

# COMMUNITY PROFILE

## TITJIKALA

**NAME[S] OF COMMUNITY:**

**Titjikala**

The community name is Titjikala. The Titjikala community has the alias name of Maryvale. Lat 24o 39 min , Long 134o4min

Titjikala is located 130km south of Alice Springs via the Old South Road 4WD track. It takes 1.5 hours to drive there. When flying, it takes 10 minutes to drive to the closest airstrip in Titjikala then 25 to fly to Alice Springs.

**Outstations:**

John Holland Bore  
Oak Valley  
Mt Peachy  
Ritjinka  
Walkabout

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

**Languages spoken:**

Arrente, Luritja and Pitjantjatjara languages are spoken

**Population:**

An estimation of the population is 254

- Community
- Outstations

Titjikala – 224  
John Holland – 15  
Ritjinka – 2  
Mt Peachy – 6  
Oak Valley – 6  
Walkabout – 31  
Yes

**Permit required:**

**Name of the local governing body:**

Titjikala is in an Aboriginal Freehold area.

The community has an elected association executive (council).

Tapatjatjaka Community Government council is responsible for the general administration of the community. The nine members are elected every 2 years.

Services provided by the Council include garbage disposal, parks and gardens, the community store, take-away, Centrelink sub branch, roads maintenance, CDEP

and power and water.

## **HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:**

Titjikala was originally a 201 hectare excision from the Francis Well Water Reserve and stock route. The original Searate Pastoral Lease was registered on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1979. It is within the Maryvale Pastoral lease. The community obtained freehold title to the excision on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 1987. In 1988 the Northern Territory Government gazetted the Titjikala Control Plan which places certain restrictions on land usage and development at Titjikala.

The people of Titjikala belong to the Arrente, Luritja and Pitjantjatjara groups and are ex- workers (or the family of ex-workers) on Maryvale station. People stated coming to the area in the 1950's when the mission truck visited every 6 weeks. In 1953 there were only 6 people living in what is now known as Titjikala.

## **ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:**

### **Road:**

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

It takes 1.5 hours to drive there. The road from Alice Springs is unsealed. The main access to Titjikala is by the old south road, which parallels the Old Ghan train line running south from Alice Springs (approximately 130kms). The old south road is formed and partly gravelled. Access is generally available to conventional vehicles; however the road becomes impassable after heavy rains. The Department of Transport and Work undertake routine maintenance of the road.

Access can also be obtained from road which runs east from the South Stuart Highway approximately 105 kms from Alice Springs. Titjikala is 115 kms east from this point. The access road from the South Stuart Highway crosses the Hugh River next to the old railway line near Titjikala. Several small creeks cross this road which also becomes unpassable after heavy rain.

### **Boat/barge**

### **Plane:**

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

There is a day airstrip at Titjikala. It is located approximately 6 kms from the Maryvale Station but the access road is impassable in wet weather.

When this occurs, Titjikala is not able to cater for medical emergencies, as all

access roads are impassable

## **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 that is owned by the community. The Store is open 7 days a week.
- Hours of opening: Monday – Friday  
09.00-12.00  
14.00-17.00  
Saturday – Sunday  
09.00-12.00  
(Shut on public holidays)
- What is for sale (general overview): Prepacked, cooked and fresh food is available. A takeaway operates Thursdays and Fridays
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available:

## **WATER:**

Water for Titjikala supply system is obtained from 2 bores close to the community  
Both bores compounds are fenced, and water may be pumped directly from either production bore to the storage tank via the rising main.  
The storage tank is an “on ground” 570 kilolitres Southern cross squatter’s tank, which has more than 4 days storage capacity.

## **SEWERAGE:**

Sewerage disposal is by the way of septic tanks, absorption trenches and pit latrines.

## **POWERS:**

The community is provided with power via 2 Diesel Generators. These are located near the bore fields to the south of the Community. Currently, the 50k W engine is inadequate and needs upgrading. A new

power station is planned to be built in 2001.

Titjikala also has a full power reticulation system that distributes power to within reach of all buildings throughout the community and to the school. The Maryvale Station also uses this power.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

The community has a rubbish dump which is located approximately 250m east of the community. Rubbish is collected twice weekly. A new tractor and trailer with compactor has been ordered for delivery in late October 2001. Burning rubbish is carried out at the dump as well as by households in 10 gallon dumps. The community has separate car dumps.

## **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?

Local and Enterprise and community facilities include:

CDEP

Titjikala construction (local building team)

Store (petrol supplies)

Arts and Crafts through Women's Centre

Mechanical workshop carries out repairs to cars

Business making headstones from local sandstone is being established

School

Child care

Rubbish dump

Women's centre – provide lunches for elderly people, runs child care for pre-school children and provides use of 3 large washing machines for the community and 1 industrial standard washing machine for blankets

- List any employment options for spouses of GP's: As listed above

## **SCHOOL:**

- What schooling options are available locally? The school is located approximately 400m to the west of the community on the Maryvale station. There are 3 school buildings and accommodation for 4 teachers and their families.
- Primary school There is 1 primary school which has 4 non-aboriginal teachers and 3 Aboriginal teachers. The school has an enrolment of approximately 78 children. Education is available in the community up to Yr 6 level. Post primary studies are also available using the NT Open Education Curriculum
- Secondary and for what years of secondary school
- If the school is bilingual, can non-indigenous students attend? The school is not bilingual

## **RECREATION/SPORTING:**

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there? Community facilities in the area:  
Men's Centre  
Baseball Court  
Football and softball arenas  
BMX track  
Active Art centre

## **MEDICAL:**

- Health Service operated by: The Titjikala community has a Health Service called Titjikala. It is a Territory Health Service facility. The Health Service is in the Central Region. The Health Service Area does have outstations. Community and outstations that use Titjikala Health Service are shown in the table. Outstations are not visited by the Health Service.

Clinic Address:  
Titjikala Health Centre  
Titjikala via Alice Springs NT 0872  
Phone 08 8956 0906  
Fax 08 8956 0742

The clinic is permanent and has 5 rooms. The facilities are adequate. The Health Centre is in a new building opened in mid 1998

At Titjikala the Health Centre has 1 female and 1 male consulting room.

There is 1 community vehicle allocated to the Health Centre. This is a 4WD Troop Carrier and may be used to transport people to appointments in Alice Springs. There is also a THS ambulance for emergency use.

The first choice of evacuation is by air from Titjikala by day. The second option is by road. This entails a half way meeting with Health Centre staff by night and then a half way meeting by Alice Springs Remote Services.

Patient Assisted Travel (PATS) is not available to patients from Titjikala Health Clinic. However, transport to Alice Springs Hospital can usually be provided.

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

At Titjikala, the nurse and AHW's equally share being on call after 4.00pm weekdays and for weekend emergency services.

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

#### Clinic Hours

Monday – Friday

08.00-12.00

13.00-16.00

#### Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's: 1 DMO 1 day in 10
- number of RN's: 1 – Fulltime
- number of Health Workers: 2 – Fulltime

#### Visiting health professionals:

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

#### GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available: There is one 3 bedroom house provided for health centre staff and a flat provided for THS visiting staff. There is also an ATCO with 2 bedrooms that may be used for visitors. Accommodation for visitors should be arranged through the Health Centre 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

### **LOCAL HEALTH PROGRAMS**

- The Women’s Centre provides meals on wheels for elderly people, a laundry service for elderly people and childcare
- Living with Alcohol officers are employed by the Council. The Council also liaises with Central Australian Alcohol and other drugs staff and Relationships
- The Council employs a Sport and Recreation Officer. A new football oval has been developed and a new softball diamond is planned. Sand has been piled over old cars to make a viewing platform. Increasing sport activities and competitions with other communities is being encouraged.
- The school collaborates closely with the community and AHW’s in relations to links between health and education. A history project is planned so that kids learn their own history from the community’s elders.
- Kids get baked beans, bread and fruit every day at school
- The school may re introduce germ warfare program whereby kids have hygiene “tasks” such as cleaning teeth and keep records of practice with discussions of things that stop

them carrying out these practices. Incidences of scabies and lice have decreased substantially in recent years.

- A sports week was held at Titjikala during which many sports events were held, often with visiting experts to provide coaching and encouragements. Displays of lifestyle and health promotion information were also provided during the week.

## RELIGION

Church services available in the community: There is a Lutheran Church in Titjikala that is administered by the Finke River Mission in Alice Springs. The church has 2 ordained pastors living 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].