

## Aputula Central

### Community Profile

**Pronunciation:** Ap-put-choo-la

**Alternate name:** Finke

**Location:** Southeast of Alice Springs

**NT Region:** Central

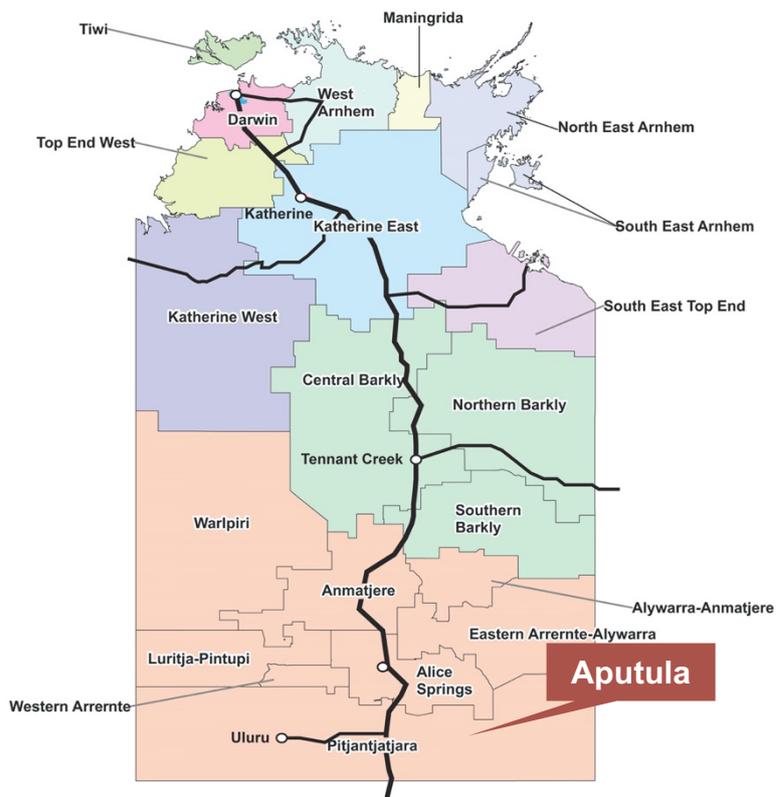
**Population:** Approx. 248 residents

**Access:** Road and air

**Language groups:** Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara, Southern Luritja and Arrente

**Phone:** 4G Telstra

**Internet:** Only personal use of internet in the accommodation



### Climate (Top End)

Season	Description	Temp. Range
<b>Winter (June to August)</b>	<b>Cooler and dry</b>	<b>6°C to 19°C</b>
The temperature can drop below 0°C overnight in winter. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 20% – 50%.	Fine weather with minimal rain and the possibility of getting quite cold by Territory standards during June/July.	
<b>Summer (December to February)</b>	<b>Hot and humid</b>	<b>25°C to 38°C</b>
The temperature can rise above 40°C during the day in summer. Please ensure you are equipped for these extremes. Humidity Range 30% – 95%.	The build-up occurs from September with building humidity, intermittent lightning storms and downpours. Rains typically arrive December/January with regular heavy downpours and the possibility of cyclones.	

## Infrastructure, facilities and services

### Community

**Church:** Yes  
**Community halls or sheds:** Yes  
**Workforce skills or training facilities:** Yes  
**School:** Yes  
**Library:** No  
**Council Office:** No  
**Women's Centre:** No  
**Childcare Centre:** Yes  
**Aged Care Centre:** Yes  
**Community Safety:** Yes, Community Care Program.  
**Banking:** Yes  
**Recreational/other facilities:** Aputula has a sports recreation hall for activities including football. The Finke Desert Race is held annually in June, the race features bikes, cars and buggies competing over many kilometres of red sandy roads and is reputed to be one of the world's most difficult races in one of the most remote areas of the world.

---

### Community store

#### Aputula Store

**Telephone** (08) 8956 0968

Fresh fruit and vegetables are available although prices are higher due to transportation. Frozen meat and household goods are also often available. It is advisable to bring in as much fresh produce as possible, and any speciality products/items required.

The Aputula Store sells takeaway food, including salads, sandwiches and some fried foods.

<b>Opening hours</b>	Monday – Friday	9:00am – 12:00pm 2:00pm – 4:00pm
	Saturday	9:00am – 12:00pm
	Sunday	CLOSED

---

### Other food outlets

N/A

---

### Food orders

#### Woolworths Alice Springs

**Telephone** (08) 8958 6575  
**Web** [www.woolworths.com.au](http://www.woolworths.com.au)

#### Coles Alice Springs

**Telephone** (08) 8952 4575  
**Web** [www.coles.com.au](http://www.coles.com.au)

#### Northern Territory Freight Services (NTFS)

**Telephone** (08) 8952 6422  
**Web** [www.ksgroup.com.au/ntfs](http://www.ksgroup.com.au/ntfs)  
**Email** [operations@stanes.com.au](mailto:operations@stanes.com.au)

Food orders can be made through Coles or Woolworths Alice Springs. Online orders require a minimum of five days before the delivery date and require the remote address to be established. The online drop-down must be selected for the freight carrier. Payment for groceries and freight services must be made before groceries are accepted for transport. Please contact supermarkets and freight service for full terms, conditions and schedules.

---

### Commercial accommodation

#### Accommodation.

**Telephone** (08) 8956 0968

Contact the regional council for community accommodation inquiries.

**Kulgera Roadhouse****Telephone** (08) 8956 0973

Kulgera Roadhouse features an outdoor swimming pool, garden, restaurant and bar. It is located approximately 147km east of Aputula.

<b>Fuel</b>	<b>Aputula Store</b>		
	43 Lapadum street Aputula NT 0872. Opal and diesel fuel are available.		
<b>Police station</b>	<b>Finke Police Station</b> (unmanned)	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0961	
	<b>Kulgera Police Station</b> (Aputula is serviced by Kulgera police)	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0974	
<b>Community Safety</b>	Yes		
<b>Other police contract</b>	Police assistance line	<b>Telephone</b> 131 444	
<b>Telephone/internet/mail</b>			
<b>Mobile phone<sup>1</sup>/phone</b>	4G Telstra		
<b>Internet</b>	Limited use of the internet is available in the clinic.		
<b>Mail</b>	Mail can be lodged via the Heath Centre. Please check with staff.		
<b>Access</b>			
<b>Road</b>	From Alice Springs, travel approximately 270km on the Stuart Highway, at the Kulgera Roadhouse turn left onto Finke Road and drive approximately 147km to Aputula. You will travel on sealed and unsealed roads. It is recommended to allow a five-hour drive time.		
<b>Air</b>	There is a sealed airstrip located approximately 1.2km from community.		
<b>Regular passenger transport</b>	<b>Centre Bush Bus</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8953 0127	<b>Web</b> <a href="mailto:reservations@centrebushbus.com.au">reservations@centrebushbus.com.au</a>
	The Centre Bush Bus provides regular passenger transport services to Aputula (Finke) twice weekly, freight services are also available. Please contact Centre Bush Bus for further information.		
<b>Health centre</b>			
<b>Health service<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Aputula (Finke) Health Centre</b>	<b>Telephone</b> (08) 8956 0961	<b>Email</b> <a href="mailto:aputula.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au">aputula.clinicmgr@nt.gov.au</a>
		<b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.health.nt.gov.au">www.health.nt.gov.au</a>	
	<b>Operating hours</b>	Monday – Friday	8:00am – 5:00pm
		Saturday – Sunday	CLOSED
	<b>Facilities</b>	One emergency room and three consulting rooms.	
<b>On-call services</b>	Yes, 24/7 on-call service.		

<sup>1</sup> Telstra 3G/Next G are typically the only mobile services that work in more remote parts of the Northern Territory. See link – <http://telstra.com.au/mobile-phones/coverage-networks/our-coverage/>

<sup>2</sup> For more detailed description of the health centre and their services, please contact the Health Service directly.

<b>Medical Records System<sup>3</sup></b>	PCIS
<b>Vehicles</b>	The health centre maintains a Toyota Troop Carrier that has been converted for use as an ambulance. <b>**Note: All Troop Carriers are 4WD, manual and take DIESEL fuel.</b>
<b>GPs</b>	There is a visiting GP service.
<b>Visiting services</b>	Podiatry, physiology (exercise), women's health, dental and mental health services.
<b>Acute care</b>	Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS)
<b>Other</b>	Birthing women birth in Alice Springs.
<b>Alcohol</b>	
<b>Alcohol<sup>4</sup></b>	This community is a dry community, no alcohol is permitted. This applies to everyone, including visitors.
<b>Governance</b>	
<b>Local Government</b>	Local Council is the MacDonnell Regional Council. Land Council is the Central Lands Council CLC.
<b>Outstations</b>	N/A.
<b>Other tips and relevant information</b>	
<b>Other tips/relevant information</b>	Be prepared for the variable standard of accommodation in communities. A sleeping bag sheet insert is a good idea for protection against biting insects.  Whenever possible, avoid being on the road from dusk till dawn. Apart from the unfenced cattle station, the region has a population of feral horses, donkeys, dogs and the occasional camel along with a native population of Kangaroos and Dingoes. All of which are a significant road hazard.  On arrival, please check with the Health Centre to understand any health or social issues within the community. They can also let you know of any sacred sites to avoid.

**Disclaimer**

*This information is prepared in good faith and to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing. However, Aboriginal communities, like any community, can change as the population shifts and people move on. Please contact NT Remote Locum Program to confirm any key issues or concerns you may have ahead of your NT Remote Locum Program placement. NT Remote Locum Program also values any input you can provide to improve our Community Profiles.*

<sup>3</sup> Training should be arranged before your arrival in the community.

<sup>4</sup> It is an offence to consume or bring alcohol into a dry community in the Northern Territory.