



Lajamanu

Northern Territory

Lajamanu is located 550km south of west Katherine on the northern edge of the Tanami Desert in the traditional country of the Gurindji people. Population estimates for Lajamanu range from 669 to 1,162 people.

Issues

The community appears to have strong, functioning leadership. The Government Business Manager is working with the Indigenous Engagement Officer to establish a community leadership group to assist and improve engagement with governments and the local Shire. This work will formalise the strong community leadership already present and should assist in community consultations with the Shire.

The need for a new health clinic was identified as a central priority for the community. Katherine West Health Board manages the clinic and has applied for funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The current clinic is run down and is not readily accessed by men as there is no separate entrance. A funding agreement for \$2.6 million is currently being negotiated with the Katherine West Health Board to extend and upgrade the health clinic and construct staff housing at Lajamanu and Yarralin.

The original scoping study in 2008 suggested an investment of \$8 million would be required and there is some concern that a more limited refurbishment will not meet longer term community needs. The Department of Health and Ageing is continuing to work with Katherine West Health Board on this matter.

A swimming pool has been a key priority for the community for some time and the Shire has secured funding to undertake a feasibility study for a pool.

Follow-up

My Office is holding discussions with the Department of Health and Ageing to resolve the budget for, and timing of, the health clinic refurbishment to ensure it meets the needs of the community and is progressing as a priority.

The Government Business Manager is now coordinating the efforts of the community and governments to identify funding sources for the pool, including working with the community to lodge a submission with the Aboriginals Benefit Account before the end of the year. My Office is supporting the efforts to source matching contributions from the Northern Territory Government, the Shire and mining royalties to support the application.



Lajamanu Health Centre

