

Living and working in
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



NT Health

About the role

Becoming a member of the NT Health team in the Central Australia Region will offer the right person the unique opportunity to develop your career and engage in a working environment unlike any other in Australia. You will experience clinical challenges that will develop your skill base and reward you with the knowledge that you have improved social outcomes and supported a vulnerable population. We welcome your application, and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure your transition to the role is smooth and seamless and your experience as an employee of the Northern Territory Government is both memorable and rewarding.

Naomi Heinrich
Regional Executive Director
CENTRAL AUSTRALIA REGION

Overview

NT Health Central Australia Region provides health services to the town of Alice Springs and communities across the region.

Acute Care Services is responsible for Alice Springs Hospital, Renal Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Service Central Australia, Hearing Health, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and the Medical Retrieval and Consultation Centre.

Primary and Public Health Care delivers Community Allied Health and Aged Care, Child and Family Health, Community Nursing, Oral Health, Prison Health and Environmental and Public Health. It also covers the management of remote health centres and the specialist outreach services to the centres.

The Mental Health Service provides a comprehensive range of integrated, community-based child, youth, adult and forensic services, including in-patient care in Alice Springs and remote care throughout Central Australia.

The Central Australia Region covers a vast area that extends from Docker River in the southwest to Willowra in the north, Atitjere (Harts Range) in the east and Aputula (Finke) in the southeast.

What you can provide

We are looking for candidates who excel in clinical management, cross-agency collaboration and service coordination and implementation.

You will provide strong clinical and innovative decision-making skills.

You will be able to engage with the community and people of diverse cultures at a meaningful level and establish long-term working relationships forged from mutual respect, understanding and a desire to improve the wellbeing of the people living in the Central Australia Region.

What you can expect

- A supportive team environment with the backing of the NT Health's senior leadership team in the Central Australia Region.
- A work place culture that is committed to service, ethical practice, respect, accountability, impartiality and diversity.
- A community that is diverse and covers both a remote and urban population.
- Opportunities for career progression, growth and training, including cross-cultural training to empower you when working with Aboriginal and other cultures.
- Access to flexible work arrangements, up to six weeks of recreation leave and other incentives.

What you need to know the Aboriginal population

The Central Australia Region is steeped in the traditions and beliefs of its traditional custodians. Alice Springs is Arrernte country

Your role will require close collaboration and engagement with Aboriginal people and communities. Approximately 43 per cent of the people who live in the Central Australia Region are Aboriginal.

An understanding of the following points will assist in comprehending issues and working more effectively and politely in partnership and mutual respect:

- Kinship
- Sorry business
- Cultural business
- Customs
- Language groups and understanding of English
- Access to land and homes
- Meetings, discussions and decisions
- Working with a translator, Aboriginal Health Worker, Aboriginal Health Practitioner or Aboriginal Liaison Officer.

Many Aboriginal people speak several Indigenous languages with English frequently being a third or even fourth language.

Around 50 per cent of the total population over 15 years of age speaks a language other than English at home (ABS National Regional Profile 2006).

The term 'language group' is often used to describe different groups of Aboriginal people because they identify themselves by their language.



Living in Alice Springs

Alice Springs is home to 26,000 people and is your authentic outback town. The Central Australia Region has approximately 16 per cent of the total NT population.

The Central Business District is lined with trees and locally owned stores, and boasts the Todd Mall where Sunday and Thursday night markets bustle with tourists and locals. Coffee culture is alive and well in the town with more than 30 cafes ready to serve a flat white or an espresso.

Alice Springs is located on the Stuart Highway, midway between Darwin and Adelaide, and can be easily accessed via road, rail and air. Residents have access to all of the standard trimmings of a large regional centre, including supermarkets, cafes and pubs, clubs, hostels and motor inns.

Locals like to spend their weekends enjoying the great outdoors: playing sport at one of the 70-plus parks, four-wheel-driving through the West MacDonnell Ranges, dipping a toe into one of the amazing permanent waterholes or exploring some of the region's extraordinary natural wonders.

The landscape

It is only short drive out of Alice Springs to experience some of the amazing locations for which the region is famed, including Ormiston Gorge, Glen Helen, Ellery Creek Big Hole, Standley Chasm in the

West MacDonnell Ranges and Emily and Jesse Gaps, Trepkina Gorge, Arltunga and Ruby Gap in the East MacDonnell Ranges.

Camping, hiking and mountain biking are drawcards and locals will share tips on best places to go to have a relaxing getaway after the work week has ended. The Hugh River is a particular favourite with access to renowned Larapinta Trail. Further afield are the tourism hubs of Uluru and Kings Canyon – perfect for a long weekend adventure.

Arts and culture

Alice Springs is enriched by the comforts of country culture and locals are known for their friendly and relaxed approach to the daily grind.

The town is home to a vibrant arts scene highlighted by the Araluen Cultural Precinct, which consists of the Araluen Arts Centre, Museum of Central Australia, Central Australian Aviation Museum and Central Craft.

In the centre of town is Megafauna Central, which showcases the unique megafauna that roamed Central Australia eight million years ago. Visitors can catch a glimpse of palaeontologists at work in the lab.

Festivals

Throughout the year there are many major events every month in Central Australia including the Desert Festival, Desert Song Festival, Finke Desert Race, Red Centre Nats, Beanie Festival, Alice Springs Show, Henley on Todd, Desert Mob, Parttjima – A Festival



of Light, horse racing, speedway, sports, arts events and live music.

Sport

There are a variety of sporting clubs across the town suitable for adults and children, including soccer, netball, hockey, AFL, rugby union, rugby league, cricket and badminton, as well as an 18-hole golf course. There is an acclaimed ballet school and there are a number of gyms and cross-fitness training centres.

Retail and services

Banking, postal and government services are located in the Central Business District.

The town is serviced by Coles and Woolworths and seven independent supermarkets, as well as two butchers, four bakeries and a wide range of eateries, pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants. There are two shopping malls providing a range of retail outlets and a cool place to catch up with friends on the hot summer days.

The Alice Springs Town Council provides a number of excellent public facilities, including a swimming pool complex, library, sporting grounds, play spaces and parks.

Schools and childcare

Territory schools generally hold classes between 8am and 3pm. All government schools are co-educational. Northern Territory schools run a four-term year with a three-week mid-year break.

In the Northern Territory there are three stages of schooling, which are primary – Transition to Year 6, middle – Year 7 to Year 9 and senior – Year 10 to Year 12.

Alice Springs has six public primary schools, two public high schools and five private schools. There are a number of childcare and pre-schools available.

Alice Springs also is home to the Alice Springs School of the Air, which offers educational services and activities to isolated children from pre-school to Year 9.



Geography and demographics

At over 546,046 square kilometres, the Central Australia Region stretches from the Western Australia east to the Queensland border and south to the South Australian border. The total estimated resident population of the region is over 40,000 with Alice Springs' population at over 26,000.

Alice Springs is nestled around The Gap, which is the junction of the West MacDonnell Ranges and the East MacDonnell Ranges on the Todd River. As the largest town in the region, it is approximately 1,500 kilometres south of Darwin and 1,500 kilometres north of Adelaide. The region stretches from the old Telegraph Station at Barrow Creek in the north to the historical droving township of Aputula (Finke) in the south, and 500 kilometres east to the Queensland

border and 740 kilometres west to the Western Australia border.

In addition, the region has 34 remote Aboriginal communities, the largest of which is Yuendumu with a population of 1,000, family outstations, pastoral stations, mining operations and commercial properties, including grape farms near Ti Tree and date farms and bush tucker farms south of Alice Springs.

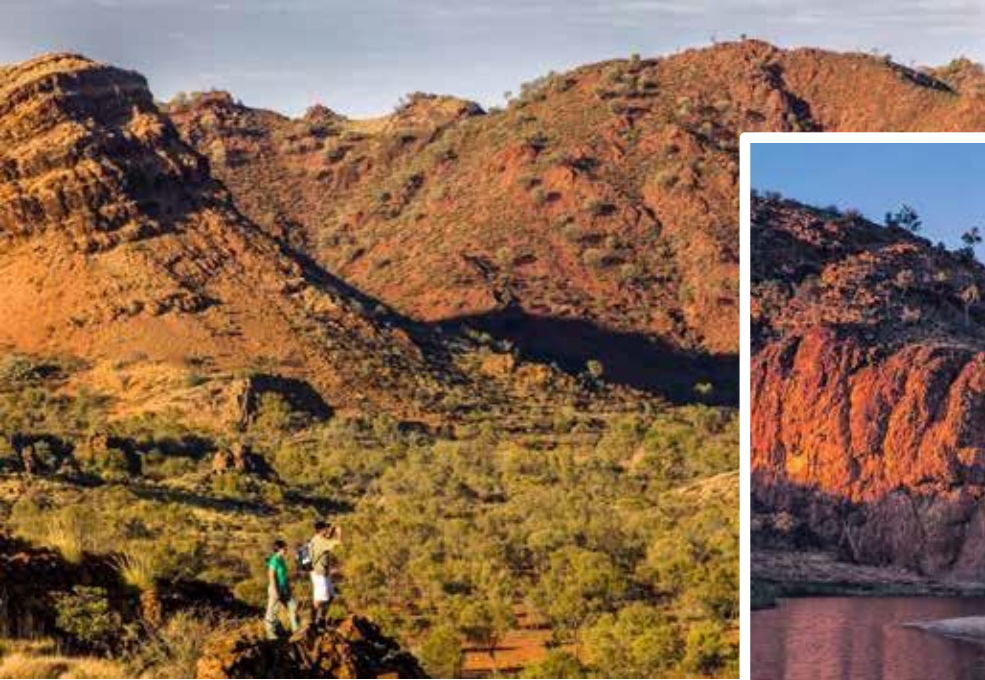
The weather

A warm desert climate, Alice Springs experiences only two seasons, and is mainly dry all year round.

From May through to September sunshine and cool to cold mornings reign supreme with little rainfall and temperatures ranging from 2-20°C.

As October rolls in the temperatures begin to rise as high as 40°C by December and January. Rainfall becomes more frequent across the summer months with storm systems pushing into the Central Australia region from the monsoonal weather in the tropics.





To start your career adventure in Central Australia

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