

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Aputula

NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:

APUTULA

The Aputula community has the alias name of Finke.

Aputula is located 434 km south east of Alice Springs via Erldunda (bitumen) and Kulgera (dirt) or travel 235 kms SE of Alice Springs – via Titjikala (Old South Road – 4WD track). It takes 4.5 hours to drive there. When fling, it takes 3 minutes to drive to the closest airstrip in Aputula them 45 mins to fly to Alice Springs

Outstations:

Charlotte Water
Beer Street Bore
Antere
Bloodwood Bore
Ulbullla
Halfway Camp

Name or number of clan/groups:

Languages spoken:

Yankunytjatjara, Southern Arrernte, Luritja and Pitjantjatjara languages are spoken

Population:

Estimated population is 192

- Community
 - Outstations
- Permit required:

Name of the local governing body:

Aputula community is in the ATSI region of Aputula, which is covered by the Papunya Regional Council. Aputula is a Gazetted Council.

The Aputula Housing Association Incorporated is an Association Council under the NT Government Regulations. The Council is responsible for general administration of the community. The members are elected yearly.

Service provided by the council include garbage disposal, parks and gardens, the community store, take-away, road maintenance, CDEP, School, Health

centre and Essential Services.
The Council Clerk coordinates the
activities of the elected Council.

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

Before white settlement the land around Aputula was traditionally Southern Arrernte. Within the last sixty to seventy years Luritja, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara peoples have moved into the area. Some reports tell of a severe drought that initially nearly wiped out the Southern Arrernte. Aputula was originally Finke, a railway Council built on the old Ghan Railway Line in the late 1920's and 1930's. It is situated between two rivers, the Finke 3km north and the Goyder 5 km south. To the east lie the beginnings of the Simpson Desert with undulating parallel north-south dunes. The Finke River winds out into the Simpson with river sand more than 125 metres deep and after heavy rain flows into Lake Eyre in the south.

Aputula served the railway line, the surrounding 50,000 to 100,000 hectare cattle stations and as a repeater station on the telegraph line. It had a Wayside Inn, the only hotel on the 470km track from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs, licensed to open 24hrs. In 1976 the Australian Inland Mission (now Frontier Services of the Uniting Church) established a health centre staffed by two nursing sisters which was taken over by a mobile unit from rural health in the mid 1980's. Until 1980 the Aboriginal people lived on the sand hill to the east. The population in the 1960's and 1970's was more than 100 people but this has now doubled. In 1980 the railway was moved west towards Kulgera. However the Aboriginal community remained and formed Aputulu.

The Finke Land Claim, which concerned an area to the East of Andado station, was heard in 1990 and 100 square kilometres of land surrounding Aputula is now Aboriginal Land Trust.

The town now has 36 houses, 10 shelters and an ablution block.

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

The road from Alice Springs to Aputula is both sealed and unsealed.

The access road to Aputula via Eriidunda on the Stuart Highway consists of 291km of sealed road from Alice Springs to Kulgera, then 143km of dirt road. The second road via Titjikala is dirt from Alice Springs and follows the Old South Road along the Old Ghan Railway

Both dirt roads are most suitable for 4WD vehicles. The road between Aputula and Titjikala is often quite rough with corrugations and sand and "bulldust" patches. The roads can be totally impassable during wet weather.

The existing major internal road system consists almost entirely of sealed roads which are wide and well maintained.

Boat/barge

Plane:

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

There is a day/night airstrip at Aputula that is 975 metres in length and well maintained. The strip has pilot activated lights and is fenced. There is a mail plane on Saturdays.

When flying, it takes 3 mins to drive to the closest airstrip in Aputula then 45 mins to fly to Alice Springs

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

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

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT:

There is a community accessible Landrover which can transport clients to the nearest health centre

ALCOHOL:

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

SHOPS:

- Shop(s) available:
- Hours of opening:
- What is for sale (general overview):

The community has 1 store which is owned by the community. The Store is open five and a half days a week. Closed on Sundays

Monday – Friday

08.30 – 11.30

13.30 – 16.30

Saturday

0830- 11.30

The store stocks prepacked and fresh food as well as incidentals. The store does not sell coca-cola and restricts the sale of lollies and chips. Only healthy food is sold to the children during school hours, including packs of salad, egg, cheese and fruit. It has a takeaway which does not

have any deep frying and sells low fat foods and stews, pies and cooked chickens.

- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available:

WATER:

Water for Aputula supply system is obtained from 2 bores located northeast of the Council and are automatically controlled and electric motor driven. There are 2 tanks, one ground storage and the other above ground which are situated in the community

SEWERAGE:

Community facilities include a full sewerage reticulation system with treatment ponds.

POWER:

The community provided with state of the art power generation facilities which include a “reserve” generator.

WASTE MANAGEMENT:

The Council has a rubbish tip 500 metres east of the Council, rubbish is collected on a daily basis

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:

Local enterprise is generally confined to the activities of the community store School, Store, Health Centre, Garage, Police Station

SCHOOL:

- What schooling options are available locally?

There is 1 primary school which has 3 full-time teachers and 2 assistant teachers. There is 4 indigenous staff. The school has an enrolment of 60 children. The school runs a breakfast program for

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

students and a Healthy Kids program of blowing noses, coughing, washing faces and exercise.

Education is available in the community up to yr 7 level. Foundation studies for secondary age students is also offered. The school is not bilingual.

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

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

There is a recreation area, 1 football oval, children playground, basketball court and softball area.

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by:

There is a Health Council at Aputula which is part of the general Aputula Council. Communities and outstations that are covered by Aputula Health Service, they also cover people living on several stations in the area.

Contact details

Aputula Community Service

CMB Finke via Alice Springs NT 0872

Phone : 08 8956 0961

Fax : 08 8956 0778

The health Centre is permanent and has 9 rooms, including men's and women's waiting and consulting rooms with toilet and shower, an emergency room, office, pharmacy and laundry. Funding is by Grant-in-Aid.

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

Clinic Hours:

Monday – Friday

08.00-16.00

AHW and RN's are on call after hours on weekdays and for weekend emergency services on a roster basis

A DMO is on call at all hours in Alice Springs for phone consultations and evacuations

- Health Centre Transport

There are 2 vehicles allocated to the Health Centre. One is a Troop carrier, which acts as an ambulance and the second is a dual cab 4WD

- Evacuations

The first choice of evacuation is by air from Aputula by day or night. The second option is by road. Patient Assisted Travel (PATs) is available to patients.

Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 0 GP, served by DMO
- number of RN's: 1
- number of Health Workers: 2

Visiting health professionals:

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

HEALTH STAFF ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: A modern flatette attached to the Women's Centre is used at present when available. There is 1 house for the RAN. Accommodation for visitors should be arranged through the Council clerk 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 Church in Aputula which is administered by the Frontier Services of the Uniting Church. A Minister funded by the Uniting Church currently resides in the community

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].