



**phn**  
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
An Australian Government Initiative

RURAL  
**Workforce**  
AGENCY NT

NORTHERN TERRITORY PHN  
**GET TO KNOW US**



## Our vision

People in the Northern Territory enjoy their best health and wellbeing

## Our purpose

Build local partnerships and direct resources towards an integrated, high quality primary health care system

## Our goals

- To empower people to take control of their own health and wellbeing
- Address health equity by identifying those with the greatest health needs and improving access to primary health care
- Enable providers to deliver quality primary health care
- Lead primary health care system integration through effective partnerships.

## Who we are

Northern Territory Primary Health Network (PHN) is a not-for-profit independent organisation funded by the Australian Government to commission services to meet local health needs and priorities.

Primary health care is generally the first contact a person has with Australia's health system and relates to the treatment of patients who are not admitted to hospital. It is recognised as the most effective way to keep communities and individuals healthy and well.

We identify where there are areas of need, such as a lack of health care services, difficulty in accessing these services, or regions with particularly high health needs, and commission services to address these needs.

We have a strong and established relationship with primary health care providers in the region, in particular, general practices, allied health professionals and Aboriginal community controlled health services, and we collaborate to present new ideas, encourage and support new ways of working, and embed change.

Our head office is in Darwin, with three regional offices in Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy.

We are unique among PHNs in that we are also the NT's Rural Workforce Agency. As the Rural Workforce Agency NT, we support the recruitment, development and retention of a professional primary health care workforce across the NT.



## Our region

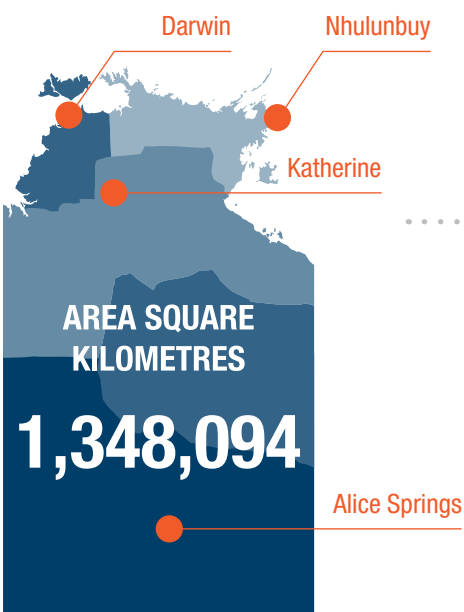
From the deserts of Central Australia to the bright tropical surroundings of the Arafura Sea, and all that is in between, we serve the whole of the Northern Territory. Our region is home to over 247,000 people and covers an area of approximately 1.3 million km<sup>2</sup>.

### ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION



# 247,491

### POPULATION GROWTH



### POPULATION



**52%** **48%**

### ABORIGINAL POPULATION



# 74,546

WHICH IS 30% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION



**6.9%**  
OF THE  
POPULATION  
IS AGED 65+



**19.9%**  
OF THE  
POPULATION  
IS BORN  
OVERSEAS

● Office locations



## Why our work is important

A strong, accessible primary health care system underpins good population health outcomes and delivers cost-effective care.

People living in the NT experience a disproportionately high burden of disease across a range of conditions, including cancer, mental illness and substance abuse.

About a third of the NT's population is Aboriginal, compared to three per cent nationally. On all indicators – health status, quality of life and social and emotional wellbeing – Aboriginal people report more significant health issues than non-Aboriginal people in the NT.

Social and cultural determinants such as housing, education and employment play a significant role in shaping the health of individuals and the wider community. Engaging with key partners and communities in addressing these social determinants of health is essential.

Our ongoing role is to provide support to general practice and other primary health providers, helping health professionals to provide better outcomes for patients, and the community to understand the health system and access the right health services for their needs.

An example of this is NT HealthPathways, an online manual used by NT clinicians to help make assessment, management, and specialist request decisions for over 550 conditions.

THE ESTIMATED GAP IN LIFE EXPECTANCY BETWEEN ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS WAS **10.6 YEARS FOR MEN**



AND



**9.5 YEARS FOR WOMEN NATIONALLY (2010–12).**

IN THE NT, THE GAP IS **14.4 YEARS FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.**





## Our key priorities

There are 31 Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across Australia, and we are guided by seven national priority health areas from the Australian Government. These key priorities are:

- mental health
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health
- population health
- digital health
- health workforce
- aged care
- alcohol and other drugs.

## What we do

Our experienced staff work together with health care providers to make a positive difference in our community.

We undertake a range of activities to better co-ordinate the primary health sector in the Northern Territory, such as services provided by GPs and allied health practitioners, chronic disease management, aged care, mental health, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

We work closely with GPs, allied health care providers, hospitals, and the broader community to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care to ensure Territorians receive the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

We do not provide services directly to people – we engage with stakeholders and regional communities to commission services to deliver primary health care. We work to improve people's experience and journey of care.

## Our governance

We have a commitment to strong, effective governance. We are a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee, registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission.

We are a membership-based organisation governed by a constitution and a skills-based Board of Directors.

Our Company Members are:

- Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT)
- Northern Territory Government Department of Health
- Health Providers Alliance Northern Territory.

Our independent, skills-based Board reflects the breadth of the NT's health sector, and includes Directors with a diverse range of skills, backgrounds and professions.

Our constitution reserves at least three Director positions for people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.



## How we deliver funding

Commissioning is a process to enable the procurement and coordination of health services. It helps ensure resources are best directed to meet the health service needs of the communities in our region, particularly those at highest risk of poor health outcomes.

To establish those needs, we collaborate with local service providers, consumers and health care providers to analyse and then report on the health status and needs of our region to deliver health needs assessments.

Our high-quality, evidence-based commissioning framework underpins the organisation's core capabilities and structure. It ensures we:

- conduct a whole of region needs assessment to determine the health needs of our area
- design effective, efficient services to meet prioritised health needs
- empower communities and partners to co-design services and solutions
- consider the most appropriate delivery method (e.g. purchase, partner, or coordinate).

Stay connected on funding opportunities by registering at [www.tenderlink.com/ntphn](http://www.tenderlink.com/ntphn)





## Rural Workforce Agency NT

NT PHN is the only PHN in Australia to have incorporated a Rural Workforce Agency (RWA).

RWA NT is responsible for ensuring that the NT population has access to a quality and sustainable primary health care workforce through recruitment, retention, education, future workforce development and system design.

Working in the NT offers a rewarding and unique experience and our focus is to attract, recruit, support, develop and retain the NT health workforce, with a focus on rural and remote health.

Health professionals may be eligible to receive education, training, relocation support grants and various opportunities for professional development.

## Compass

The Compass Teaching and Learning Conference is NT PHN and Rural Workforce Agency NT's premier professional development and networking event for people working in primary health care.

Each year, we welcome more than 400 delegates to the annual event in Darwin, when we also host the prestigious NT Health Professional of the Year Awards.

## Our values

- Relationships
- Equity
- Responsiveness
- Innovation
- Results.

Follow us for updates



Northern Territory PHN acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the country on which we work and live and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and to their cultures.



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**Darwin**

23 Albatross Street  
Winnellie, NT 0820

**Alice Springs**

Remote Health Precinct  
5 Skinner Street  
Alice Springs, NT 0870

**Katherine**

11/25 First Street  
Pandanus Plaza  
Katherine, NT 0850

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