

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Ikuntji

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

IKUNTJI

The Ikuntji community, has the alias name of Haasts Bluff

Ikuntji is located 250km west of Alice Springs. It takes 3 hours to drive there. The access road to Ikuntji is both sealed and unsealed. By air, it takes 5 minutes to drive to the closest airstrip in Ikuntji then 45 minutes to fly to Alice Springs.

There are two access routes to Ikuntji. The first is via the Tanami Highway, of which the first 138 kilometres from Alice Springs is sealed road and the rest is good dirt road. There is a turnoff 18 kilometres before Ikuntji which heads south west to Ikuntji.

The alternative route is on the sealed road directly west of Alice Springs on Namatjira Drive to Glen Helen. There is another 110 kms of unsealed road which continues west to Ikuntji. This road may become impassable in heavy rain.

Outstations:

Name or number of clan/groups:

Languages spoken:

Luritja, Western Arrarnta, Pintubi and Warlpiri languages are spoken.

Luritja is a western desert language closely related to Pintubi. Most people speak a number of other languages depending on their family background and personal experiences; most commonly these would be Pintubi, Warlpiri, Arrarnta and Anmatyerre. English is spoken to some degree by most people and there is a wide range of competencies in English.

Population:

An estimation of the population is 203.
Outstations are as follows:

- Community
- Outstations

- Atji Creek – 25
- Autili – 10
- Brown Bore – 15
- Winbarrku – 20
- Ngankirritja - 10

Permit required:

Name of the local governing body:

The Ikuntji Community Council was incorporated in 1985. It has 12 Council Members and aims to meet once a month. Services provided by the council include garbage disposal, maintenance of parks, maintenance & upgrade of roads & airstrip, workshop repairs, management of essential services & public utilities.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

The area in which the present settlement of Ikuntji is located was first seen by Europeans in 1872 when Ernest Giles travelled through the Luritja region. It was not until the turn of the century that pastoralists began to move this far west. Displacement of other language groups from their traditional areas saw people of the Pintubi come from the desert further west, the Warlpiri from the Tanami Desert to the north, the Arrarnta from the centre and some of the Pitjantjatjara people from the south.

After the establishment of the first Central Australian Aboriginal “settlement” in Hermannsburg in 1877, the Finke River Mission, which controlled Hermannsburg, began sending native evangelists and ration trains into the Haast's Bluff region. Finke River Mission established a ration depot near the current site of the Ikuntji Community soon after the Haasts Bluff Aboriginal Reserve was proclaimed in 1941.

The people using the depot were mainly Kukatja people from close by and Pintubi people who moved in from further west either in response to its establishment or who had previously moved east to be closer to Hermannsburg. There were also some Pitjantjatjara, Aranda and Warlpiri people. The main employment then was the cattle operation which started at the community in 1944. By the mid to late 1950's there were approximately 1,000 people living in or near Haasts Bluff. In 1954 control of the community at Haasts Bluff was handed over to the Northern Territory administration and later to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA).

At this time, due to the large numbers of people who had moved into the area and problems with the quality and quantity of water at Haasts Bluff, it was decided to establish a new community nearby. Work began on Ikuntji community in 1956. In March 1957 people began to move across and in October 1960 Ikuntji was officially opened. A significant percentage of the Haasts Bluff population was relocated.

The community at Ikuntji became self managing when the Department of Aboriginal

Affairs transferred control to the community in 1979, partly in response to the gaining of legal status by the Land Rights Movement of the early 70's. This also began the outstation movement which saw many of the people living in the area begin to move back to their traditional lands. The Ikuntji Community Council was incorporated on 11th November, 1985.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

The existing major internal road system consists almost entirely of formed sealed roads. The main access road to Ikuntji is a 10 metre wide formed road which is in good condition. Outstation access roads are flat blade four metre wide roads. These are in a fair condition, but are fine weather roads only

There is the Health Centre's Troop Carrier that can transport clients to the nearest health centre

N/A

Boat/barge

Plane:

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

There is a day/night airstrip at Ikuntji. It is located approximately 3 km south west from Ikuntji community. It is comprised of unrated red silt and is fenced and in good condition. At night it is lit by kerosene pods which have a tendency to go out in the wind.

Presently, it is used twice a week by the mail plane (Tuesdays & Thursdays) and each Thursday by the Flying Doctor Service & charter flights.

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

- Diesel, leaded, unleaded, gas:
- Conditions of availability:
- Any mechanics available locally:

ALCOHOL:

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

SHOPS:

- Shop(s) available: The community has 1 store which is owned privately by a community family
- Hours of opening: The Store is open:
Monday – Friday
10.00-12.00 & 14.30-16.30
Saturday
10.00 -12.00
- What is for sale (general overview): The store stocks dry goods, frozen food, clothes, some whitegoods and general merchandise. Fast foods are available to be microwaved, fresh fruit and vegetables can be flown in by Ngurratjuta Air.
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available:

WATER:

Water for the Ikuntji supply system is obtained from 3 bores located approximately 9.5 kms south of the community. There are 3 tanks, 1 situated at the bore field and 2 in the community, a storage ground tank and a platform tank.

SEWERAGE:

Sewage disposal is by way of septic tanks at each house throughout the community. The tanks are emptied every six months.

POWER

The community is provided with power via 2 diesel generators. Some houses also have solar hot water.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

There is a rubbish tip located approximately 2 kms west of the community. A tractor with a hydraulic trailer collects the rubbish 1-2 times a week. Each house is provided with a 44 gallon drum so that household rubbish can be burnt when necessary

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

There are community facilities:

- Store
- School
- Ikuntji Women and Art Centre, providing child care – it is hoped to obtain funding for

a separate building for child care in 2001

- Laundry
- Church
- Mechanical workshop
- Cemetery
- Rubbish dump
- Health Centre
- Sporting facilities, basketball courts
- Parks & gardens
- Ablution block
- Guest accommodation
- BRACS

There are 26 houses in Ikuntji, 1 demountable and 1 ablution block and 2 shade areas. There are another 7 houses for non-community staff.

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

- Phone access?
- Is there Internet/e-mail access? Any constraints on use?
- Is there a satellite dish? If so, who can access it

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry?
- List any employment options for spouses of GP's:

There is local enterprise in Ikuntji

- Store, privately owned.
- Ikuntji Women's and Art Centre. Sales of art bring money to artists and the community and substantially contribute to continuation of the Art Centre, along with ATSIC funding. The Art Centre is currently being separately incorporated as Ikuntji Aboriginal Artists Inc. A derelict building is being transformed into a Men's Centre, and men have also started painting and selling art.

SCHOOL:

- What schooling options are available locally?

There is 1 primary school in the Community. A morning tea program

- Primary school
- Secondary and for what years of secondary school

operates at the school to provide healthy food. The Healthy Kids program encourages kids to blow noses, cough and learn good hygiene generally . There is a junior class for 5 – 7 year olds and a senior class for 8 – 12 year olds (with some older Students as well). The school has 2 full-time teachers and 1 assistant teacher as well as 1 literacy teacher and 1 DEET tutor. The school has an enrolment of 39 children. Education is available in the community up to Yr 6 level.

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

The school is not bilingual. Lessons are in English. Community members participate in teaching cultural studies to students including singing, stories and religious studies.

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:

Ikuntji community has a Health Service called Ikuntji Health Service. It is Territory Health Service controlled. The Health Service is in the Central Region.

The address:

Ikuntji community

PMB via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone 08 8956 8547/8472

Fax 08 8956 8547

Outstations' in the region that the health centre covers:

- Atji Creek
- Autili
- Brown Bore
- Winbarrku
- Ngankirritja

- GP employed by:
- Hours of operation/on-call:

Health Centre hours are:

Monday - Friday:

8 am -12 pm

1 pm - 5 pm

At Ikuntji, the RN and AHWs are on call

locally for emergencies after 12pm weekdays and on weekends.
A DMO is on call at all hours in Alice Springs for phone consultations and evacuations.

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 1 DMO that works 1 day per fortnight
- number of RN's: 1 RN who works 10 days per fortnight
- number of Health Workers: 2 AHW who work 10 days per fortnight between them

Visiting health professionals:

- type of service (eg dental)
- frequency and duration of visits

HEALTH STAFF ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: There is a 3 bedroom brick house for the RN (completed Dec 1999) with a self contained bedsitter visitors' accommodation attached. Accommodation for visitors should be arranged with the Health Centre staff in advance.
- Furnished – yes, no, partially:
- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what:
- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV, radio]:
- Linen & bedding
- Electricity
- Water
- Laundry facilities
- Telephone/fax/ e-mail/internet
- Air-conditioning

RELIGION

Church services available in the community:

There is a Lutheran Church in Ikuntji. The church has one local ordained pastor

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].