COMMUNITY PROFILE

Alice Springs

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

The town of Alice Springs extends across the usually dry Todd River on the northern side of the MacDonnell Ranges. Alice Springs is located in Central Australia, also known as the Red Centre. It is an arid environment consisting of several different deserts.

The Arrernte Aboriginal people have made the Central Australian desert, in and around the site of the future Alice Springs, their home for more than 50,000 years. The Aboriginal name for Alice Springs is Mparntwe.

In 1861–62, John McDouall Stuart led an expedition through Central Australia to the west of what later became Alice Springs. The European's settled ten years later and constructed a repeater station on the Overland Telegraph Line, which linked Adelaide to Darwin and Great Britain.

In the 2011 Census, it was estimated the community of Alice Springs had a population of 24,208 people with 19% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Alice Springs has a semi-arid climate and experiences four seasons - summer, autumn, winter and spring. In summer, December to February, the average temperature ranges from 20 to 40 degree celsius. In winter, June to August, the average temperature range is 0 to 20 degree celsius. Spring and autumn experience warm days and cool evenings.

LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Alice Springs is a gazetted township, a permit is not required for entry. However, a permit is required to enter Aboriginal communities in the surrounding regions. The town of Alice Springs has restrictions on takeaway alcohol, the consumption of alcohol is not allowed in public places. Consumption of alcohol is permitted in private and licensed premises.

The Alice Springs Town Council governs the Alice Springs area, which includes the town centre, its suburbs and some rural surrounds. The community has access to a full range of shops including a reasonable sized shopping centre, multiple supermarkets and a range of specialty food and retail shops, including cafes and restaurants. Additional facilities including a hospital, health centres, police, fire and emergency services, child care services, schools, a university, library and banks, As well as a variety of accommodation options. There are also a large number of recreational activities and sports clubs on offer.

Alice Springs provides opportunities to explore historic sites, see the work of local artists in Aboriginal art galleries, join a cultural event or activity, or try one of the many adventure activities on offer in the desert landscape.

The community has access to full telephone and internet services, broadband satellite services (Telstra), 4G mobile coverage and digital television.

If you have any specific questions about this community, please contact us on recruitment@ntphn.org.au or t 08 8982 1000
ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

Alice Springs has a fully equipped teaching hospital and a range of GPs, dentists and other specialised health services. The community has access to both private general practice clinics and Aboriginal community controlled health services.

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) is an Aboriginal community controlled health service in Alice Springs. CAAC provides a comprehensive primary health care service to the Aboriginal community of Alice Springs and to outstations within a 100km radius. CAAC also manage health services in five remote Central Australian communities. CAAC has four clinics located in the town: Congress Medical Clinic, Alukura Clinic (women's health), Ingkinitja Clinic (male health) and Headspace Alice Springs – all of these clinics offer a bulk billing service.

The Congress Medical Clinic is open Monday to Friday, it also provides an after hours emergency clinic seven days per week with limited hours. There are permanent health staff on duty which includes management, administration support, receptionists, doctors, Aboriginal health practitioners, nurses, drivers, and a dentist. The team also includes a podiatrist, family support workers, Aboriginal liaison officers, pharmacists, psychologists and social workers. Clinic staff work with individuals and families from newborns through to the elderly.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE COMMUNITY

Access via Road
By road, Alice Springs is about half way between Darwin and Adelaide, approximately 1497km to the north and 1531km to the south. The Stuart Highway is one of Australia’s major highways and passes through Alice Springs.

Access via Rail
Alice Springs airport is a modern, fully air-conditioned terminal located 15km south of Alice Springs. There are four main airlines flying in and out of the airport; Qantas, Alliance, Virgin and Chartair, with daily flights to most major Australian capital cities. The average flight time from Alice Springs to Darwin is 2 hours.

Access via Air
The Ghan train travels between Adelaide, Alice Springs, Katherine and Darwin, once per week.