

## ***Group 4 - Workshop ATC320 - from 10.30 to 12.30***

### **ACTIVITY 1**

#### **1. Yuendumu:**

- Yuendumu is a remote Indigenous community located in the Northern Territory of Australia, approximately 290 km northwest of Alice Springs. It is one of the largest and most remote Indigenous communities in Australia, with a population of around 800 people, most of whom are Warlpiri people.

#### **Technology:**

- The use of mobile phones is also becoming increasingly common in Yuendumu. Many residents now have mobile phones, and they use them to stay connected with family and friends, access information, and communicate with service providers.

#### **Challenges:**

- Health and wellbeing: Indigenous communities in remote areas often have limited access to healthcare services, which can impact the health and wellbeing of community members. In Yuendumu, access to healthcare services can be particularly challenging due to its remote location and the limited number of healthcare professionals available.
- Housing: Adequate housing is an ongoing issue for many Indigenous communities in Australia, including Yuendumu. Overcrowding and poor housing conditions can contribute to a range of health issues, particularly for children and the elderly.
- Education: Access to quality education can be a challenge in remote Indigenous communities, with many students having to travel long distances to attend school. In Yuendumu, the local school provides education up to year 12, but there are concerns about the quality of education and the impact of cultural differences on learning outcomes.

- Economic opportunities: Remote Indigenous communities often face limited economic opportunities, which can contribute to poverty and social disadvantage. In Yuendumu, the local art center provides some economic opportunities for community members, but there is a need for more diverse and sustainable economic opportunities.
- Social and cultural dislocation: Remote Indigenous communities can also face social and cultural dislocation, as younger generations move away from traditional ways of life and cultural practices. This can impact the sense of community and cultural identity in Yuendumu, particularly as younger community members are exposed to outside influences.

#### References:

<https://centraldesert.nt.gov.au/yuendumu>,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuendumu>,

<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/indigenous-social-justice/projects/social-justice-report-2005-chapter-3-social-and-cultural>,

<https://www.nntc.com.au/economic-development-in-remote-indigenous-communities/>,

<https://www.acer.org/au/discover/article/education-in-remote-indigenous-communities>,

<https://www.pmc.gov.au/indigenous-affairs/housing>

## **2. Palm Island:**

Geography: The Palm Island is an Aboriginal community located off the coast of Queensland, Australia. It is the largest of the Great Palm Island group, which includes several other smaller islands.

Population and Landsize: According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as of June 30, 2021, the estimated resident population of Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council was 2,909. The land area of Palm Island is approximately 70.6 square kilometres (27.3 square miles). However, much of the island is mountainous and uninhabitable, with the majority of the population living in the town of Palm Island, which occupies a small portion of the island's total land area.

Tribes, languages and lifestyles: Palm Island is home to the Bwgcolman people, also known as the Wulgurukaba people, who are one of the traditional Aboriginal groups of the area. The Bwgcolman people have lived on the island and in the surrounding region for thousands of years and have a rich cultural heritage.

The Bwgcolman people have their own language, which is a dialect of the Wulgurukaba language. However, like many Aboriginal languages, it is currently endangered and efforts are being made to preserve and promote it.

Traditionally, the Bwgcolman people were hunters and gatherers, relying on the sea and land for food and resources. Fishing and hunting were important activities, and the Bwgcolman people were known for their skill in making canoes and using them for transport and fishing.

Today, the Bwgcolman people continue to maintain their cultural traditions and practices, including traditional dances, music, and artwork. The island has a strong sense of community, with many events and celebrations taking place throughout the year to celebrate the Bwgcolman culture and heritage.

Challenges: Palm Island faces a range of ongoing challenges that affect the health and wellbeing of its community members, including health issues, education, unemployment, poverty, housing.

Current digital infrastructure: The digital infrastructure on Palm Island is limited and faces significant challenges. According to a report by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, only 60% of households on Palm Island had access to the internet in 2019, and internet speeds were significantly slower than in urban areas.

References:

<https://www.dlgsc.qld.gov.au/resources/plan-making-and-local-government-directory/palm-island-aboriginal-shire-council>,  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-17/palm-island-history-of-peoples-prison/13050936>

### **3. Yirrkala**

Geography: Yirrkala is a remote Aboriginal community located on the northeastern coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory of Australia. It is home to the Yolngu people, who have lived in the area for thousands of years and have a rich cultural heritage.

Languages and lifestyles: Yirrkala is known for its traditional Aboriginal art, which includes bark paintings, carvings, and sculptures. The Yolngu people are renowned for their unique art style, which often features intricate designs and patterns that tell stories and convey cultural knowledge. The Yolngu people have their own language, which is a dialect of the Yolngu Matha language family. Many community members are bilingual, speaking both their traditional language and English.

Challenges: As other Townships located in Australia, they face some challenges, including health issues, education, employment, economic, housing, historical trauma.

Current digital infrastructure: Access to reliable and affordable internet services is limited, and many residents rely on mobile data plans or satellite internet, which can be slow and expensive. The Australian government has committed funding to improve internet connectivity in remote areas through initiatives like the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Regional Connectivity Program. In addition, the Yirrkala Dhanbul website is a digital repository of Yolngu knowledge, culture, and history, which is accessible to anyone with an internet connection. The Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre has also digitized its collection of bark paintings and other cultural artifacts, making them accessible to a global audience.

#### **References:**

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/estimated-resident-p>

opulation-australia/30-june-2020.  
<http://www.yirrkalacc.com.au/about-yirrkala/>

#### **4. Seisia**

Geography: Seisia community is located 2700 km away in north west of Brisbane on the tip of Cape York Peninsula.

Traditional owners: People from different groups such as Yadhaigana, Wuthathi, Unduyamo and Gudang decided to become a single group.

Population and Language: Their population is about 250 where most of them speak Torres Strait Creole but they can also speak English and Kala Kawa Ya.

Challenges: During the rainy season, roads and water crossings may become “impassable” and hazardous. Rivers and water crossings can swiftly rise, so travelers should be informed of the situation before leaving and keep a close eye on it.

Digital infrastructure: Residents of Seisia have access to internet connections and smartphones which helps them to remain “in contact with loved ones” that are living outside of the community. Furthermore, it can also help as people can access digital information which assists in education. There are plans where the Seisia community will “soon be connected to 5G”.

References:

<https://www.indigenous.gov.au/community/seisia-formerly-known-red-island-point>

<https://www.newsport.com.au/2022/april/major-telecommunications-boost-for-cape-york-communities/>

#### **5. Wadeye:**

Geography: Wadeye, formerly known as Port Keats, is a remote Indigenous community located on the northwestern coast of the Northern

Territory of Australia. It is home to the Kardu Diminin people, who have lived in the area for thousands of years and have a rich cultural heritage.

Languages: The Kardu Diminin people have their own language, which is one of the languages spoken in the region. Many community members are bilingual, speaking both their traditional language and English.

Lifestyles:

The Kardu Diminin people in Wadeye have a rich cultural heritage and traditional lifestyle that is based on a deep connection to the land, sea, and animals in the area. Historically, their lifestyle involved hunting, fishing, and gathering food from the land and sea.

The Kardu Diminin people have a strong cultural and spiritual connection to the land and their ancestors, which is expressed through their art, music, dance, and storytelling. They have a rich tradition of song and dance, which is often performed at cultural events and ceremonies.

Challenges:

Health issues: The Kardu Diminin people experience higher rates of chronic diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease, compared to non-Indigenous Australians. There are also higher rates of mental health issues, such as depression and anxiety.

Education: Education levels in Wadeye are lower than the national average, with lower rates of school attendance and completion. This can impact opportunities for employment and economic participation.

Employment and economic participation: Wadeye has high rates of unemployment and poverty, which can contribute to social and health issues. There are limited employment opportunities in the community, with many community members relying on government assistance.

Housing: Housing in Wadeye is limited, and there is a high demand for affordable and appropriate housing. Many community members live in overcrowded and substandard conditions, which can contribute to health issues.

Historical trauma: Like many Aboriginal communities, Wadeye has a history of being impacted by colonization, including forced removal from their traditional lands and the impacts of government policies such

as the assimilation policy. This has had ongoing impacts on the community, including intergenerational trauma and ongoing challenges related to social, economic, and health issues.

Current digital infrastructure: According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in 2016, only 29% of households in the Northern Territory outside of Darwin had access to the internet, which is lower than the national average of 83%. It is possible that the digital infrastructure in Wadeye may be similarly limited.

References:

<https://www.wadeye.com.au/about>,

<https://aiatsis.gov.au/publications/products/overview-indigenous-cultural-heritage-northern-territory>,

<https://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au/component/k2/item/3625-wadeye-youth-shine-at-basketball-competition.html>