

# Outreach Health Services Funding Methodology For Equitable Distribution Across Regions

## RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

At the meeting of the Northern Territory PHN's (NT PHN) Comprehensive Primary Health Care Advisory Group (CPHCAG) on 16 July, the group agreed to a resource distribution model based on illness, population, remoteness and community size. This model has been validated by the Principal Health Economist from the Northern Territory Government Department of Health.

Total resident clinic population, diabetes and coronary heart disease data was obtained directly from clinics.

### Methodology

#### Illness Population

The denominator for coronary heart disease and diabetes was sourced from AH KPI 1.7 at the clinic level. The total number of clients with either disease is the illness population for each community.

#### Accessibility Rank (Travel Cost) by Community

This element takes into account both geography (distance) and transport options (road type, scheduled flight or charter flight) to calculate an indicative cost for providing outreach services to each community. The cost categories are as follows:

##### *Driving*

Road travel costs are calculated based on the road type, travel time and distance.

##### *Flight*

For communities which require air travel, actual costs taken from recent activity have been calculated as follows:

- Regular public transport flight costs are for one person
- Charter costs are divided by three (assume three people per charter)
- Assumes travel time of two hours or less
- Where more than one community is usually serviced by a flight, the cost has been split between the relevant communities

The cost for each community is then divided by the minimum allocated driving cost to achieve a comparative ratio. These figures are then further divided by a constant number to bring the travel cost ranking scores within the range of 1-6.

#### Assumptions:

- Services provided to Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy will be from Darwin or Alice Springs.

- When a service provider is in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy they will service multiple communities in this region thus reducing the need to travel again from Darwin or Alice Springs.

### Community Size Rank

The population of each community according to the AHKPI 1.1 Resident population was used to rank the communities as follows:

Population of community	Rank
>1000:	1
800 – 1000:	2
600 – 800:	3
400 – 600:	4
200 – 400:	5
<200:	6

Note: Aboriginal **only** population was used for Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Batchelor and Jabiru

### Community Score

The community size rank and the travel cost rank for each community were added together to give a total weight. This was then multiplied by the illness population.

### Final Weighting (Health Service Region)

The total weight score for the region was calculated as the sum of the community scores of all communities within each region