



## WORKING IN THE **Ngaanyatjarra Lands**

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Lifestyle**

#### **Is there anywhere to socialise, anyone to socialise with?**

This depends on the community and the size of the community. There is the opportunity to socialise with other Ngaanyatjarra Health Service staff as well as community, teaching and police staff. Once you get to know people there may also be the opportunity to get to know the Traditional Owners and to spend time with them in a social situation.

#### **Can I take charter flights?**

Yes, you can take charter flights although you will have to pay for them if they are not work related.

#### **Are there tourist or recreational opportunities?**

Yes, many of the communities are located in beautiful country. There are numerous sites worth visiting. It is important to note that travel on the Lands requires a permit. You should always follow safety procedures like letting people know where you are going, when you will be back and what to do if you do not return in time. Take plenty of water and other safety equipment. Some areas may be 'no go' or 'off limits' for cultural reasons. It is wise to check with the community before venturing off.

#### **What should I carry with me every day (sunscreen, snacks, water, wipes)?**

You should take sunscreen, water, hat and other items you are likely to need. At times during the year, it is worth taking a fly net as well.

#### **How do I separate work and professional life?**

There are numerous ways to relax both in your home and in the local environment. Meeting other staff working in the community may open up social opportunities, while bush walking and exercise can be good ways to separate work and professional life.

#### **Are de facto relationships okay for non-Indigenous people?**

Yes, de facto relationships are okay for non-Indigenous people.

#### **Can I wear my jewellery?**

Yes, you can wear your jewellery although it is not recommended. It is rare for local people to wear jewellery. Wearing jewellery can also be a safety risk as it can hook up on equipment or doors. In May 2016, a traveller was treated at Warakurna clinic for de-gloving caused by a ring hooking to a vehicle.

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## Lifestyle

### Is there support if I find life there too confronting?

Yes, there are a number of supports including peer support, the Employee Assistance Scheme (which includes counselling) and a 24-hour bush support line through the Council of Remote Area Nurses of Australia (CRANApus).

### What are the options if I am not accepted by the community?

There are not really any options. The community has the final say on who works on the Lands and can revoke permits to work there if they do not accept someone. It is important to note that this is a very rare situation.

### How do I get out in an emergency?

You could be evacuated by a charter plane on a Tuesday or a Friday or be driven to Uluru and flown out by a commercial aircraft. In a medical emergency, you could also be flown out by the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

### What religions and churches are there?

Some communities (Warburton, Warakurna, Blackstone and Jameson) have Christian churches in the community.

### Is hunting permitted?

Hunting is not normally permitted on the lands.

### Can you stay in the community/town during your break?

Yes, you can stay but it is not normally recommended because your accommodation may be required for other staff. It is also beneficial to get a break away from the community. Availability allowance is not paid if you do not leave the Lands during your break.

### Can I go somewhere other than my base location during my break?

Yes.

### Can I leave my belongings there during my break?

Yes, but you will need to put them away in storage as your accommodation may be used by relief staff.

### Is there a car I can use when travelling out of the community?

Not normally although it depends on the role. When a vehicle is provided as a condition of employment, it cannot be taken off road.

The logo for Rural Health West features the words 'RURAL', 'HEALTH', and 'WEST' stacked vertically. 'RURAL' is in white text on an orange rectangular background. 'HEALTH' is in white text on a red rectangular background. 'WEST' is in white text on a purple rectangular background that has a white arrow pointing to the right at its bottom right corner.

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