This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Top End West Region of the Northern Territory.

The information has been compiled though a number of text and internet resources, and consultations with members of the local communities.

The first version of this Community Profile was prepared for RAHC by The Echidna Group and we acknowledge and thank Dr Terri Farrelly and Ms Bronwyn Lumby for their contribution.

Other sources include:

www.victoriadaly.nt.gov.au/

RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Top End West Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

*Please note: The information provided in this community profile is correct, to the best of RAHC's knowledge, at the time of printing. This community profile will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: enquiries@rahc.com.au or call 1300 MYRAHC.
This map of the Northern Territory, divided into regions, has been adapted from the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

The depicted areas are for the purpose of the Remote Area Health Corps Community Profiles alone, and do not represent any Aboriginal language group, land or cultural group boundaries.
Top End West Area Profile

This map of the Darwin area has been taken from the map of the Northern Territory, adapted from the OATSIH Program Management & Implementation Section (2008) Map of the Northern Territory.

Languages in the Region

The below languages are present in the East-Arnhem region. However it should be noted that as a result of colonisation, the growth of towns, and the transient nature of some Aboriginal peoples, there may be many different Aboriginal languages evident in a given area.

Larrakia
Kriol

Kriol is the contact language now spoken as a first language by most Aboriginal people across the region. Kriol is spoken in the Barkly and further north, but not generally far south of Tennant Creek.

Aboriginal Interpreter Service
www.dlghs.nt.gov.au/ais
NT Dept of Local Govt & Housing
Central booking service 08 8999 8353

The AIS Provides 24 hours 7 days a week central booking service.

*The population figures refer to the number of Aboriginal peoples living in the community, and are estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Resource Centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wadeye</td>
<td>2200</td>
<td>Victoria-Daly Shire Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nganmarriyang</td>
<td>430</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppimenarti</td>
<td>230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daly River (Nauiyu)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Pine Creek Aboriginal Progress Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Daly River

History
Prior to European settlement, the Daly River was traditionally a meeting place for Aboriginal people where they traded and held ceremonies. The traditional owners of the area are the Malak Malak people who live both in Nauiyu and at Wooliana downstream from the Daly River community.

The Daly River area was discovered by Europeans in 1865. The discoverer was Boyle Finniss, the first Premier of South Australia and Government Resident in the Northern Territory. Finniss named the river after Sir Dominick Daly, the Governor of South Australia, (since the Northern Territory was at that time part of South Australia) however the region lay largely untouched by Europeans until 1882 when copper was discovered.

Daly River town was the scene of some particularly bloody exchanges between the local Aborigines and the miners. In 1884 three miners were killed. The miners in the town wreaked vengeance on the local Aborigines out of proportion to the perceived crime. A year later, probably aware of the tensions in the area, the Roman Catholic Church (Jesuits) established a mission in the town. As a result, 75% percent of today’s population and the school are Roman Catholic.

Copper was shipped out of the area for processing until 1908 when the Northern Territory administration established a copper smelting works at Daly but it was short lived. Through the twentieth century there were a number of attempts to settle the town without any success. In 1911 the Commonwealth Government tried to convince people to move to the town. By the 1920’s there were plans for crops of peanuts and tobacco which came to nothing. Cashews and sugar cane were also planted unsuccessfully. In 1967 the Tipperary Land Corporation cleared large tracts of land around the settlement and started growing sorghum however the operation was closed down in 1973. Plans for further agricultural expansion along the Daly River are today being measured against environmental concerns.

Governance
The Victoria Daly Shire Council. Head office is in Katherine. Phone: (08) 8971 0856

Access
The Daly River township is located on the banks of the Daly River a couple of kilometres from the Daly River Crossing. Access is by 77 km of bitumen road from the turnoff on the Stuart Highway.
Infrastructure and Community Life
There is a school in Daly River. St Francis School is available to children of all ages, but most children attend St Johns or Kormilda Colleges in Darwin. Store supplies are freighted into the region. During the wet season Daly River can be cut off by flooding for several weeks meaning supplies must be flown in or, more usually, brought by boat.

The Daly River region encompasses many unique ecosystems, including the hot springs and gorges. It is a popular fishing and camping area renowned for its plentiful supply of barramundi. The climate is typical of northern Australia with contrasting wet and dry seasons, with regional flooding common during the wet. Daly River is a small town with a pub, a few motel units, a police station and a caravan park. It is located on the banks of the Daly River a couple of kilometers from the Daly River Crossing. The road is sealed from the main tourist route - the Stuart Highway - to the town. The settlement is a centre for visitors to explore the Daly River Nature Park. The park is home to saltwater crocodiles, reptiles, spiders, cockatoos, wild pigs, feral Water Buffalo, mangroves, giant bamboos, pandanus and Kapok trees.

The Daly River is famed for its large barramundi and is one of the more popular waterways for recreational fishing. It hosts two major fishing competitions annually, the “Barra Classic” and the “Barra Nationals”. The best barramundi fishing is generally just after the wet season when the flooded river is falling fast and clear water is pouring in off the floodplains. The floodwater carries baitfish which in turn attracts predatory barramundi. The state of the river is keenly discussed by fishermen each season.

On the road 5 km east of Daly River is a turnoff to Woolianna, a camping and caravan park on the banks of the river. Just before entering the town there is a turnoff to the Nauiyu Aboriginal Community, home to the Roman Catholic Mission and Merrepen Arts Centre where Aboriginal artifacts are sold. The Merrepen Arts Centre sells Aboriginal art and craft made by the local Aboriginal people and occasionally visitors can see the artists at work.

Just east of the Daly River is the area known as the Douglas Daly. It is home to the popular Douglas Hot Springs. In certain parts, the springs bubble at temperatures reaching 60 degrees Celsius and swimming is recommended in cooler pools downstream. There are plenty of camping and caravan facilities in the region, including the Douglas Daly Tourist Park where you can swim through ‘The Arches’, an amazing natural formation, into a waterhole that’s safe for swimming.

Butterfly Gorge Nature Park is another popular attraction and can be reached 17 kilometres past the Douglas Hot Springs turn-off and the last few kilometres are suitable for four-wheel-drives only. The Gorge attracts thousands of butterflies seeking shelter in the crevices of its sheer rock faces.

Health Centre
The Nauiyu Community Health Centre is located at Daly River. Phone: 08 89782435 or 08 89782435

There are 2 RNs and health workers and a GP visits once a week.

Accommodation/Vehicles
The housing provided is well equipped with cooking and communication facilities. There is a telephone in the house. Internet is available at the clinic. The health centre vehicles are provided for official use only. If you have any special dietary requirements it is best to bring these goods with you.

Keeping the Peace
The Daly River Police Station. Phone: (08) 8978 2466
Getting Advice

The following organisations and contact numbers may be useful in locating sources of advice about Daly River. Care has been taken to ensure these details are correct, however unfortunately some may change or be unattended.

Peppimenarti Community Council
Via Daly River Daly NT 0822
Ph: 08 8978 2377

Peppimenarti Community Health Clinic
Via Daly River Daly NT 0822
Ph: 08 8978 2369

Victoria Daly Shire Council
GPO Box 4246 Darwin NT 0801
Ph: 1300 658 547