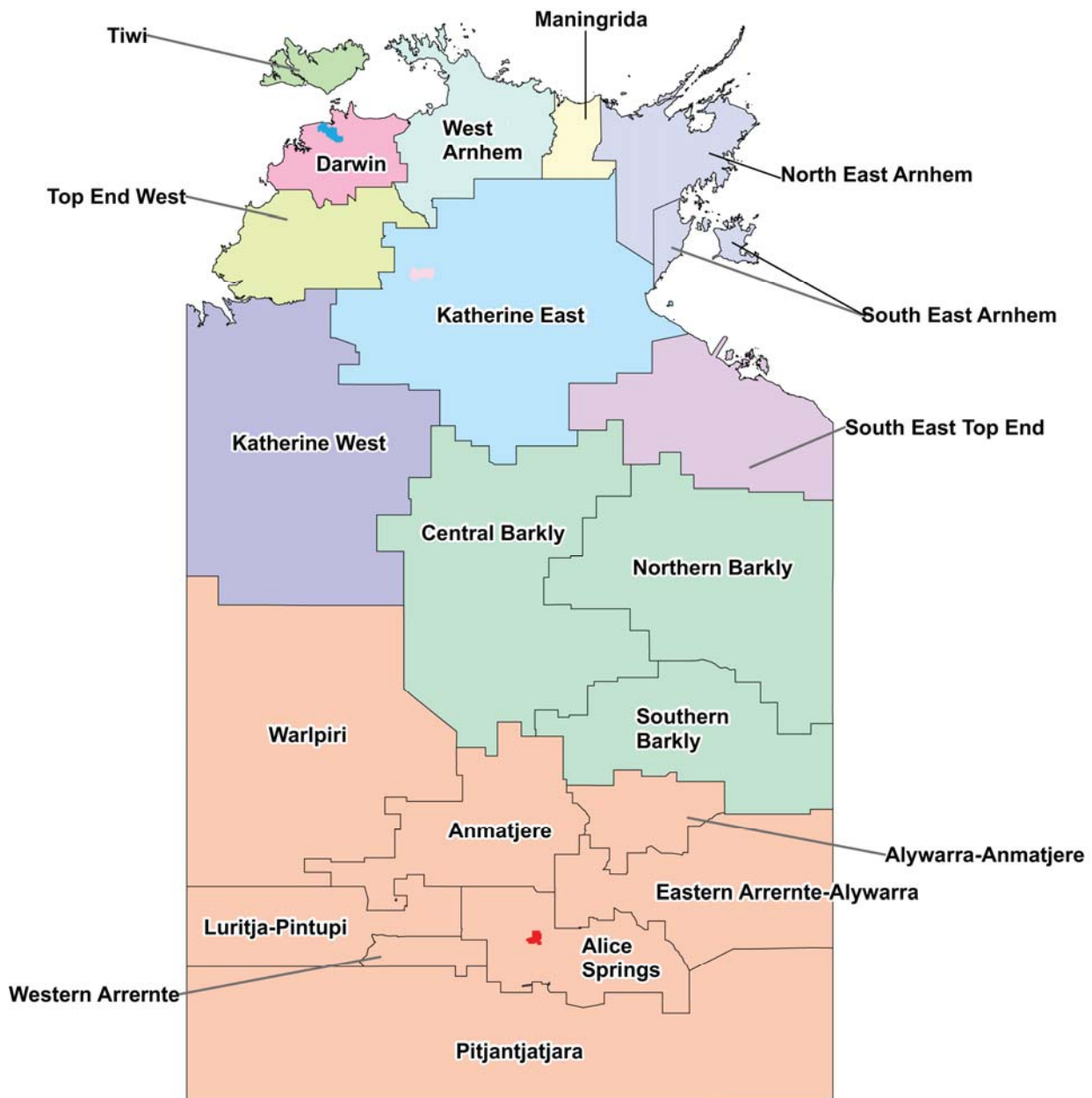
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

Photographs used in this Community Profile are copyright of the Remote Area Health Corps. Permission was sought from all individuals or guardians of individuals, before photography commenced.

© Copyright – Remote Area Health Corps, 2009



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 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 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	Ngaringman
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

NT Dept of Local Govt & Housing

Central booking service 08 8999 8353

The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.



Lajamanu

Pronunciation: *Lar-jar-marnoo*

Alternative place name: Hooker Creek.

Lajamanu is situated in semi-arid country with vegetation consisting of spinifex grasses, acacia, grevilleas and occasional eucalyptus. The nearby spectacular mountain range provides pleasant surroundings for the community. The general area varies from sea level to 520 m in the Ware Mountain Range and includes part of the Tanami Desert.



Lajamanu has a population of almost 1000, mainly Walpiri people who strongly maintain their language and culture. Ceremonies and traditional art are extremely important; the remoteness of the place (the road often becomes impassable in the wet season) and the fact that Community Councils have always insisted upon it being a "dry" (alcohol free) community has been an important contributing factor in the culture remaining strong.

History

Lajamanu was established in 1949 when it was decided to move Walpiri people from Yuendumu to what was formerly known as Hooker Creek station. On the first three attempts people walked away and returned to their own communities walking directly across the desert.

There are many people living at Lajamanu now who were part of the families moved here at that time. Whilst the community still relates very much to Yuendumu and other Walpiri communities, such as Willowra, it also related very much to the closest community, Daguragu, which is approximately 110 kilometres away.

Lajamanu is a very strongly traditional community, where the English language is secondary. Traditional customs are still practiced and in many ways dominate the thinking of the community.

Governance

Established in 1980, The Lajamanu Council was the first Community Government Council to be formed in the Northern Territory.

On cultural matters the Lajamanu Community Government Council defers to the local tribal council.

The traditional lands of community residents extend beyond the immediate boundaries of the Lajamanu area to south of the Tanami highway and west towards Tennant Creek.

Infrastructure and Community Life

Lajamanu is a well serviced community with the following amenities:

- * Airport
- * Art Centre
- * Basketball courts
- * Community care centre
- * Community store
- * Football oval
- * Library in the process of being built
- * Mobile phone service
- * Recreation Halls
- * Regional Indigenous Broadcasting service
- * Religious services - Assembly of God and Baptist
- * Safe house
- * School with classes up to year seven.



The Clinic

Lajamanu Community Health Centre
PMB 108 Katherine NT 0852
P: 08 8975 0870 | F: 08 8975 0903 | E: lajamanuadmin@kwhb.com.au

The Health Centre is managed by the Katherine West Health Board and is serviced by a permanent doctor, Registered Nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers. A Dentist visits the communities annually. People/visitors suffering medical emergencies are evacuated to Katherine and Darwin Hospitals. Due to staff availability RAHC staff will advise you of staffing levels in place during your deployment.

Health Programs running in the community:

Meals On Wheels – Yes.
School screening – Annually.
Old people screening – Annually.
Well women checks – Ongoing.
Well men checks – Ongoing.
Under 5 screening – Ongoing.

Visiting Services to the Community:

Dentist – 3 five-day visits each year.
Dental Therapist – 2 five-day visits each year.
Physician – 6 monthly. Paediatrics – 6 monthly.
Ear, Nose & Throat – Twice each year.
Ophthalmology – Annually.
Optometrist – Annually.
Physiotherapy – As required.
Dietitian – Twice each year.
Occupational Therapist – Ad hoc.
Audiologist – Annually.
Mental health – every 6 – 8 weeks.
AIDS/STD screening – Annually.
Adult Assessment & Coordination Team – Yes.
Family Youth & Community Services – Frequent visits.
Environmental Health Officers – Twice each year.



Accommodation & Vehicles

One bedroom secure units or two bedroom secure house, furnished, linen provided and air-conditioned, Free to Air television, telephone. Limited internet usage is available at the clinic. No vehicle provided.

Keeping the Peace

There is a police station staffed by two resident policemen & an aboriginal community police officer.

There is also a mens & womens community night patrol.



Access

Lajamanu Air is a community owned air service that is managed by the Progress Association. It currently operates an eight seat Gippsland Aeronautics Airvan. The aircraft has a cargo pod and rear carrier providing good luggage capacity. The community is in the process of purchasing a Beechcraft Baron all weather aircraft.

There is a regular service between Lajamanu and Katherine. Charters to other destinations are available on request.

Services and supplies to the community are generally obtained through either Katherine or Darwin. Katherine is 557 kilometres by road and Darwin approximately 890 kilometres. Road access is via the Victoria Highway (turning off after 120 kilometres) onto the Buntine Highway for a further 323 km and then 104km to Lajamanu. This section of road is dirt but well formed.

The Community does have a wet and dry season, with temperatures ranging from 2 or 3 degrees in winter to 47 degrees in summer. The access road has a restricted load limit after heavy rain but is rarely cut. Access to



Getting Advice

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

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.*

Lajamanu Clinic – Katherine West Health Board
PMB 108 via Katherine NT 0852
Ph: 08 8975 0870
lajamanuadmin@kwhb.com.au



