

Darwin Region

RAHC  
REMOTE AREA HEALTH CORPS



# *Community Profile*

Darwin

1st edition  
March 2010

This Community Profile provides you with information specific to the Darwin Region of the Northern Territory.

The information has been compiled through 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.daniladilba.org.au](http://www.daniladilba.org.au)

[www.ntgpe.org/communityprofiles/darwin/daniladilba.html](http://www.ntgpe.org/communityprofiles/darwin/daniladilba.html)

<http://en.travelnt.com/explore/darwin>

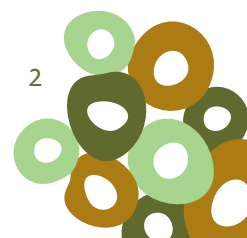
RAHC would also like to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Aboriginal people of the Darwin Region who have so generously shared aspects of their culture and communities for use in this Profile.

\*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.

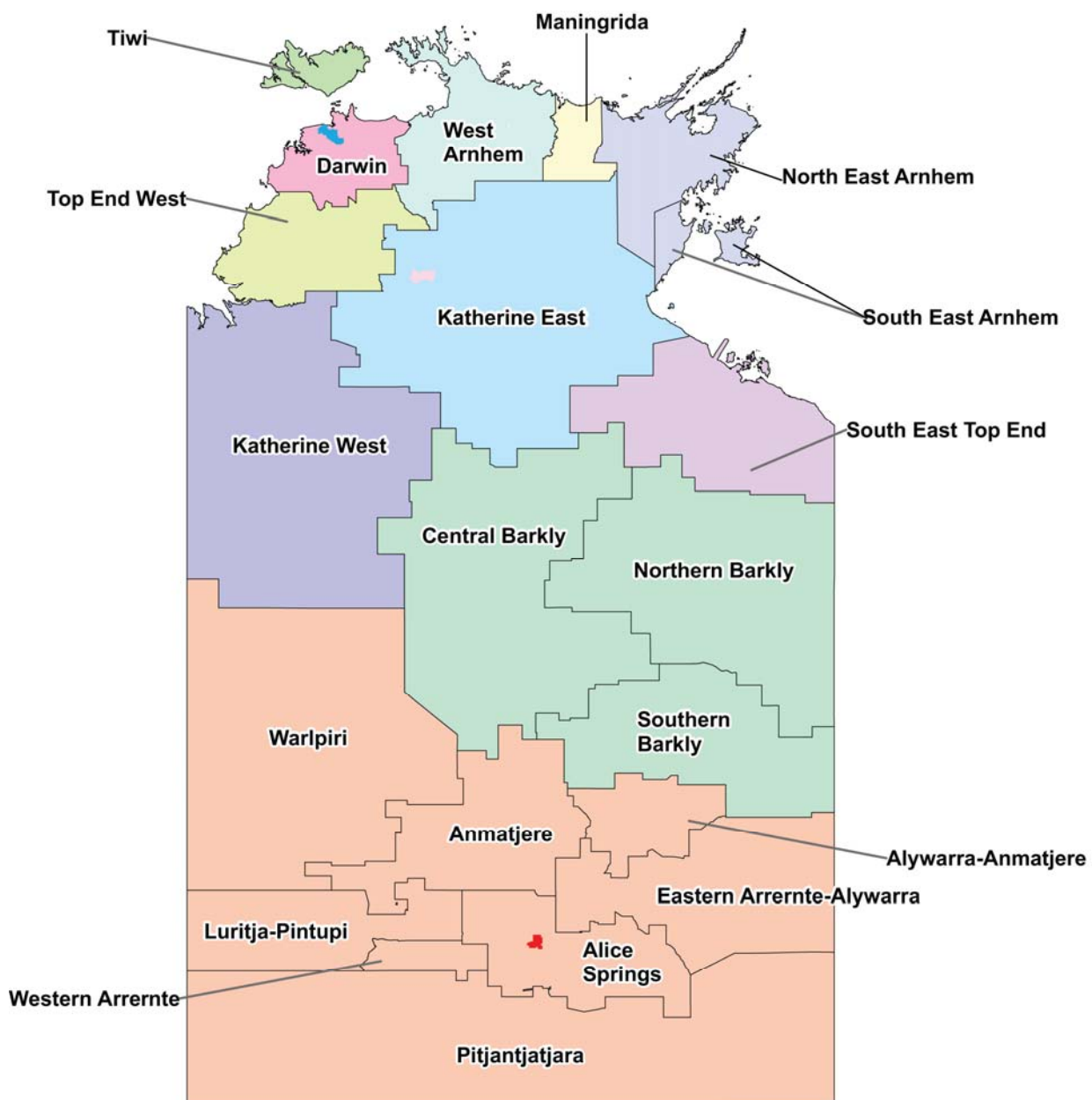
If you have any further information about this community that would be useful to add to this profile please contact RAHC via: [enquiries@rahc.com.au](mailto:enquiries@rahc.com.au) or call 1300 MYRAHC.

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# The Northern Territory

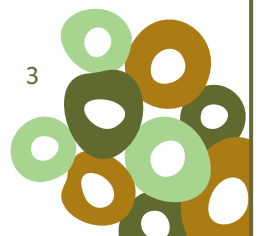


## Legend

<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:red; border:1px solid black;"></span> Alice Springs Urban	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Katherine East
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span> Barkly	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:pink; border:1px solid black;"></span> Katherine Urban
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightpurple; border:1px solid black;"></span> Borroloola Area	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:mediumslateblue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Katherine West
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span> Central Australia	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> Maningrida
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightcoral; border:1px solid black;"></span> Darwin Rural	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgreen; border:1px solid black;"></span> Tiwi
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:blue; border:1px solid black;"></span> Darwin Urban	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightyellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> Top End West
<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span> East Arnhem	<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightblue; border:1px solid black;"></span> West Arnhem

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.



# Darwin 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.



Major Communities		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Darwin	Approx. 7000	Darwin City Council

Town Camps		
Name	Population	Resource Centre
Kulaluk		Gwalwa Daraniki Association Incorporated
Minmarama Park		
Bagot	300	Bagot Community Incorporated
Railway Dam		Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation
Knuckey Lagoon Indigenous Village		
Palmerston Indigenous Village		

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

It should be noted that in many Aboriginal communities, population figures can fluctuate dramatically, due to a number of factors including seasonal changes (wet and dry seasons), and ceremonial activity. Communities can also known by several names – this may include the European name given to it after colonisation, and several Aboriginal names.

## Languages in the Region

The below languages have been noted to be present in this 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.

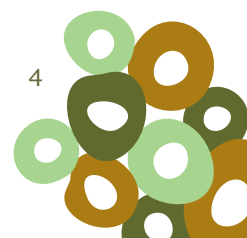
### Aboriginal Interpreter Service

[www.dlghs.nt.gov.au/ais](http://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.



# Darwin

## History

Darwin was founded in 1869 and was originally called Palmerston before being renamed Port Darwin in 1911. The harbour was discovered in 1839 by the Captain of the Beagle, John Lort Stokes, who named it after a former shipmate, British evolutionist Charles Darwin.

The town's growth was accelerated when gold was discovered at Pine Creek, 200 km south, in 1871.

Darwin was the scene of the first enemy attack on Australian soil during WWII. At 0958 hours on 19 February 1942, a strike force of 188 carrier-borne Japanese aircraft dropped the first bombs on Darwin, killing 243 people, including 49 civilians, and wounding 300-400. That first air raid destroyed many public buildings, including the post office (where 9 people perished after a direct hit on the bomb shelter). Eight allied ships were sunk in Darwin Harbour and 24 allied aircraft were destroyed. A second enemy air raid at noon that day targetted the Darwin RAAF base. Between February 1942 and October 1943, the Japanese launched more than 60 air raids over Darwin.

Darwin was also the scene of the biggest airlift in Australian history after Cyclone Tracy devastated the city in the early hours of Christmas Day 1974. Cyclone Tracy killed 66 people and injured thousands more. Many of those who died or were injured were struck by flying debris. Others perished in ships sunk in the harbour.

Darwin is the Northern Territory's capital city on the shores of a harbour 7 times the area size of Sydney Harbour. Darwin is a vibrant city also acclaimed for its relaxed, contemporary lifestyle and personality.

Darwin's colourful history and proximity to South East Asia has made it one of Australia's most culturally diverse cities. Today, more than 50 nationalities make up its population, including the area's traditional landowners, the Larakia Aboriginal people.

Darwin's has a current population of over 73,000 with an Indigenous population of around 7,000.

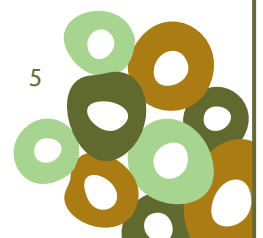
## Climate

Darwin's weather is perfect from May to September. The days are mild and the nights are balmy and cool. This is the Dry Season, when the days are characterised by gentle southeast trade winds and blue skies are the norm. During the Dry the early morning humidity is commonly around 65%, dropping to about 40% in the afternoon.

The coolest months of the year are June and July, when the daily temperature range is 19 to 30 degrees, The hottest months are October and November when daily temperatures are between 25 and 33 degrees. Being a monsoonal climate there is a distinctive Wet Season period, with most rain falling between December and March. There can be high intensity storms at this time, often providing spectacular lightning displays.

## Accommodation

RAHC provides health professionals working in Darwin accommodation in a modern self contained fully furnished apartment in the city.



## Indigenous Health Services in the Darwin Region

### Danila Dilba Health Service

Danila Dilba Biluru Butji Binnilutlum Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation, commonly known as Danila Dilba Health Service or just Danila Dilba, was established in 1991 and has its roots in the Darwin Aboriginal community. The community includes people living in the suburbs of Darwin and Palmerston, the Aboriginal town camps of Kulaluk, Minmarama Park, One Mile Dam, Knuckey's Lagoon and Fifteen Mile and homeless Aboriginal people living in temporary camps around Darwin.

The full name of the Medical Service, was given by Larrakia people, who are the traditional owners of Darwin. In their language, danila dilba is the dilly bag used to collect bush medicines and biluru butji binnilutlum means Aboriginal people getting better from sickness. The first clinic, was opened in 1991. Since 1992, Danila Dilba has been located at 32-34 Knuckey Street in Darwin City.

Danila Dilba Health Service is a community-managed organisation providing comprehensive primary health care services to Biluru communities in the Yilli Rreung Region of the Northern Territory. Danila Dilba is an all Biluru Governing Committee, whose members are chosen by the community, governs the organisation.

Danila Dilba Health Service provides a range of free comprehensive primary health care services to the Aboriginal community of the Yilli Rreung area. These services are coordinated from our Darwin, Palmerston and Mens clinics as well as the ESWB Centre and Youth Service.

Danila Dilba Health Service Primary Health Care services are funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, NT Government and FaHCSIA.

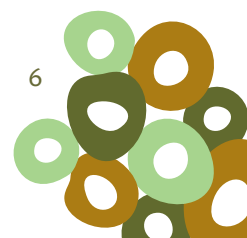
RAHC has placed a number of general practitioners with the Danila Dilba Health Service. The following information may be of use to GPs:

- GPs do not need to bring any equipment as the consult rooms and pharmacy are fully stocked with everything they could need.
- GP's are always allocated a nurse (RN) and Aboriginal health worker (AHW) during their sessions so they have the cultural & clinical support in the new environment.
- There is an emergency room set up with good facilities.
- They do use an appointment system that actually works.
- They offer GPs use of their vehicles over weekends when available
- No on-call & no weekend work .
- They also use GP Management plans and Team Care Arrangements.

For further information on this health service visit: [www.daniladilba.org.au](http://www.daniladilba.org.au)

### Other Health Services in the Darwin Region:

- Bagot Community Health Centre
- Batchelor Health Centre
- Bayside Clinic
- Casuarina Village Medical Centre
- Cavenagh Medical centre
- Freds Pass Medical Centre
- Howard Springs Medical Centre
- Moil Medical Centre
- Nightcliff Medical Centre
- Northlakes Medical Centre
- Oasis Medical Centre
- Royal Darwin Hospital
- Stuart Park Surgery



## Getting Advice

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

Aboriginal Resource & Development Services Inc  
374 Stuart Hwy  
Winnellie NT 0820  
Ph: 08 8984 4192

Bagot Community Incorporated  
Bagot Rd Ludmilla NT 0820  
Ph: 08 8948 2222

Danila Dilba Biluru Butji Binnilutlum Health Service  
32-34 Knuckey St Darwin NT  
Ph: 08 8942 5444

Darwin Aboriginal Islander Women's Shelter  
Ph: 08 8945 2284

Darwin City Council  
Ph: 08 89300300

Djabulukgu Association Incorporated  
Unit 7/1 Pavonia Place Nightcliff NT 0810  
Ph: 08 8985 3913

Emotional & Social Wellbeing – Danila Dilba  
Unit 1/3 Malak Place Malak NT  
Ph: 08 8927 9335  
*Also includes 'Dare to Dream'*

Gumilebyirra Women's Clinic  
32-24 Knuckey St Darwin NT  
Ph: 08 8942 5444  
*Service provided by Danila Dilba*

Larrakia Development Corporation  
U3/41 Sadgroves Crs Winnellie 0820  
Ph: 08 8947 3455

Larrakia Nation Aboriginal Corporation  
76 Dick Ward Drv Coconut Grove NT 0822  
Ph: 08 8948 3733

Karu Aboriginal Family Support Agency Incorporated  
Shop 1-3 16 Malak Cres Malak NT 0822  
Ph: 08 8920 6555

Men's Clinic – Danila Dilba  
42 McLachlan St Darwin NT  
Ph: 08 8942 2186

Northern Land Council  
45 Mitchell St Darwin NT 0801  
Ph: 08 8920 5100

Palmerston Clinic – Danila Dilba  
5/6 Woodlake Boulevard Durack NT  
Ph: 08 8931 1510

Sexual Health – Danila Dilba  
1/5 Bishop St Winnellie NT  
Ph: 08 8942 3144

Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation  
94 Boulter Rd Berrimah NT 0829  
Ph: 1300 726 820

