



East Arnhem Region

RAHC
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



Community Profile

Nhulunbuy / Yirrkala

1st edition
September 2009

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the East Arnhem 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.miwatj.com.au>

<http://www.ealta.org/images/nhulunbuy.pdf>

<http://www.theterritory.com.au/index.php?menuID=140>

<http://www.goveonline.com/nhulunbuy>

<http://www.yirrkala.com/about.html>

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

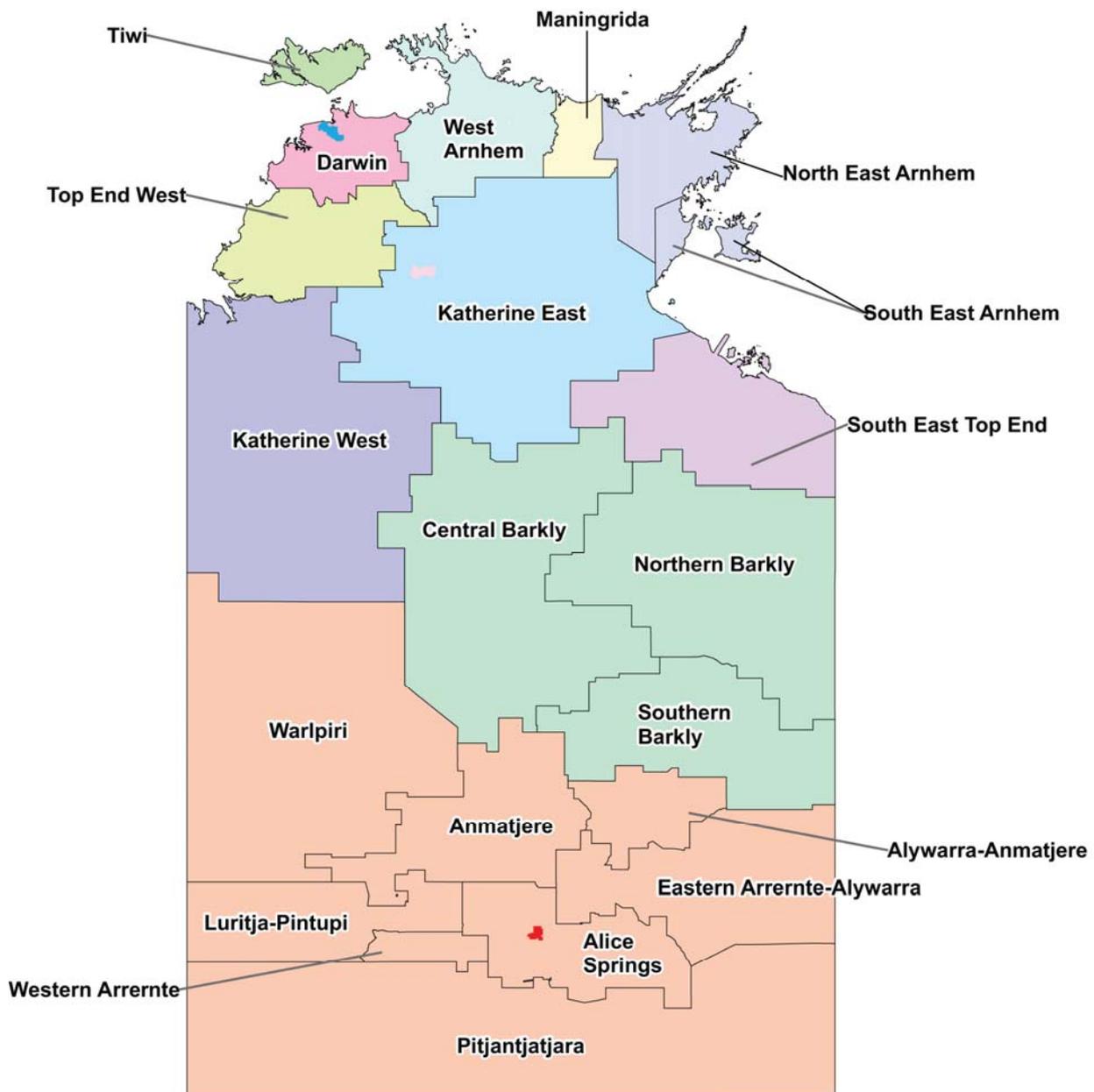
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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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

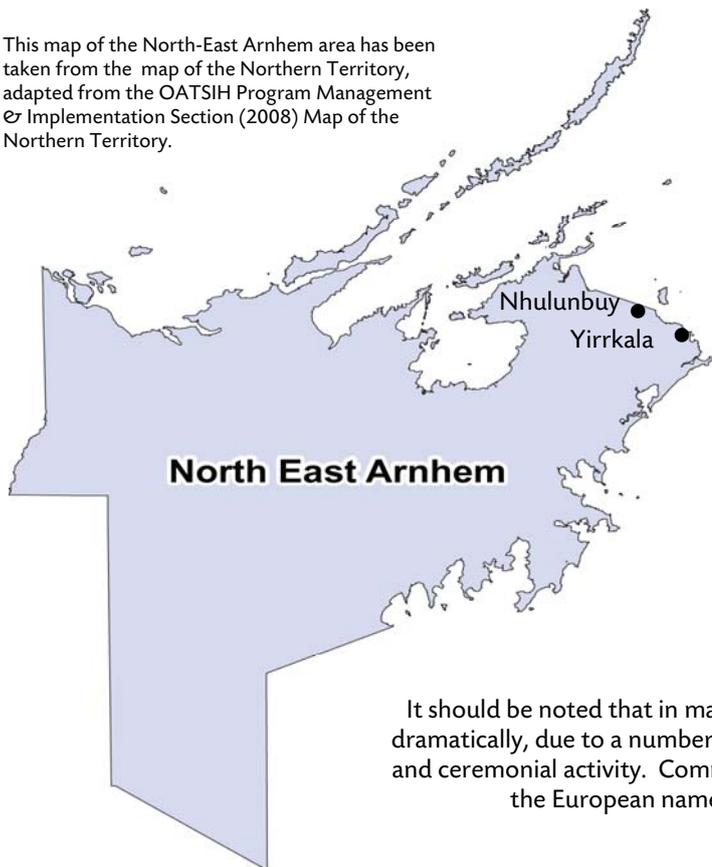
This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

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.



North-East Arnhem Area Profile

This map of the North-East Arnhem 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
Nhulunbuy	3800	Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited
Milingimbi	1200	East Arnhem Shire Council
Ramingining	725	
Galiwin'ku	1600	
Yirrkala	900	
Gapuwiyak	950	

*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 East-Arnhem 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.

Yolngu languages:

- Dhay'ya – Djarrwark, Dhalwangu
- Dhangu – Golumala, Rirratjinu, Galpu, Wangurri
- Dhuwala – Gupapuyngu, Gumatj, Manggalili, Wubulkarra, Mandarrpa
- Dhuwal – Djambarrpuyngu, Liyagalawumirr, Datiwuy, Marrangu, Djapu
- Djangu – Warramirri, Mandatja
- Djinang – Murrungur, Mildjingi, Wulagi

- Alawa
- Anindilyakwa
- Kriol
- Nunggubuyu

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.



Nhulunbuy

Nhulunbuy, also referred to as Gove, is a remote community located on the eastern-most tip of the Gove Peninsula. Nhulunbuy is approximately 600 km from Darwin. The Gove Peninsula encompasses nearly 100,000 square km of land owned by the Yolngu Aboriginal people, and is famous for spectacular beaches and great fishing.

Nhulunbuy was created as a mining town in 1971 with a special town lease on Aboriginal land to service the bauxite mine. The mining lease is operated by Rio Tinto Alcan Gove Pty. Ltd. All areas off the mining lease are Aboriginal land held in trust for the Aboriginal owners by the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust. A permit is not needed to enter the town of Nhulunbuy, but permits are needed to move off the town lease, other than to drive to the airport. Financially supported by the mine and refinery the town is based mostly of direct and support employees of the industry, however there are many people who are here simply for the beautiful surroundings and fantastic lifestyle.



Nhulunbuy has a population approximately 3800 permanent residents. The population of the town is variable due to the number of people who fly in and out for work related to the alumina refinery.

The dry season (May to October) brings cool nights and fine dry days, the wet season is humid and hot with frequent showers and storms.

Services and Facilities

Nhulunbuy has two shopping precincts (Endeavour Square and Captain Cook) with supermarkets, takeaways, beauty salons, hairdressers, pharmacy, hardware, clothing shops, Westpac Bank, Post Office (Commonwealth Bank agent), petrol station and motor repair shop, printing and photocopying shop, Australian Central Credit Union, electrical goods shop, newsagency, hospital, doctor, dentist, Police, vet, fabric shop, arts and crafts, sports shops, historical society, Fire, Ambulance, community radio station (8EAR Gove FM 106.9), sports clubs, surf club, gym, tennis and squash courts, and a 50m olympic swimming pool. The local newspaper is The Arafura Times.

Qantas Link has daily jet services to Gove from Cairns and Darwin. The Cairns-Gove flight is only 1 hour and 40min and Darwin-Gove flight is only 1 hour and 10 min. Aircraft are jets seating 120 passengers. Airnorth has services to Darwin and Groote Eylandt. Aircraft are 30 seat Brasilia.

Major Events

Garma is a Yolngu word meaning 'two-way learning process'; and the Garma Festival (August) is Australia's biggest annual Indigenous cultural exchange event. The festival is organised by the Yothu Yindi Foundation and is recognized as a model for authentic, insightful Indigenous cultural awareness and eco tourism, and each year a special theme is incorporated into a major education and exchange forum and series of workshops. For more information visit www.garma.telstra.com

The Gove Fishing Club also organise many fishing tournaments throughout the year.

Yirrkala

The township of Yirrkala was founded as a Methodist mission in 1935. Yirrkala is on Aboriginal land but no permit is required to visit. Yirrkala is the largest Yolngu community on the peninsula some 15 km south-east of Nhulunbuy with around 800 people. Many of the Yolngu in the region live in small communities located on the traditional homelands of the various clans.

The famous Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Art Centre and Museum is in Yirrkala and it's opening hours are: 8 am - 4.30 pm Monday - Friday and 9 am - noon on Saturday. Entrance to the Museum is \$2 for adults.

Yirrkala is a dry area where alcohol is forbidden without a permit.



Nhulunbuy Health Centre

The Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation is an Aboriginal community controlled health service established in 1992. It is an independent, Aboriginal controlled health service administered by a board of directors who are representatives from communities across the Miwatj region in East Arnhem Land.



Miwatj Health provides clinical services by doctors, nurses and Aboriginal Health Workers at its clinic in Nhulunbuy, and visiting clinical services to those nearby communities and homeland centres on the Gove Peninsula which do not have their own clinical services.

This comprises a wide range of professional services including diagnosis of illness, treating acute trauma (every day), carrying out full adult and child health checks, ante-natal and post-natal care, providing medications, developing chronic disease care plans, undertaking brief interventions, transporting patients for further radiological investigations, and so on.

Miwatj run a number of public health programs and emotional and social wellbeing programs for the communities.

Yirrkala

Laynhapuy Homelands Health Service.

Laynhapuy Health provides health services to the homelands around Yirrkala.

Yirrkala Health Centre

The Yirrkala Health Centre is managed by the NT Department of Health and Families. Health Centre staff consists of the following :

- 3 Full-time Registered Nurses
- 4 Aboriginal Health Workers
- Administration and cleaning staff
- An Aboriginal Community Worker
- An Aboriginal Hearing Worker
- Visiting Allied Health Professionals, including a Physiotherapist, Mental Health Nurse and Chronic Disease Nurse.
- A District Medical Officer from Gove Hospital visits Monday & Wednesdays.



Yirrkala Health Centre Dental Facilities



The Health Centre has 3 treatment rooms, 1 emergency treatment room, a large children's room, a fully equipped dental room, a pharmacy room and a renal room that is yet to be opened.

Getting Advice

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

Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited
Endeavour Square Nhulunbuy NT 0881
Ph: 08 8987 1302
nhulcorp@bigpond.com.au

Northern Land Council
Endeavour Sq Nhulunbuy NT 0880
Ph: 08 8987 2602

Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation
1424 Arnhem Rd Nhulunbuy NT 0881
Ph: 08 8987 1102
www.miwatj.com.au

Covers communities from Ramingining in the west to Groote Eylandt in the east, and from Yirrkala in the north to Numbulwar in the south. Staff includes Medical Officer, Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers

Ngadunnggay Homeland Resource Centre
Lake Evella Nhulunbuy NT 0880
Ph: 08 8987 9119

Dhimmurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation
Arnhem Rd Nhulunbuy NT 0880
Ph: 08 8987 3992

Laynhapuy Homelands Association
PO Box 1546 Nhulunbuy NT 0881
Ph: 08 8987 1242

Resource Centre administers CDEP, health service, essential services, housing management, training, Indigenous natural resource management, aged care services and development support for homelands.

Marrngarr Community Government Council
Drimmie Head Rd Nhulunbuy NT 0880
Ph: 08 8987 2105

Yirrkala Dhanbul Community Association
Ph: 08 8987 3433



