

# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## AMPILIWATJA

**NAME OF COMMUNITY:** AMPILIWATJA

Ampiliwatja (pronounced um-bludder-watch) is the largest of three communities under the Aherrenge Aboriginal Association. It is located 320 km north-east of Alice Springs.

**Out-stations:**

The people of Ampiliwatja form part of the Alywarr tribe. Three out-stations with the main ones being Irrultja 50km away and Atnwengerrp 30km away.

**Name or number of clan/groups:**

Ask when in the community

**Languages spoken:**

Alyawarra

**Population:**

500, but fluctuates greatly

- Community -
- Outstations -

350  
150

**Pemit required:**

Yes

**Name of local governing body:**

Ampiliwatja Community Government Council

### COMMUNITY HISTORY:

In the 1970s a large cattle station of Utopia was handed back to the traditional owners on a land buy back scheme. This area was then governed by the Utopia/ Urapunga Council. In the 1990s the traditional owners of the Ampiliwatja area of this land sought and established their own distinct council and land boundaries.

### ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

**Road:**

320 km North East of Alice Springs .

- All year access?
- Bitumen, dirt, 4WD or 2WD

100 km tar, 220-km dirt. Drive to Alice Springs takes about 4 hrs if road in reasonable condition. 4WD is required to make journey after rains. The road can close with heavy rain.

**Boat/barge:** N/A

**Plane:**

- Name of airline Mail plane runs weekly but too small to carry passengers
- Cost per adult
- Frequency Only passenger flights are via charter POA Alice Springs airport.
- RFDS/Air-Med access

Airstrip used for RFDS service is night and day dirt strip, which closes in the event of heavy rain. There is another GP stationed at Urapunga 3-4 hr drive (in heavy weather)

**FUEL TYPES AVAILABLE:**

- Diesel, leaded, unleaded, gas: No unleaded, diesel and super fuel only.
- Conditions of availability: 9-5 Mon-Fri, 10-2 w/ends
- Any mechanics available locally? NONE

**ALCOHOL:**

- Conditions / restrictions on sale of alcohol / bringing alcohol into community: Dry community with no permit system, very strictly enforced by community

**SHOPS:**

- Shop(s) available: 1 store with no takeaway food
- Hours of opening: 9-5 Mon-Fri, 10-2 weekends but w/e opening times vary
- What is for sale (overview): Basic groceries, limited fresh produce as fresh produce only trucked in fortnightly.
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available: Long life milk, frozen meat, frozen bread, fresh fruit and veg fortnightly. Trans-territory bush orders can be placed through Woolworths Alice Springs to be picked up on w/ends by people going to town or to be trucked out fortnightly.

## **COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home**

- Phone access? Yes
- Is there internet/email access? No, software exists for establishment but problems with the server. This has not been pursued but is expected to be running this year
- Is there a satellite dish? No, coming by end 2002 with Telstra Roll Out Scheme

## **LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:**

- Is there a local industry? Art Centre
- List employment options for GP spouses: Clinic, council, shop, school, handyman

## **SCHOOL:**

What local schooling is available?

- Primary school
- Secondary School
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

1 school operates at Ampiliwatja with 50-60 students enrolled. The acceptance of non-indigenous children into the school varies in accordance to staff present. It is generally not encouraged as the school works on an ESL teaching model with children split into 2 groups, junior and senior.

Non-indigenous primary students study via School of the Air with parental support. High school aged children study with parental supervision, via NT Open Learning correspondence.

## **RECREATION/SPORTING:**

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

4W driving, camping, waterhole swimming after rains, AFL, basketball with court that doubles as a tennis court.

## **MEDICAL:**

- Health Service operated by: Ampiliwatja Community Health Council
- GP employed by: As above
- Hours of operation/on-call: 8.30-12.30, 2-5 Mon . Fri, rotation on call with RN and sometimes with health worker so on call roster varies between 1:2 and 1:3 nights averaged per week. The weekend is a 1:2 rostered duty. The doctor is expected to be 2<sup>nd</sup> on call back up for RN if in town.

### **Staffing at the clinic:**

- number of GP's: 1
- number of RN's: 1
- number of Health Workers: 2 full time, 2 part time at outstations, 2 part time male HW

- Visiting health professionals:** 1-2 times per year visits from physician, surgeon, ophthalmologist, paediatrician, renal physician, women's health and dental team. In addition to this a clinic run to town occurs weekly for outpatient consultations in A/Springs.
- Type of service eg dental
  - Frequency of visits

### **GP ACCOMMODATION**

Type of housing available: 3 bedroom with pot belly stove

- Furnished ? Yes
- What white goods are supplied? Fridge freezer, microwave
- Other facilities eg. TV, radio TV video
- Linen & bedding Yes
- Electricity Paid by health service for nominal rent
- Water Rainwater tank + bore water
- Laundry facilities Washing machine + drier provided
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/Internet Service and equipment covered but pay for own usage, need own PC
- Air-conditioning Yes, reverse cycle for heating during winter

### **RELIGION**

Church services in community: Open air church service with local ordained priest. Lutheran service.

### **OTHER THINGS FOR THE INCOMING GP AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER:**

- Are there any dominant local & social issues to be aware of?
- On arrival in the community, ask an appropriate person to advise you of locations to avoid eg sacred sites.