

COMMUNITY PROFILE

UTOPIA / URAPUNTJA

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:	UTOPIA / URAPUNTJA
Outstations:	Utopia is based on a decentralised community model with outstations spread over the country in significant areas. Populations of the outstations vary from about 100 down to 20. There are 16 permanent Outstations
Name or number of clan/groups:	Ask when in the community
Languages spoken:	Alyawarra and Antimere, Alyawarra being the main one
Population:	1200 on clinic's system
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community• Outstations	900 permanent residents
Permit required:	Yes
Name of the local governing body:	There are three incorporated Aboriginal organisations at Utopia: Urapuntja Health Service Aboriginal Corp Urapuntja Council Aboriginal Corp Arparra Store Aboriginal Corp.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Following European colonisation the land was run as a cattle station. In the early 1970s a handback of land to its traditional owners was organised via a Government buy back scheme.

The Urapuntja Council commenced operation in the early 1980's and is situated at Alparra; the main community, which is the representative organisation for 16 Outstation communities which are located on the Angarapa and Alyawarra Aboriginal Land Trusts. The 900 people are mainly Anmatyerre and Alyawarra speaking people. The outstation communities are spread out over some 3230 square km of desert along the (dirt only) Sandover highway some 250 km north east of Alice Springs. Distances to the outstations vary from 5 to 100 Kms from the clinic

Neither Alparra (nor the outstations) have bitumen roads – which causes significant health problems due to the dust generated by the many vehicles accessing the store on a daily basis.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

Clinic is 280 km from Alice Springs, 180km on a dirt road and 100km sealed. The drive takes 3-3.5 hrs during the dry season and up to 6 hrs during the wet season. 4WD is recommended at all times and road closures do occur.

Plane:

- Name of airline(s)
- Cost per adult
- Frequency
- RFDS/Airmed access

Independent Charters can be organised from A/Springs Airport, cost approx \$400 one way

Mail plane Fridays but too small to seat passengers.

The airstrip is dirt and a 25 min drive from the clinic. The strip will close for periods of heavy rain. When closed alternative evacuation is via Ampilatwatja 45 minutes drive N.E (1.5 hrs in heavy weather).

Alternatives to flying evacuations are usually sought if possible. The clinic has 4WD vehicles and drivers to drive patients to A/Springs if their condition is satisfactory for road travel. Doctors and nurses may have to drive patients if there is no-one else available

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

- Diesel, leaded, unleaded, gas:

Diesel and unleaded

- Conditions of availability:

30 minute drive to store for fuel
Mon-Fri 9-5 with 1 hr closure for lunch 12.30-1.30, Sat 9-12. Bulk diesel is held at clinic but is not available for private vehicles.

- Any mechanics available locally:

Handyman with vehicles but no qualified mechanic

ALCOHOL:

- Conditions/restrictions on sale of alcohol/bringing alcohol into community:

Dry community

SHOPS:

- Shop(s) available: General store with chicken and chip takeaway attached is located at Arlparra.
- Hours of opening: 9.00 – 5.00 Monday to Friday
Closed for lunch 12.30 – 2.00
9.00 – 12.00 on Saturday
Closed Sunday
- What is for sale (general overview): Basic necessities and limited fresh produce. Produce truck comes fortnightly only. Take away food.
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available: Bush orders can be placed for freight with store delivery (freight charges apply), alternatively many health staff go to A/Springs for w/e etc and can pick orders up then

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

- Phone access? Clinic phone with extensions to houses plus private phone for personal use
- Is their Internet/e-mail access? Any constraints on use? Yes. Due to be upgraded in 2007 to provide broadband access at both clinic and staff houses
- Is there a satellite dish? If so, who can access it All staff houses have satellite dishes for TV.

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry? Art, advised to see Mbantua art gallery in A/Springs with representative art for sale from Utopia
- List any employment options for spouses of GPs: School, Store, Council, Clinic. For other than medically qualified spouses work opportunities are very limited.

POLICE:

A police station has recently been established at Arlparra and is co-located with the Council.

SCHOOL:

What schooling options are available locally?

- Primary
- Secondary and for what years of secondary school
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend?

There is a primary school at the clinic.. Whilst non-indigenous students are welcome the Principal requests that parents contact school to discuss education options prior to arrival Alternatives are School of the Air, NT Open Learning via correspondence

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

Camping, basketball courts and AFL field at store

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:

Urapuntja Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, independent health service funded by OATSIH

- GP employed by:

Urapuntja Health Service

- Hours of operation/on-call:

9.00 to 5.00 Mon-Fri
Doctors do primary on call in rotation with nursing staff, 1:4 rotation weeknights and 1:3 weekends. Weekend on call includes roster of on call Fri pm- Sunday am with next on call shift taking Sun am – Tues am. This arrangement is flexible. Once per month there is opportunity to go to A/Springs , Thursday clinic run to outstation on way to Alice. Then go to Alice and do mail, pathology drop offs and pick up clinic stores. Fri, Sat Sun can then be spent in Alice partial travel allowance paid by health service.
The primary mode of service delivery is through outstation visits.

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 1
- number of RN's: 3
- Admin Staff 4
- Drivers: 3
- Health Workers 3 based at clinic, 1 per outstation, Health Workers are first point of contact in on call situation. None of the health workers are fully qualified.

Visiting health professionals:

- type of service (eg dental)
 - frequency and duration of visits
- Paediatrician: Physiotherapist; Dentist; Mental Health Team (Including Psychiatrist); Nutritionist all visit all visit 2 or more times per year. Funding has been made available to improve/expand the number and type of allied health professional visits.

GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: 3 bedroom house with verandah
- Furnished – yes, no, partially: Fully furnished
- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what: Fridge, freezer
- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV,radio]: TV video
- Linen & bedding No
- Electricity Paid for by health service
- Water Good bore water
- Laundry facilities Washing machine provided
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/Internet Landline with user pays. Satellite Broadband to be installed shortly.
- Air-conditioning Evaporative Cooler

RELIGION

Church services available in the community: Lutheran services conducted at some outstations

OTHER THINGS FOR THE INCOMING GP AND FAMILY TO CONSIDER:

- Ask the GP & the clinic staff of any dominant local health & 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]