

Community Profile

Lajamanu



HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY:

In the late 1960's there was a forcible movement of people from Yuendumu due to overcrowding. Despite efforts by the Walpiri people to return to their home further South the Government enforced the move. The town of Lajamanu began as a mission settlement, which was later taken over by the government.

GENERAL:

Name[s] of community

LAJAMANU

Number of Outstations:

11 but few have full time residence. Most are used for hunting and ceremonial/ cultural reasons.

Name or number of clan/groups:

Mostly Walpiri, some Gurundji

Languages spoken:

Walpiri with English usually 3rd or 4th language spoken

Population:

800-1000 but this can be raised to up to 1500 at ceremony times.

- Community -
- Outstations -

Yes

Permit required:

Lajamanu Community Government Council

ACCESS TO COMMUNITY:

Road:

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

565km SW of Katherine. 316km of this is a sealed single tar strip. Extra care needs to be taken on this road due to unfenced stock over the road and road trains on single lane of dirt, leave the tar completely in the face of oncoming road train. 109 km is corrugated dirt road and 4WD is recommended. The road closes for up to 6 weeks at a time during the wet season following heavy rains.

Boat/barge:

N/A

Plane:

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

2 mail planes per week with passenger seating available, stand by flights reduce the cost, to Katherine \$300 per booked seat, \$200 if on notified standby. Fly from A/Springs to Lajamanu then on to Katherine on Mon and Thurs and from Katherine to Lajamanu then on to A/Springs on Tues and Fri. Charters via Air North available with POA, for charter to and from Katherine. Pilot stationed with plane at Lajamanu Janami Air also run charters to and from Lajamanu – POA Air med access, delays of 4-8 hrs are common subject to plane availability and degree of urgency. The strip is an all weather dirt runway with closures occasionally occurring following very heavy rains.

TYPES OF FUEL AVAILABLE:

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

All

Pre paid card system available with fuel open in conjunction with shop times. 8.30am – 5 pm Mon to Fri and 8.30 am- 12pm Sat 1 mechanic employed by Progress Assoc. who will do private work.

ALCOHOL:

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

Dry community with residents able to apply for liquor permits

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SHOPS:

- Shop(s) available: 1 small supermarket and associated takeaway / video outlet (run by Lajamanu Progress Assoc. who also run the local service station)
- Hours of opening: 8.30-5 weekdays, 8.30-12 Sat
- What is for sale (general overview): 5pm-7pm open for bread, milk and videos only
- Fresh fruit/veg/milk/meat available: Range of basic groceries, hardware, clothes, whitegoods
- Limited fresh produce
- Fresh Meat available if visit Kalkarindji meatworks, otherwise frozen meat in store
- Pandium Haulage trucks produce weekly to Lajamanu and bulk orders from Woolworths Katherine can be placed on this (average cost \$20-30 freight)

COMMUNICATIONS: Clinic/Home

- Phone access? Yes
- Is there Internet/e-mail access? Any constraints on use? Internet with e-mail available at clinic and some homes
- Is there a satellite dish? If so, who can access it Yes, on doctors house

LOCAL INDUSTRY/EMPLOYMENT:

- Is there a local industry? None at this time
- List any employment options for spouses of GPs: Shop, school, council offices, tutoring School of The Air students,

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?

Non indigenous students study via School of the Air Katherine, this requires full time tutoring assistance

Local school yrs K-10, but non-indigenous students are discouraged from attending due to bilingual education. No secondary schooling available. Yr 8-12 could be done via NT Open Education Centre but there is no formal supervised environment. Non-indigenous students are discouraged from attending due to bilingual education

There is a police station in the community

POLICE:

RECREATION/SPORTING:

What recreation and sporting opportunities/facilities are there?

Basketball, AFL, swimming in local waterholes, camping and fishing if has a 4WD. Lajamanu Community Govt. Council employ a recreation officer to organise these programs.

MEDICAL:

- Health Service operated by: Katherine West Health Board (KWHB)
- GP employed by: Katherine West Health Board
- Hours of operation/on-call: 8.30- 4.30 weekdays only.

No rostered on call requirement. Never 1st on call however will be required for occasional 2nd on call/ back up in the event of an emergency

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Staffing at the clinic:

- number of GP's:

1

- number of RN's:

Funded for 4

- number of Health Workers:

Funded for 6 positions but numbers fluctuate between 2 and 6

Visiting health professionals:

- type of service (eg dental)

NB: KWHB has its own team of health professionals who visit clinics more frequently than specialists eg: Environmental Health Officers, nutritionists Opthamologist, ENT, physician, paediatrician,

- frequency and duration of visits

gynaecologist, dental team. 6 monthly

GP ACCOMMODATION

- Type of housing available:

3 Bedroom house

- Furnished – yes, no, partially:

Yes

- Are whitegoods supplied, if yes, what:

Fridge, Freezer, microwave

- Other facilities supplied [eg. TV,radio]:

TV, Video

- Linen & bedding

Yes

- Electricity

Paid for by KWHB

- Water

Bore water

- Laundry facilities

Washing machine provided

- Telephone/fax/ email/internet

Phone line present for e-mail/Internet and laptop provided by KWHB for home use, fax provided

- Air-conditioning

Yes

RELIGION

Church services available in the community:

Baptist with Sunday service

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].

Version Number	Date of Issue	Author(s)	Brief Description of Change(s)
1.1	13/09/2010	cm	New template