



# CHILD FRIENDLY *Alice* Community Profile

*About the children and families of Alice Springs 2019*



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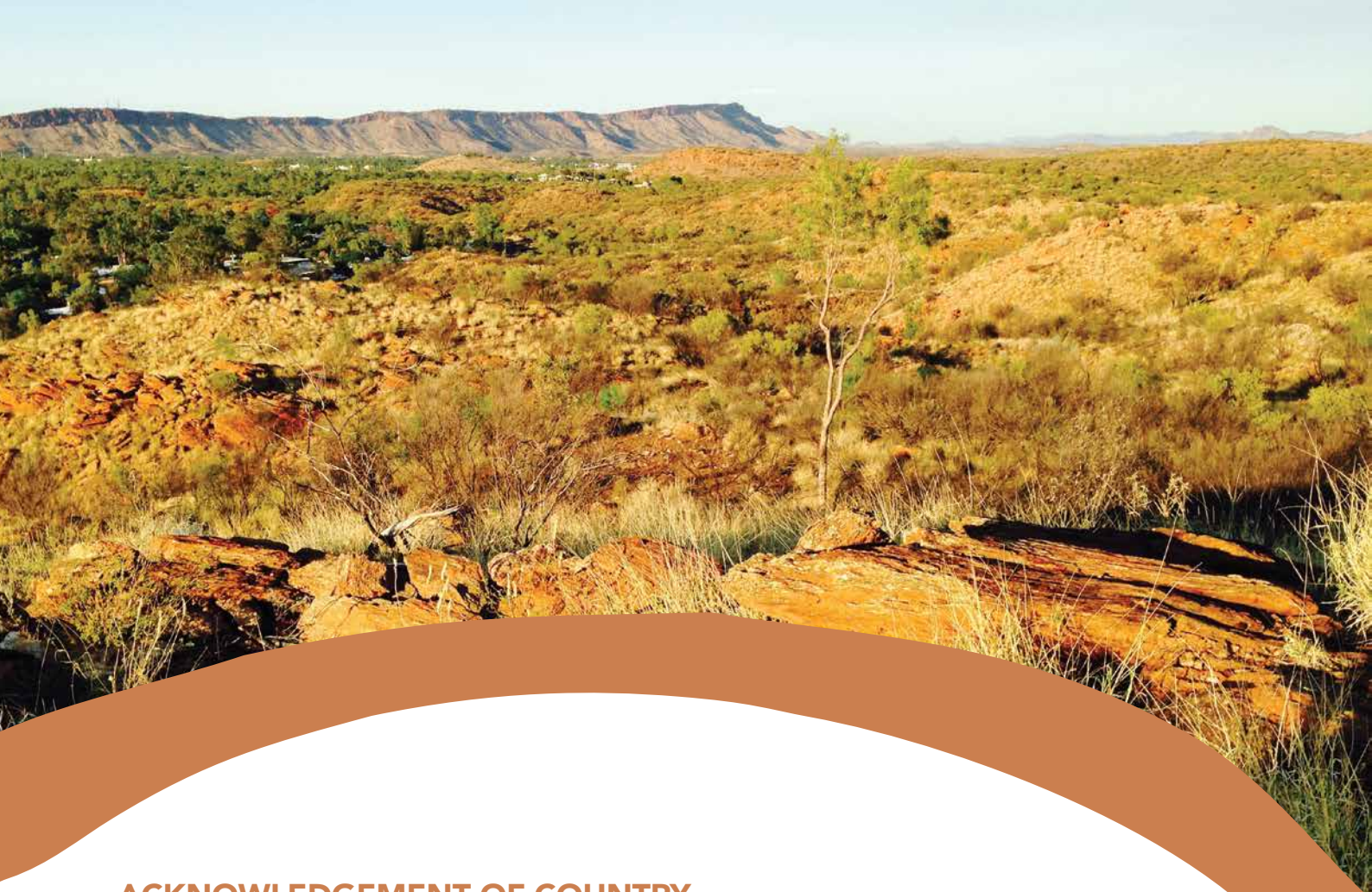
An accompanying Technical Report is available from Child Friendly Alice and the website.

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# CHILD FRIENDLY *Alice* Community Profile

*About the children and families of Alice Springs 2019*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*Child Friendly Alice acknowledges the land of Arrernte people here in Mparntwe and recognises the strength, resilience, knowledge, skills and lived experience of all Aboriginal peoples in this land.*

*We pay respect for the ongoing spiritual and cultural connections to the land and to Country held by the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Mparntwe.*

*We acknowledge the First Australians as the*

*traditional custodians of the continent, whose cultures are among the oldest living cultures in human history.*

*We pay respect to the Elders of the community, present and emerging and extend our recognition to their descendants.*

*(Thanks to Carmel Simpson from Tangentyere Women's Family Safety Group, for sharing these words and allowing us to use them).*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONTRIBUTORS

Many individuals and organisations have contributed in different ways to the Community Profile. Particular effort has been put into ensuring that the Profile is locally relevant, tells a local story, captures the strong voices of the community, is culturally considered and provides a story from which collectively we can respond to and act from.

Special thanks to: the children, young people and adults of Alice Springs who completed the survey; including the schools who supported their students to respond in creative ways; the individuals who attended forums and focus groups to provide cultural and content advice; the local Arrernte artist Geraldine Stuart who provided paintings for our symbols and the children who provided drawings; the photographers who provided local photos, and families from Susu Mama Playgroup who allowed us

to take their photos. Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, the Tangentyere Council, the Alice Springs Hospital and the Flynn Drive Community Health Centre provided contextual expertise, while the Tangentyere Council also supported conversations with Town Camp communities. Families and staff from Children's Ground, Akeyulerre, Larapinta Child and Family Centre, Anglicare NT, Connected Beginnings and Red Cross provided cultural and content advice.

Thanks to John Guenther (author), Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education, for his expertise, commitment to getting the story right and incredible patience, and to Tina Tilhard who created the visual story and made it beautiful.

With thanks to the Alice Springs Town Council which provided funds towards the development and printing of the Profile.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Child Friendly Alice is a community collaboration facilitated by Communities for Children – Anglicare NT, Strong Kids Strong Centre – Red Cross, Connected Beginnings and Larapinta Child and Family Centre – NT Department of Education, which aims to ensure every child has the best possible chance in life to grow up healthy and strong. The collaboration led to the development of this Community Profile.

Growing up and living in Alice Springs is an exceptional experience – the extremes of temperature, the incredible desert environment, the dust and spinifex, the diversity of cultures and languages and the geographic isolation. Within this environment, the Profile tells a story about the many strengths and also the many challenges facing this community, with still too many children experiencing vulnerability and facing hardships.

This profile is unique in its nature, valuing and highlighting community voices alongside statistical data. It is a tool for the community, providing information about local conditions with local data, offering opportunities for planning, service delivery and improving outcomes for children.

The information tells us that children, young people and adults share many of the same aspirations such as a good education, strong families, equal opportunities, employment and activities for young people. They also share common concerns supported by the data such as crime, racism, alcohol-related antisocial behaviours, the need for cultural education and better educational opportunities.

This Profile provides a baseline of data that can be used to measure how the children in Alice Springs are faring. It enables the community to compare data over time, to be able to see if the lives of children are improving, and it also allows comparisons between achievements in Alice Springs, the Northern Territory and Australia as a whole. This Profile paints a picture, a snapshot in time of the wellbeing of children living in Alice Springs by focusing on six Areas of Wellbeing.

In developing this Profile many aspects of community life were considered. Information and feedback was sought from a broad cross section of community members, educators, staff from agencies, children, young people and families as well as population level data where available.

A Technical Report is also available. The Technical Report will provide more detailed information and analysis of the statistical data.

Children, young people, families and the community will have the opportunity to have input into developing recommendations and actions, to consider what steps might be taken to improve children's wellbeing. The outcomes from this will inform the work of Child Friendly Alice and be incorporated into a local Action Plan. Resources permitting, the aim is to monitor progress over time, work towards filling the data gaps, and updating the Community Profile.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COLLABORATIVE BACKBONE

The Child Friendly Alice Community Profile was developed, co-designed and published for the Alice Springs community through the collaborative efforts of four key agencies:

- Communities for Children funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services – Anglicare NT
- Connected Beginnings, Department of Education, Northern Territory Government, funded by the Australian Government
- Larapinta Child and Family Centre, Department of Education, Northern Territory Government
- Strong Kids Strong Centre and Red Cross Australia



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## INTRODUCTION

The Child Friendly Alice Community Profile has been developed to better understand the important issues for children and young people in Alice Springs. It paints a picture using public data and the voices of people living in Alice Springs.

In 2018 a group of people with a commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of children in Alice Springs came together and formed the concept of Child Friendly Alice. Child Friendly Alice is an emerging community collaboration with a whole-of-community approach to addressing complex social issues in communities experiencing vulnerability. By supporting and empowering community to engage in their own wellbeing, facilitating cross-sector collaboration and advocating for system reform, we aim to ensure that every child has the best possible start in life.

### The Community Profile

This Profile has several purposes and uses. For children and families in Alice Springs, it provides a snapshot of what they think is important. For service providers, it provides evidence that can be used for more effective program delivery for children, young people and families. For governments at all levels it provides an overview of where the pressing needs are in the community. The Profile provides a framework and an evidence base to develop responsive policies and strategies that can help Alice Springs better meet the needs and aspirations of families, young people and children. Child Friendly Alice sees the potential for service providers, community members and governments to work together to develop a collaborative local Action Plan.

### How data was collected

It was important to bring together two sets of information. One was the voices of people living in Alice Springs. The other was evidence collected by government departments, research organisations and other experts who could shed light on the numbers. Together the two sets of data tell a story about children and young people in Alice Springs.

### Information about the survey

The survey was conducted during the second half of 2018. Child Friendly Alice representatives worked with schools, community groups, the general public and service providers to conduct a survey with over 1000 people in Alice Springs.

### About statistics from other sources

The numbers for this Profile come from reputable sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC), Territory Families and other government departments.

In the presentation of the data, great consideration was given to mitigating the risk of misuse, ensuring equity, respecting culture, the potential benefit and including children's voices.



## HOW TO READ THIS PROFILE

### ARACY Framework – Area of Wellbeing

The data in this Profile is presented using the framework developed nationally by the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) for understanding how young people and children are faring. This is called the 'Nest Framework'. It has six groups or 'Areas of Wellbeing', which we have used to structure this Profile. The above diagram illustrates the layering of support around the child, starting with the family.

It is important for young people and children to feel loved and safe; to be physically and mentally well; to have basics like enough food or a place to live; to learn well at school, to join in society, and to have a strong sense of belonging to their culture.

These Areas of Wellbeing are how we can measure whether we are on the right path to making Alice Springs a better place for children and young people to grow up.

Each Area of Wellbeing contains information that has been grouped under subheadings to frame the different data. Over 100 community members ranked the five most important groupings to them, in order of priority.



### Reading the summary information

In each of the Areas of Wellbeing, information from the survey and other sources have been brought together to provide a snapshot of 'how we are doing' as a community. The key aspiration drawn from the adult survey frames the data story.

In most areas there are strengths and challenges. However we acknowledge that there are some people in the community who are experiencing more vulnerability than others.

More data and detailed information can be found in the Child Friendly Alice Technical Report. Reference to this in this Profile is identified with a link symbol (as shown).

### Symbol Key



This data can be found in the Technical Report



There is no data available



Adult quote (man and woman sitting together)



Child quote (children sitting together)





## ABOUT ALICE

### What does the Alice Springs community look like?

Alice Springs is built on Arrernte Country. Arrernte people have lived in the Alice Springs region for tens of thousands of years and continue to make a strong contribution to the rich culture of the town, which was established initially as the base for the overland telegraph line in 1871.

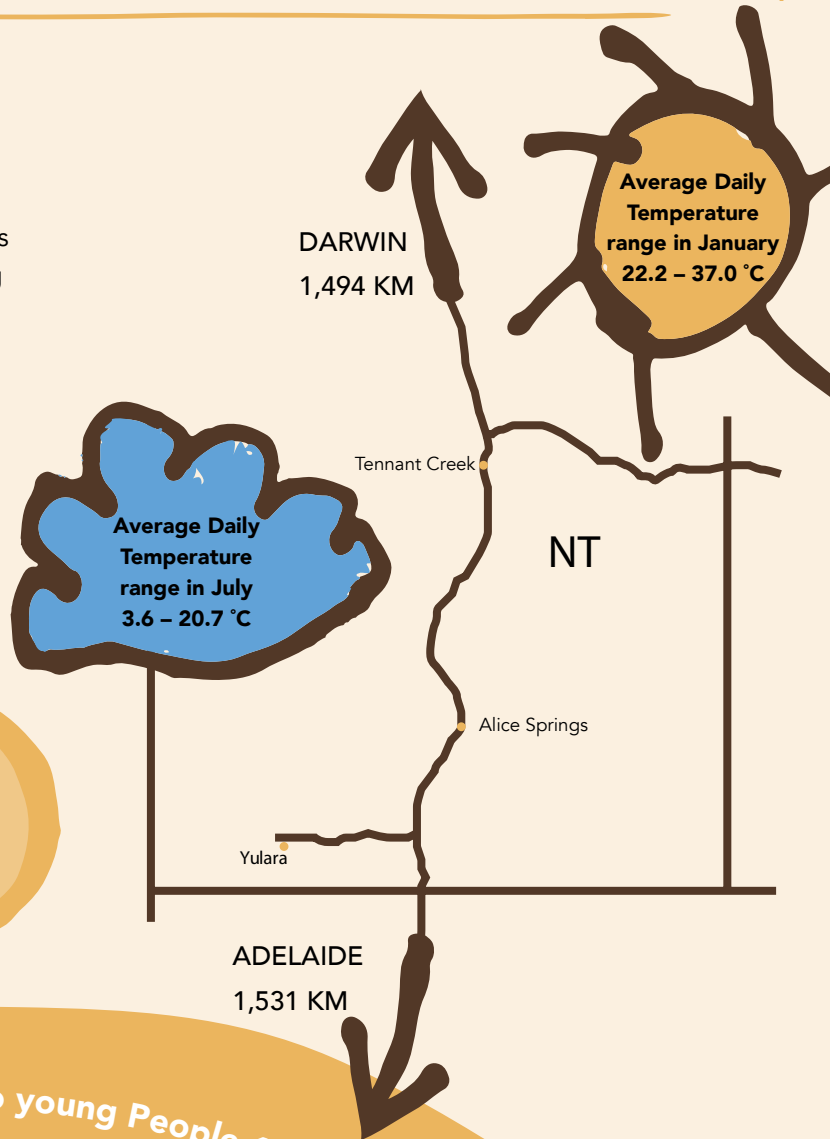
Alice Springs is geographically isolated and has a challenging environment. It services the central Australian region, covering an area of 872,861km<sup>2</sup>.

**1819**  
children  
aged 0-4  
(2016 Census)

**3373**  
children  
aged 5-14  
(2016 Census)

**Families  
with children**  
2 parents: 2530  
1 parent: 931  
(2016 Census)

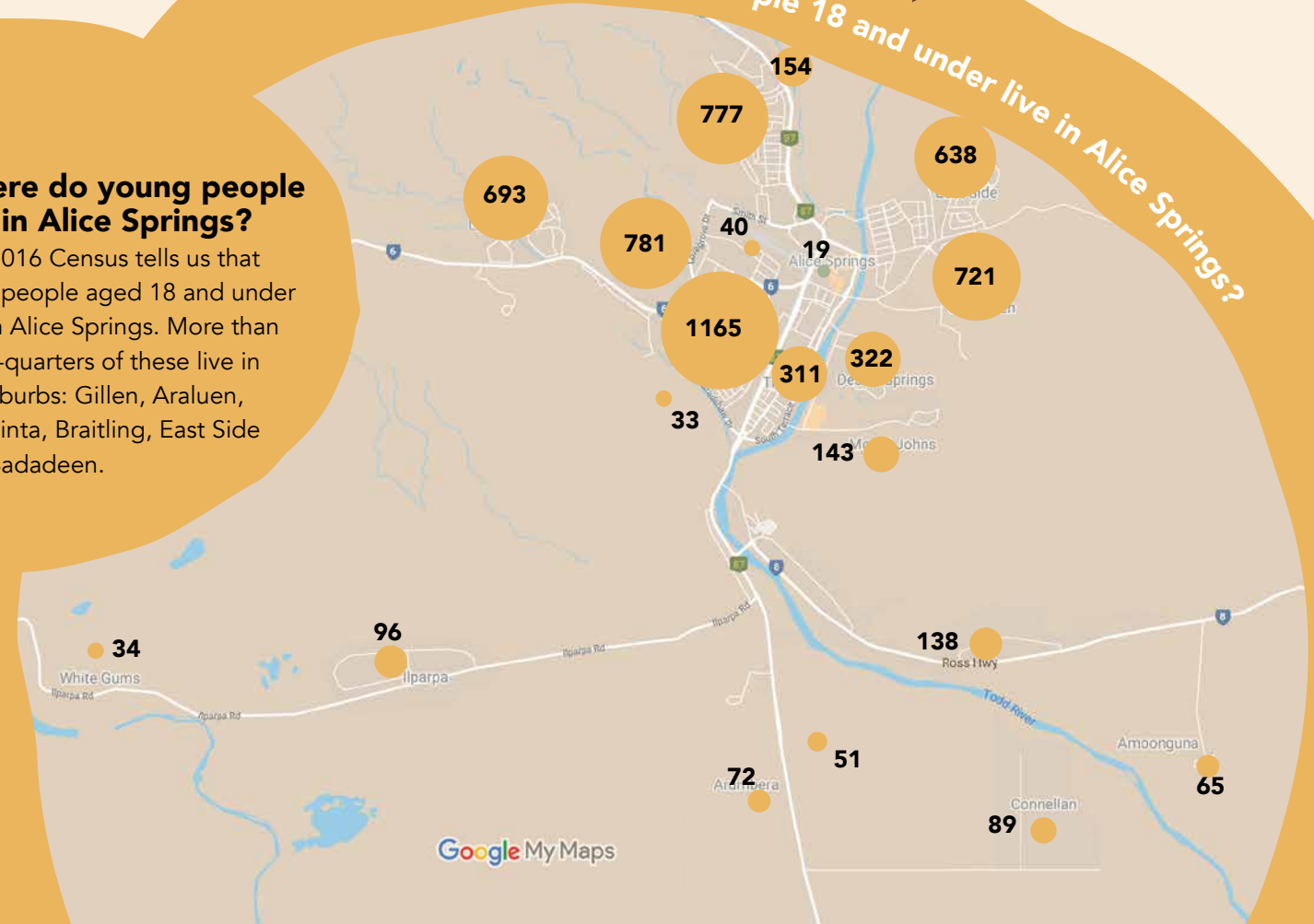
**913**  
children  
aged 15-17  
(2016 Census)



### Where do young People 18 and under live in Alice Springs?

#### Where do young people live in Alice Springs?

The 2016 Census tells us that 6100 people aged 18 and under live in Alice Springs. More than three-quarters of these live in six suburbs: Gillen, Araluen, Larapinta, Braitling, East Side and Sadadeen.



In 2016 the total population of Alice Springs was **24,757**

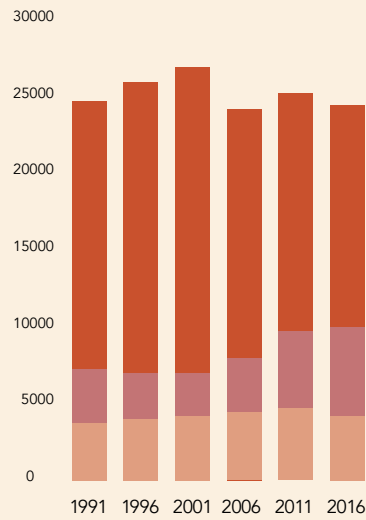
In 2016 **18%** of Alice Springs residents were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

In 2016 **23%** of Alice Springs residents were born overseas, up from 11% in 2001.

### Growing diversity

While the total population of Alice Springs has remained fairly stable over the last 25 years, it is now a much more diverse community than it was in the early 1990s.

In the last 15 years many migrants from overseas have added to the richness of the town's cultural diversity, now making up almost one-quarter of the population.

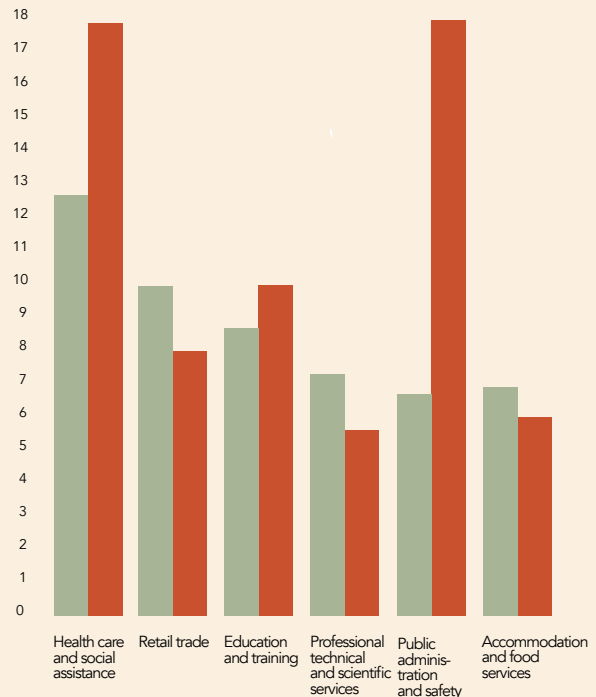


Alice Springs Population count (usual resident)

- Alice Springs excluding visitors
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population count
- Overseas born excluding overseas visitors

### Jobs are different in Alice Springs

Many people come to Alice Springs for work and for the opportunities that exist here and that don't exist in other parts of Australia. In particular, employment in health and the public service. Almost half of the Alice Springs workforce is involved in one of three industries: Healthcare and social assistance, public administration and safety, and education.

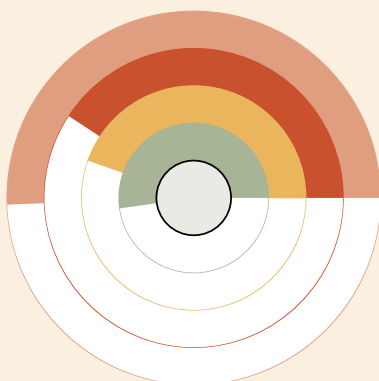


Per cent of labour force working in industries

- Australia
- Alice Springs

### A transient population

Compared to the rest of Australia, and the Northern Territory as a whole, Alice Springs has a very transient population. After five years, only about 40 per cent of people stay. The Aboriginal population tends to be more stable, with a little over half still living in the town after five years. However there is mobility between Alice Springs as a main service centre and remote communities in central Australia.



Proportion of population with same address 5 years ago

**41%** of Alice Springs residents were here five years ago.

## 1000 VOICES

### Over 1000 voices: Survey results

During 2018, Child Friendly Alice surveyed over 1000 people: 470 children and young people under 18, and 605 adults.

Children and young people were asked three open questions:



- What is good about living in Alice Springs?
- What's not so good?
- How could it be better? What would you like to see change?

Adults were also asked three open questions:

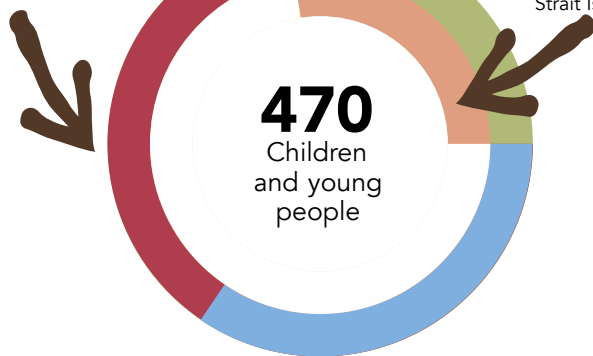


- What are your hopes and dreams for children and young people in Alice Springs?
- What's stopping the hopes and dreams from happening?
- What would it take to achieve them? What changes do you think need to happen?

### Survey Participants

**39%**

female

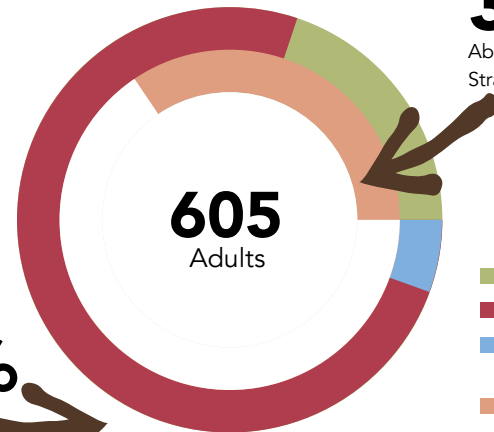


**27%**

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

**33%**

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



**75%**

female

- Male
- Female
- Gender not stated or not binary
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

About one-third of children and youth respondents did not state their gender. Of the remainder who did, 59 per cent stated that they were females. More than one-quarter of children and youth respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Three-quarters of all adult respondents were female. Over one-third of adult respondents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.



## 1000 Voices – Children/Young People

The responses to each survey question were carefully read and themes were generated to group the answers provided. The diagrams that follow show the top ten response themes for each question.



### Top 10 – What is good about living in Alice Springs?

Children and young people identified many positive aspects of living in Alice Springs. Friends and family was the main strength identified. The benefits of living in a small town were also raised. This made it easy for young people to get around. The town's environment, and the weather were important positives. Opportunities for recreation including sports, shops, places to go, things to see as well as many fast food options, were all considered benefits of living in Alice Springs. The town pool was particularly noted. Schools and teachers were also singled out as contributing to positive experiences for young people.

- 
- 1 Friends and family
  - 2 Small town, easy to get around
  - 3 The town pool
  - 4 The landscape and environment
  - 5 School and teachers
  - 6 Sport
  - 7 Shops and shopping
  - 8 Fast food
  - 9 Climate and weather
  - 10 Places to go, things to see

### Top 10 – What's not so good?

While weather and climate were seen as pluses of living in Alice Springs, the hot summers were identified as not so good for young people. While recreation opportunities were seen as 'good', many young people suggested that there was 'nothing to do', there were not enough shops and there was a need for a water park or theme park.



- 1 Weather and climate
- 2 Drinking, drugs, fighting, violence and antisocial behaviour
- 3 Crime
- 4 Nothing to do
- 5 Dirty and rubbish
- 6 Not enough shops
- 7 Kids walking around at night
- 8 No theme or water parks
- 9 Bushfires
- 10 Cost of living issues

### Top 10 – How could it be better/what would you like to see changed?

Consistent with 'what's not so good about Alice Springs' comments, children and young people offered a number of suggestions about changes they would like to see. Sport and recreation opportunities topped the list, in particular, calls for a water park. More generally, shops and shopping centres, and more activities and services were also requested, along with parks and playgrounds.

Further, the perception of 'dirt and rubbish' expressed, translated into 'cleaning up the town' and 'greening and beautification' efforts. Beyond a call for more safe spaces and security, young people were less specific in their response to safety issues raised, instead simply calling for less crime. Interestingly, better housing was raised as a point for change, without a strong corresponding problem identified.

- 
- 1 Water park, pools and beach
  - 2 Sport and recreation facilities and opportunities
  - 3 Shops and shopping centres
  - 4 More activities and services
  - 5 Schools and education options
  - 6 Less crime
  - 7 Parks and playgrounds
  - 8 Safe spaces and security
  - 9 Greening and beautification
  - 10 Better housing

## 1000 Voices – Adults



### Top 10 – What are your hopes and dreams for children and young people in Alice Springs?

Adults surveyed had a strong focus on safety and care of children. They want their children to grow up 'safe and free', 'loved and cared for' in 'safe spaces and environments'. 'A good education' for young people was also a strong aspiration which came through the data. They also want their children to live 'happy, healthy lives', being 'respectful and living in harmony' with others in the community. They want their children to reach their potential, achieve their goals and have good career and job opportunities. Underpinning these aspirations to some extent is the importance of strong families and activities that young people can actively engage in.

- 1 Safe and free
- 2 A good education
- 3 Safe spaces and environments
- 4 Happy and healthy lives
- 5 Good employment and career opportunities
- 6 Loved and cared for
- 7 Respectful, living in harmony
- 8 Strong families and social networks
- 9 Reach potential, achieve goals
- 10 More activities for youth

### Top 10 – What's stopping the hopes and dreams from happening?

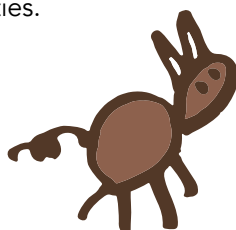
The threats to safety appear strong on the list of key factors inhibiting hopes and dreams; drug and alcohol issues, crime, violence, racism and antisocial behaviours. While strong families was seen to underpin hopes, respondents also saw family issues and lack of support for families, and a lack of family friendly events as barriers. Similarly while educational aspirations were strong, educational issues were often described as inhibiting those hopes and dreams. Funding and resourcing issues was also seen as a barrier.

- 1 Parent and family issues
- 2 Drug and alcohol abusees
- 3 Crime, vandalism, property damage issues
- 4 Education issues
- 5 Violence, jealousy, intimidation, bullying, teasing and fighting
- 6 Racism and discrimination, segregation and exclusion
- 7 Resourcing and funding issues
- 8 Lack of youth, child and family activities and events
- 9 Lack of support for children and families
- 10 Antisocial behaviour and gangs

### Top 10 – What would it take to achieve them/what changes do you think need to happen?

The narratives involving safety, education and families were also expressed often in terms of what needs to change. Law and justice responses, tough on crime approaches and more alcohol restrictions were themes for many respondents. Education was another response, both in terms of 'better education and training' generally, and more specifically, cultural leadership education and language programs. Family, parent and youth support programs were also called for, along with greater parental responsibility and accountability. Some respondents also wanted to see more parks, playgrounds and facilities.

- 1 Better education and training
- 2 Collaborative and coordinated community led approaches
- 3 More family, parent and youth support
- 4 Parent responsibility and accountability for looking after children
- 5 More youth and children family activities and programs
- 6 Fewer alcohol outlets, less alcohol and more alcohol restrictions
- 7 More parks and playgrounds and facilities
- 8 More punitive approaches, tough on crimes
- 9 Law and justice responses
- 10 Cultural leadership, education and language programs



# LOVED AND SAFE



All children have a right to grow up in loving and safe environments. Children are vulnerable and if the right caring environments are not there, they face many more risks and challenges than children who are nurtured, supported and encouraged to meet their potential.

## Community aspiration:

*For young people to be safe and free.*

### COMMUNITY VOICE

- friends and family a strength
- concerns about parenting and family issues
- concerns about drug and alcohol abuse
- concerns about violence, jealousy, bullying, teasing and fighting
- kids walking around at night, introduce curfews, lack of support for children and families
- need for safe spaces in the community
- concerns about parenting and parent accountability

strengths

### SUMMARY OF DATA

- reducing levels of early childhood social vulnerability
- high levels of alcohol related violence, substance abuse
- high levels of property crime, need law and justice responses
- high levels of DV related assaults

challenges



*We want our children to feel safe in this town, to be able to walk up and down the street, enter shops, have our front gates open, leave bikes out, kids playing in streets again, opportunities to go bush.*

## Summary: How are we doing?

The themes identified in the surveys and the other data examined show more challenges than strengths in this Area of Wellbeing.

Of all the hopes and dreams that adult participants discussed, the desire to see their children be 'safe and free' was the most important. They talked about aspirations for 'safe environments', and to live 'happy, free lives'. They wanted 'young people of this town to be accepted by their family and by the community', to be loved and cared for.

The challenges presented here affect the whole community, and for many, the hope for young people to be safe and free is a response to the challenges they see in the community.



## Key indicators

- Domestic violence
- Feeling safe walking in your neighbourhood at night
- Developmental vulnerability (social competence)
- Child Protection Profiles and substantiation
- Alcohol- and drug-related assaults
- Property crime





## Children live in safe and supported homes

Children living in safe and supportive households grow up healthier and stronger.

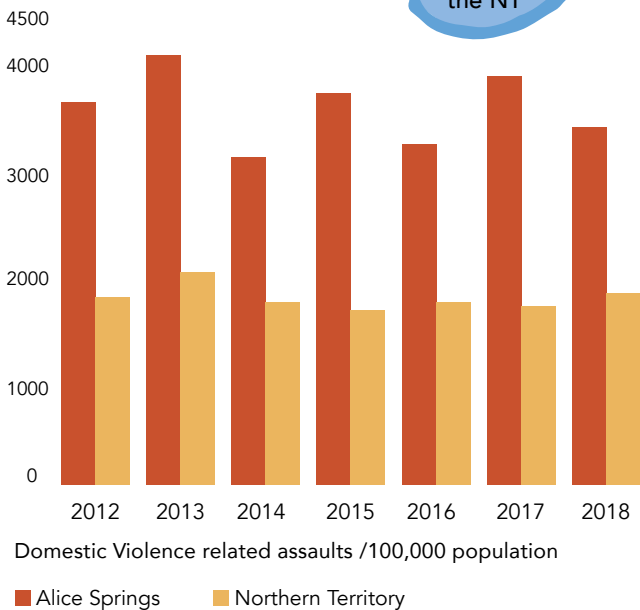
*I have friends and I have a lovely beautiful family that looks after me.*

### Reflection

However, children and young people also experienced and saw how crime, drinking, drugs and fighting posed a risk to their safety and wellbeing.

## Safe at home – Domestic violence assaults

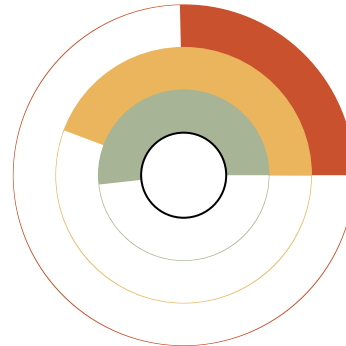
Almost **2X** the rates of the NT



Police statistics show relatively high levels of domestic violence assaults in Alice Springs, compared to the Northern Territory as a whole. Rates are almost double the Northern Territory average and show little sign of decreasing.

## Children and families have access to safe places

### Feeling safe walking in your neighbourhood at night



Only **25%** of adults feel safe

- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs

General Social Surveys conducted every few years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics ask participants to say how safe they feel walking alone in the local area. While across Australia more than half of all people surveyed feel safe, in Alice Springs, only about one-quarter feel safe.

*There can be really drunk people around. It's scary at night. Not very good security. Naughty kids. Crime is high.*

Some young people were concerned about the number of children 'walking around at night' while others felt there wasn't enough security around town. While addressing safety issues was not high on the lists of change priorities for young people, some survey participants wanted to see less crime and others saw a need for more safe spaces and security. Beyond this, some young people wanted to see less violence and bullying.

*No kids or adults vandalising and bullying.*

Many children, young people and adults talked about the impacts of alcohol. Data related to this can be located in the Technical Report.





Safety is a concern, which prevents young people from being out and about, enjoying just being kids.

### Reflection

Adult survey respondents saw several challenges to the aspirations. Both adults and young people were concerned about violence, crime, antisocial behaviour and drug and alcohol abuse. They also identified racism and discrimination as issues needing attention.



Please, can we do something about the alcohol; it is ruining people.

Young people did note the effect of alcohol. In terms of what needs to change, 'doing something' about the ruinous impact of alcohol was an important step towards improving the town.



Fractured families, alcohol, bad choices by adults, lack of knowledge on how to provide children with the basics of life.

Adults also referred to alcohol as a problem. The perceptions then are associated with a pathological problem which has far-reaching social consequences well beyond the harm caused by alcohol consumption itself.

### Community comment

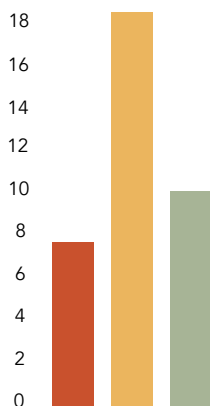


Reduce number of liquor take away outlets. Establish trauma healing centres for young people to get them engaged with education and the community.

Alcohol is not a problem by itself. Rather it is the antisocial behaviours associated with the excessive consumption of alcohol that leads people to argue for restrictions and penalties. Some form of treatment and education is seen as a solution to the problem. Rightly or wrongly, many adults assume that fixing the alcohol problem will fix a perceived parenting problem. What do you think?

## Children have positive, safe and secure relationships

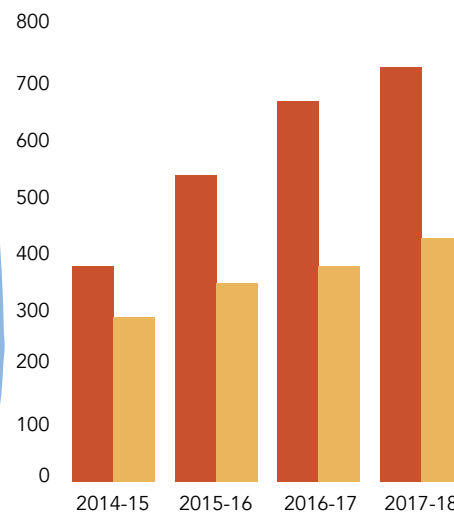
### Relationships – Social Competence (AEDC 2018 Developmental Vulnerability)



Per cent developmentally vulnerable (social competence)  
 ■ Alice Springs ■ Northern Territory ■ Australia

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) captures information about the vulnerability of children in their first year of schooling; in the Northern Territory this is the year of Transition. Alice Springs is making gains in the Social Competence domain. In 2018, children living in Alice Springs were less than half as likely to be developmentally vulnerable in the Social Competence domain compared to the NT average.

### Within families – Child protection notifications



Child Protection notification  
 ■ Alice Springs ■ Northern Territory

**4462**

Notifications of harm were made for children in Alice Springs

**70%**

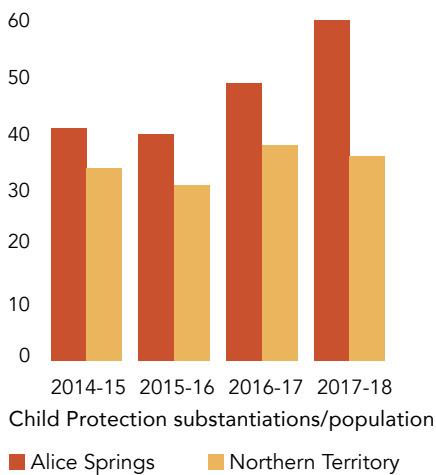
higher than the NT's

Data collected by Territory Families shows that there were 4462 notifications of harm in the year to June 2018. The notification rates are more than 70 per cent higher than the Northern Territory as a whole.





### Within families – Child protection substantiations



Substantiations of harm are much lower than the notification rates because not all notifications result in the need for further action. For Alice Springs they are still at a rate of 60 substantiations per 1000 children. The rates are 65 per cent higher than for the Northern Territory.



**366**  
 Notifications of harm were substantiated for children in Alice Springs

**65%**  
 higher than the NT's

### Within families – Out of Home Care

Out of Home Care is often a temporary measure while more permanent placements such as kinship or foster care is sourced. Out of Home Care is only a long-term option in the absence of any other suitable placements.

Since 2014 on average  
**199**  
 Children were in Out Of Home Care

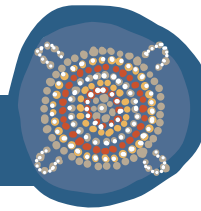


### Loved and Safe – what do you think?

While some people identified 'more alcohol restrictions', 'law and justice' and 'tough on crime' approaches to these challenges, more people recognised the complexities involved with the problems they identified. These people often talked about the need for 'all community members to respectfully listen to each other' and 'better collaboration between service providers' so the whole community is 'working for the same goal'.

**SOS** [We need] a community education program to educate members of the community about trauma informed care and practice, so [we] can work together to help the youth rather than just complain about them.

# ESSENTIAL NEEDS ARE MET



Essential needs are those fundamental building blocks that every child needs to thrive. Having money to buy food, having a house to live in with bedrooms for everyone, having a job and access to transport are all vitally important to families bringing up children.

**Community aspiration:**  
*For young people to fulfil dreams and achieve their goals.*

## COMMUNITY VOICE

- limited transport for Town Camps •
- high unemployment in Town Camps, need more jobs •
- many low income Indigenous families •
- concerns about housing, need more infrastructure investment •
- concerns about income inequality •

strengths

## SUMMARY OF DATA

- reasonable transport options
- low unemployment
- low housing stress
- few jobless families

challenges



*[I want to see] equal opportunities for all. Housing/shelter for all. Quality, appropriate education for all. Job opportunities for all.*



## Summary: How are we doing?

The surveys and the data from other sources show different results for different groups of people in the Essential Needs Area of Wellbeing. While for the majority of people living in Alice Springs there are good job opportunities, low housing stress and relatively good transport options, for those living in Town Camps issues of transport, employment, housing quality and provision of basic infrastructure are all significant concerns. For many, the things that got in the way of their hopes and dreams were inequalities, disadvantage and poverty.

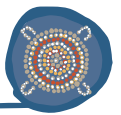
Many people who come to Alice Springs come for work, particularly professional people. Their higher incomes mean that their families' essential needs are most likely fully met. For other families though, the story is different.

Many young people surveyed talked positively about the opportunities they had to get jobs, licences, training and good pay because they live in Alice Springs. Some young people also spoke positively about Alice Springs because that was where their home was – and they liked their homes.

## Key indicators


- Dwellings requiring extra bedrooms
- Food affordability
- Welfare dependent families
- Labour force participation
- Access to public transport
- Households receiving rental assistance
- Low income households
- Income distribution





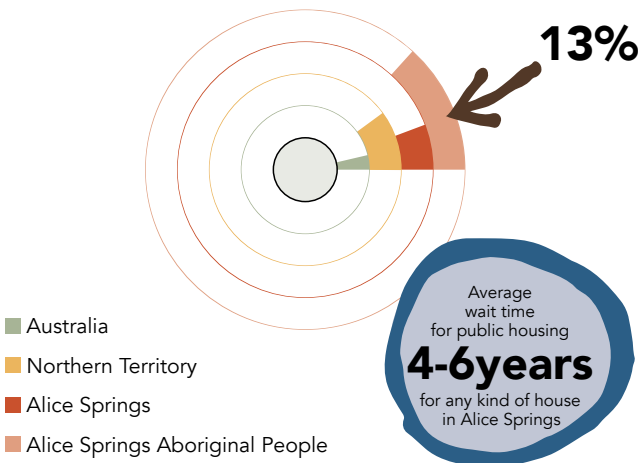
## Families have access to appropriate long-term and affordable housing

When children live in stable housing, they are more likely to be content, sleep and concentrate better. They are able to regulate their behaviours and are more likely to be mentally well.

 There are a lot of people who don't have a home, they sleep in the creek on the grass and anywhere.


The basic need of having a bedroom to sleep in came through in calls for change in relation to housing, but also with regard to cost of living issues.

### Overcrowding in housing – dwellings requiring extra bedroom



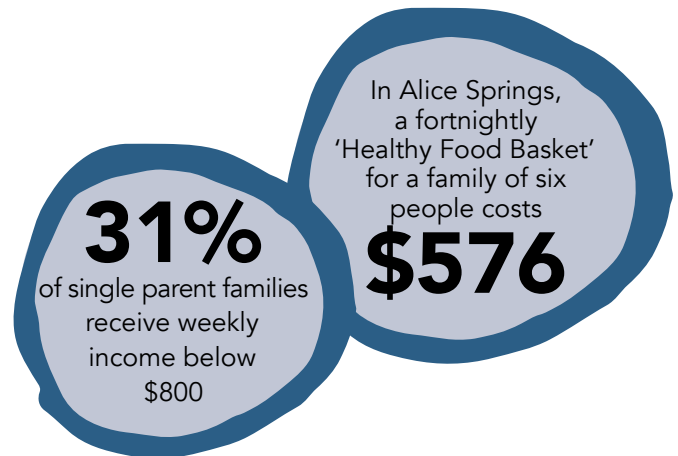
Data from the 2016 Census tells us how many houses require more bedrooms to accommodate all the people living in the household. Across Australia, 3.7 per cent of houses require extra bedroom(s) while for Alice Springs the figure is 5.7 per cent. However, for households flagged as 'Indigenous' this figure rises to 13.2 per cent. The impact of this, coupled with environmental and social factors on children can be profound, for example when disturbances in large households interrupt sleep patterns.

 I want a spare room in every house.

 Lack of affordable housing.  
Multi-generational poverty.

## Appropriate food is affordable and accessible to children and families

### Food affordability



The affordability of food depends on a number of variables, for example the price of groceries, the type of food purchased, the income of the person buying the groceries, how many people that person supports and the costs of other essential needs such as housing.

The Annual Market Basket Survey conducted for the Northern Territory Department of Health compares the costs of a Healthy Food Basket for remote and urban contexts. The latest available data (2016) suggests that in Alice Springs supermarkets, the cost of a Healthy Food Basket is \$576. This compares with \$644 for Darwin and \$606 for urban supermarkets in the Northern Territory.

Comparisons are difficult because of different income profiles across regions. However, what is clear is that for those on low incomes the proportion of income required to purchase a Healthy Food Basket is a lot higher than for those on average or higher incomes. It should also be noted that not everyone will buy a Healthy Food Basket. The Market Basket Survey suggests that in Alice Springs the Current Diet Basket costs \$672. The Current Diet Basket represents what people actually buy rather than what is considered 'healthy'.

### Reflection

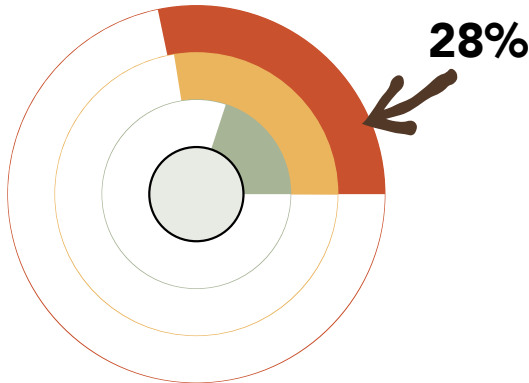
However, can all families access healthy, affordable food?

## Families can provide for their children

Families who can provide for their children have adequate incomes, stable employment, nutritious food and can access what they need in the community.

### Welfare dependent families

The impact of this unequal income distribution on children can be profound. One of the key reasons for the low incomes of Aboriginal people is welfare dependence.



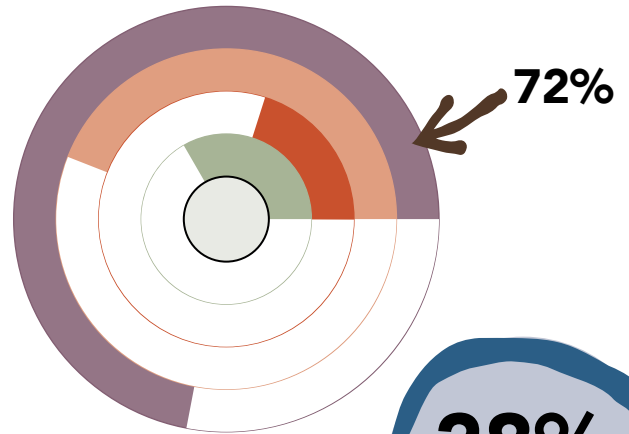
Children under 18 in low income welfare dependent families

- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs

Children are **20%** more likely to be in low income welfare dependent families than across Australia

### Employment – Adults not in the labour force

Unemployment rates don't include those who are not looking for work and therefore not in the labour force. There is, however, a strong link between participation in the labour market and the capacity of families to meet the needs of children. The chart here shows that for Alice Springs as a whole, labour force participation across the whole community is strong compared to the rest of Australia. However, the figures for Aboriginal people and Town Camp residents are quite different. Nearly three-quarters of Town Camp residents are not participating in the labour market. The impact on children is significant as patterns of labour force participation are often repeated across generations.



Adults not in labour force

- Australia
- Alice Springs
- Alice Springs Aboriginal People
- Alice Springs Town Camps

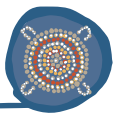
**28%** of Alice Springs children in low income families

This data does not tell us why there is such disparity within the Alice Springs community. We do however want to be clear that it is not due to indigeneity.

*The pay, vocational education training at school, everything is walking distance, job opportunities, easy to get a licence.*

Whilst positive opportunities have been noted in the survey responses, it was also recognised that there are many in the community who do not share those benefits.



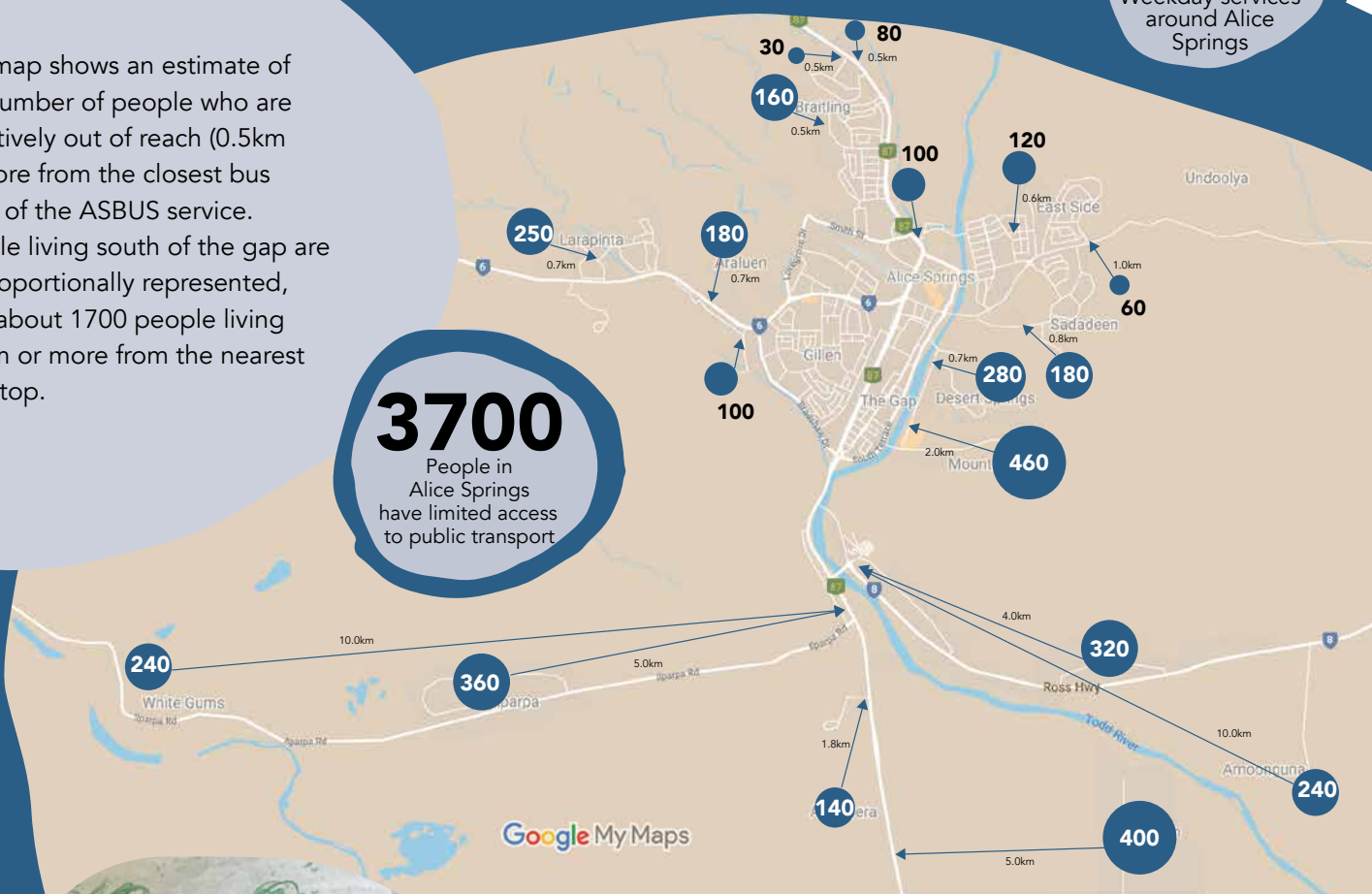


## Transport – Access to transport services

ASBUS operates **42** Weekday services around Alice Springs

The map shows an estimate of the number of people who are effectively out of reach (0.5km or more from the closest bus stop) of the ASBUS service. People living south of the gap are disproportionately represented, with about 1700 people living 1.8km or more from the nearest bus stop.

**3700**  
People in Alice Springs have limited access to public transport



**CO5** We need transport and infrastructure, telephones and roads with speed bumps and lighting. There is no way to get home except for taxis which are expensive, or Night Patrol, but they don't service the Camps enough anymore.

### What do you think?

For many, the things that got in the way of their hopes and dreams were inequalities, disadvantage and poverty. As a community, how can we work together to change this? What do we need to do differently?



Our children are our future. Being physically, mentally and emotionally well is important for everyone, but for children starting out in life being healthy sets them up for a strong future.

### Community aspiration:

*For children to lead happy healthy lives.*

#### COMMUNITY VOICE

camping and going out bush •

need for more sport and recreation facilities •  
need for more restrictions on alcohol availability •

strengths

#### SUMMARY OF DATA

- relatively high rates of breastfeeding
- reducing early childhood emotional maturity vulnerability
- reducing early childhood physical vulnerability
- immunisation rates comparable to national rates

- relatively high infant death rate
- high levels of obesity
- high levels of smoking during pregnancy

challenges



To be safe, healthy and happy and learn from this beautiful part of the country.

### Summary: How are we doing?

In the minds of our survey respondents, health did not figure prominently as an issue, adults tended to aspire for their children to 'lead happy, healthy' lives. There were other factors that also have a potential health impact such as 'camping and going out bush' as a positive and the need for more 'recreation and sporting facilities' and 'more alcohol restrictions' as things that need to change. The other sources of data paint a mixed picture of strengths and challenges.

In terms of strengths, we are encouraged by signs that young children are showing less vulnerability in the Australian Early Development Census data. The high rates of immunisation and relatively high rates of breastfeeding are also positive.

The challenges are serious. High levels of obesity, smoking during pregnancy and high infant death rates are worrying.



### Key indicators

- Smoking during pregnancy
- Infant death rate
- Breastfeeding rates at 6 months
- Obesity
- Developmentally on track (physical health and wellbeing)
- Developmentally on track (emotional maturity)
- Immunisation
- Fruit intake

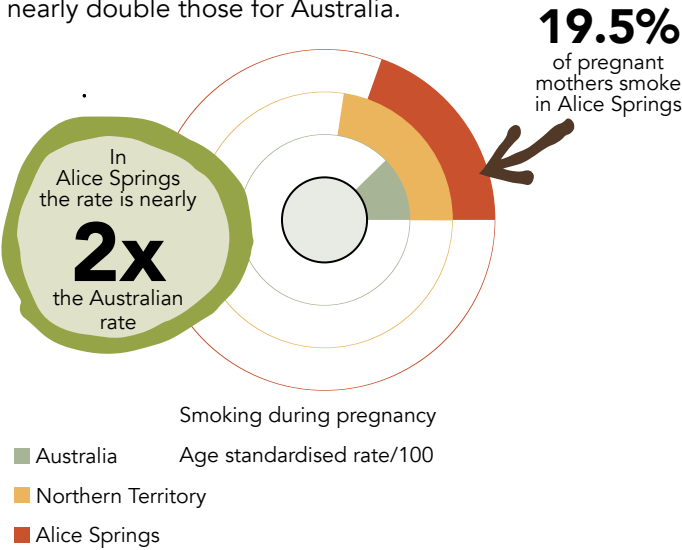




## From pregnancy, children are healthy, remain healthy and thrive

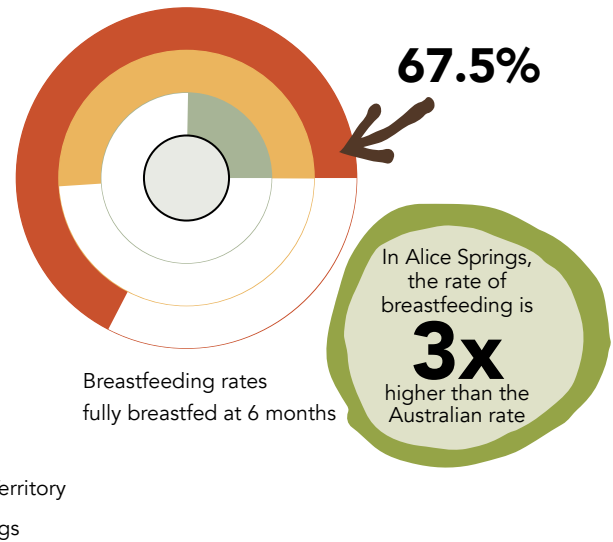
### Smoking during pregnancy

Smoking during pregnancy increases health risks for both the mother and child. Data collected by the NT Department of Health shows that rates of smoking during pregnancy among women in Alice Springs are nearly double those for Australia.



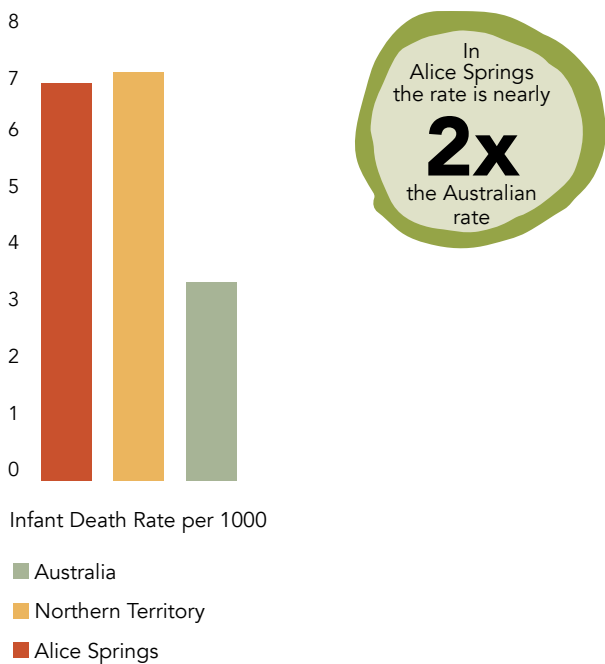
### Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding has benefits to both the mother and infant. For the baby these benefits extend well into childhood. Estimates of breastfeeding rates are based on data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the National Health Survey. Breastfeeding rates at six months for Alice Springs compare very favourably with Northern Territory and Australian rates.



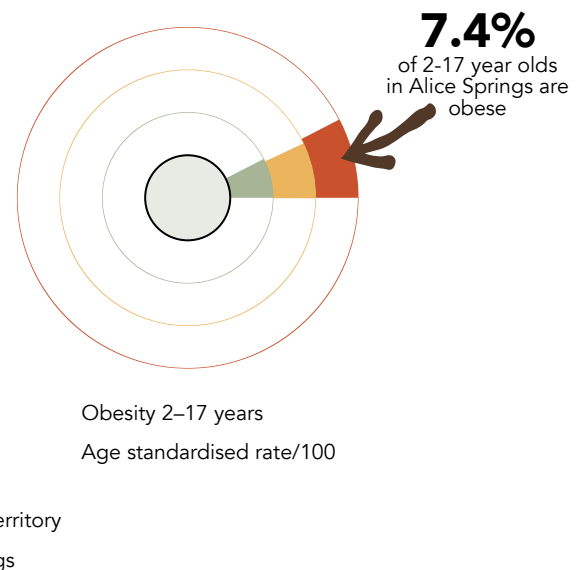
### Infant death rate

This points to significant vulnerabilities for young children. The rate for the whole town also most likely disguises a higher rate among families experiencing vulnerability.



### Obesity

High levels of obesity are associated with long-term and chronic medical conditions such as type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Rates of obesity (about 7 per cent of children aged 2–17) for children in Alice Springs are comparable with rates in the Northern Territory and Australia.



## Remain healthy and thrive

We know that many people in Alice Springs experience many health concerns at much higher rates than for the Australian population. For example, hospitalisations due to acute conditions (e.g. dental, ear nose and throat infections, and convulsions) are three times higher in Alice Springs than for Australia, and 50% higher than for the Northern Territory. But the data for children or other vulnerable groups in the community is not available.



There's good spots for camping.

Children and young people hinted at some aspects of life in Alice Springs that contribute to their wellbeing. One of those is related to the outdoor environment which lends itself to camping. Going out bush was seen to be positive. They did not talk about the indicators we have mentioned. Indeed, their love of fast or take away food, suggests that healthy diet is not at the fore of their thinking.

However, consistent with the positive messages about the environment, spoiling that environment was seen as a negative for their sense of wellbeing.

## Families have access to health information and are confident to support their children's health



### Reflection

Community members identified 'families having access to health information and confidence to support their children's health' as a key aspect of the 'Healthy Wellbeing Area'. However, it was difficult to identify data to measure this. How could this be measured? What could the community do to support families to understand health risks and be empowered to support their children's health needs?







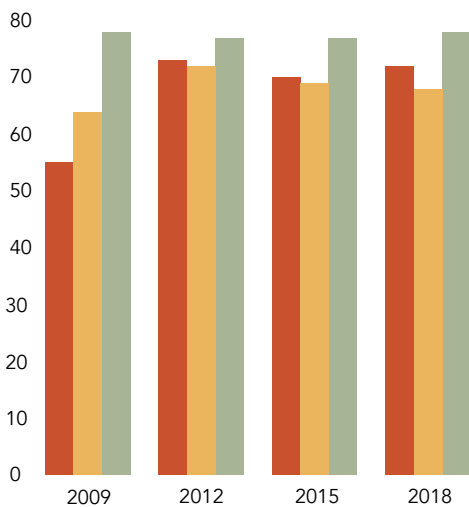
## Children’s health and development concerns are identified early

Good health and wellbeing (physically, mentally and developmentally) in the early years are the foundation of well-adjusted and productive adult lives. Identifying health and developmental concerns early means better long-term outcomes.



### Developmentally on track (Physical Health and Wellbeing)

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) captures information about the vulnerability of children in their first year of schooling. The AEDC Instrument collects data relating to five key areas of early childhood development referred to as ‘domains’: Physical Health and Wellbeing, Social Competence, Emotional Maturity, Language and Cognitive Skills, and Communication Skills and General Knowledge. The Physical Health and Wellbeing domain measures children’s physical readiness for the school day, their physical independence and gross and fine motor skills. In 2018, three out of four children in Alice Springs were developmentally on track. Whilst Alice Springs has made gains, there is still work to do to close the gap of 5.5 percentage points and reach the national average.



Health and wellbeing: Developmentally on track

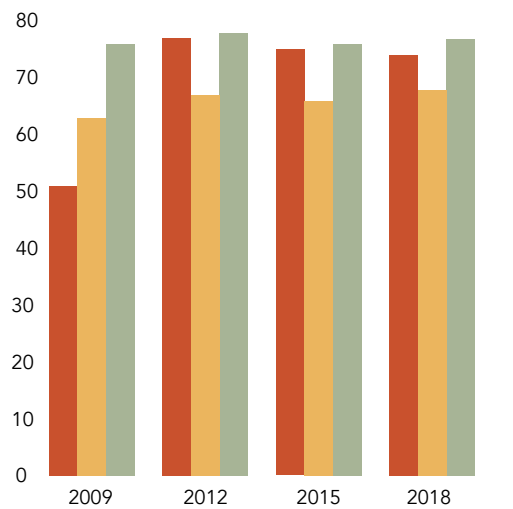
■ Alice Springs ■ Northern Territory ■ Australia

In Alice Springs  
**3in4**  
children are developmentally on track in Physical Health and Wellbeing

## Emotional Maturity

The AEDC describes emotional maturity as ‘Children’s pro-social and helping behaviours and absence of anxious and fearful behaviour, aggressive behaviour and hyperactivity and inattention’. After a significant positive increase from 2009 to 2012, the proportion of children ‘on track’ in Alice Springs has remained relatively the same. The 2018 data shows Alice Springs needs to increase its proportion of children on track by 3.2 percentage points to reach the national average of 77.1 percent.

AEDC data on Language and Cognitive Skills and Communication Skills can be found in the Technical Report.



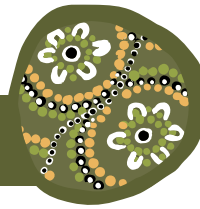
Emotional maturity on track

■ Alice Springs ■ Northern Territory ■ Australia



In Alice Springs  
**3in4**  
children are developmentally on track in emotional maturity

# ENGAGED IN LEARNING



Learning is a continuous process throughout life. Children and young people learn through a variety of formal and informal experiences, both within the classroom and more broadly in their home and community.

## Community aspiration: For young people to receive a good education.

### COMMUNITY VOICE

- strengths**
- good schools and teachers
  - strong family support

- concerns about education and training
- young people want more education options
- need more family, parent and youth support
- need cultural leadership and education programs
- need more education and training options, demand for playgroups in Town Camps

### SUMMARY OF DATA

- NAPLAN results above the NT average

- lower school attendance and retention rates
- low and declining attendance rates

**challenges**



Amazing schools. Amazing teachers.  
Amazing students.

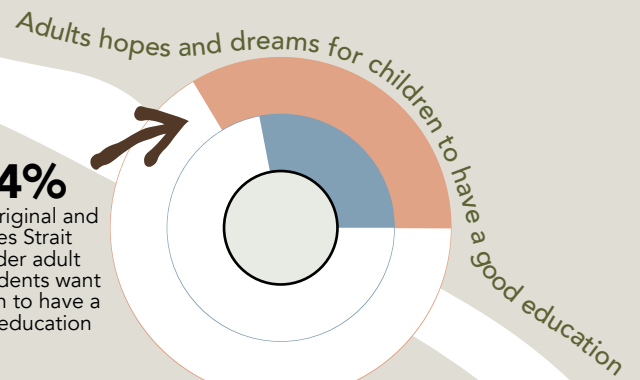


Great educational opportunities that provide diverse learning models and strategies to cater for individual learning styles and aspirations.

## Summary: How are we doing?

The data shows some really positive educational strengths for young people at school. Many students are doing well at school and many young people say they have great teachers and strong family support. But there are challenges too. Attendance rates are declining, retention rates to Year 12 are relatively low and many people in our surveys expressed concerns about education and training options. People living in Town Camps wanted to see more accessible play groups and Aboriginal people more generally wanted to see cultural leadership and language education programs for their children.

Analysis of the survey data shows some differences in the way people think. The hope of a good education was expressed more by Aboriginal people (refer graph). The flip side of this is a perception that the education available to Aboriginal children is not as good as it is for other children.



**34%**  
of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adult respondents want children to have a good education

■ Aboriginal respondents ■ All respondents

## Key indicators

- School attendance and enrolment
- Year 12 completion
- Early Childhood Developmental Vulnerability
- NAPLAN results
- Communication Skills and General Knowledge
- Language and Cognitive Skills





## Children are confident, involved and successful learners and have access to quality education

### Attendance, enrolment and access

Regular and consistent attendance means children have every opportunity to maximise their learning. It provides opportunities to develop the basic building blocks for learning and social skills.

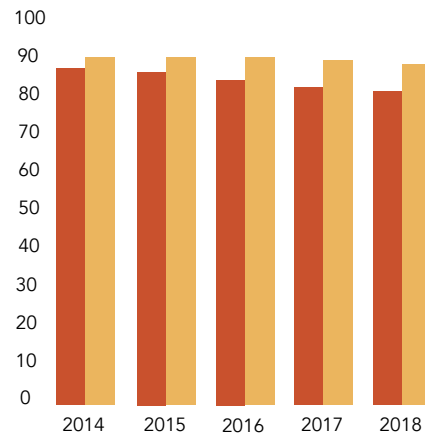
Some young people commented on the need for 'better schools' and some suggested that they just need to attend school. Some linked attendance at school to better parenting.

The map shows the location of schools across Alice Springs based on data available on the My School website. The size of these schools varies.

Three schools have only Aboriginal students. Other schools have varying mixes of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students. There is considerable variation in attendance rates, too.

### Attendance rates

Based on My School data, the chart here shows attendance rates for Alice Springs schools progressively declining since 2014. The difference between the Northern Territory and Alice Springs schools has been widening since 2014. Attendance rates in 2018 were seven per cent below the Territory average.



Per cent school attendance rate\* (compared with NT)  
\*Alice Springs results adjusted for school enrolments

■ Alice Springs ■ Northern Territory



**5223**

children and young people were enrolled in Alice Springs schools in 2018

## Enrolments and attendance in Alice Springs schools

**10**

Playgroups

**10**

Pre-schools

**18**

schools


**Key**

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people
- Non-Aboriginal people
- School total attendance rate



## Year 12 completion

Every five years the Australian Bureau of Statistics asks a question on the Census about the highest level of schooling completed for each person in the household. While Year 12 completion rates for Alice Springs town exceed those for the Northern Territory as a whole, they still fall well short of attainment rates for 20 to 24 year olds across Australia.

 **Fix internet speed. Start more education programs for troubled youth.**

Internet access is an important enabler for education. Some parts of Alice Springs have good access to fast NBN services. Others, particularly in Town Camps and rural areas only have access to slower speeds.

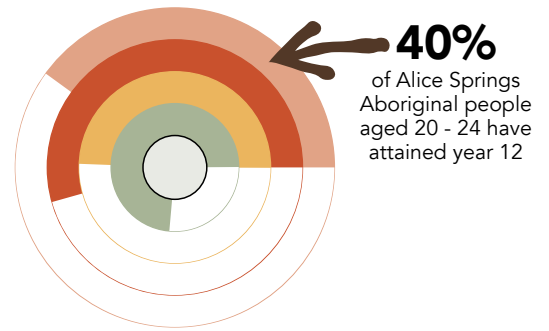


## Early childhood developmental vulnerability

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) captures information about the vulnerability of children in their first year of schooling. Following 2009, there was a large decrease in the percent of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains. In 2018, one in four children (27.4 percent) in Alice Springs were developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains compared to one in three (35.8 percent) across the Northern Territory and one in five (21.7 percent) nationally.

## NAPLAN results

Data from the My School website allows us to see how every school in Alice Springs is faring with their NAPLAN results. On average, based on NAPLAN tests, Alice Springs schools have slightly lower results than schools across Australia and slightly higher results than schools across the Northern Territory. To some extent these scores reflect the relative level of engagement in schooling that is offered to them and are influenced by a range of other factors. They should not be seen as a measure of Alice Springs children's future wellbeing or their ability to contribute to the community.



Year 12 Attainment for 20-24 year olds

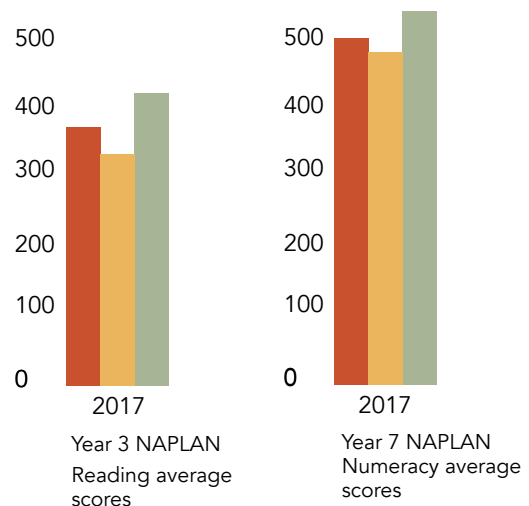
- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs
- Alice Springs Aboriginal People

In Alice Springs **1 in 4** children are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains



AEDC Developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains  
Per cent of children assessed

- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs



Year 3 NAPLAN Reading average scores

Year 7 NAPLAN Numeracy average scores

- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs



## Children participate in early learning programs and activities

The challenge with this data is tracking how many families are attending one or more of the 30 formal early learning services in Alice Springs.



## Parents/care-givers have opportunities to learn

Parents also need opportunities to learn. While there is data available to show how many people are enrolled and complete vocational education and training courses, there are lots of other ways that adults can learn, for example at University or through adult and community education classes. We do not know how many parents are accessing these opportunities.





## Families are supportive of learning


Many adults were supportive of learning, but there is no data. How can we measure this support?



## Engaged in Learning – reflections

 [We need] great educational opportunities that provide diverse learning models and strategies to cater for individual learning styles and aspirations.

 There is no one teaching them language of their tribe at school. Make sure we have that in place at all schools.

 More opportunities for children to learn. Schools need to encourage cultural learning, take children out bush, teach them hunting and gathering of banana plants.

One of the reasons for the dissatisfaction with education is that it doesn't cater to the language learning needs of children. For these adults, making schools inclusive of everyone is fundamentally important. It's not just about language. The need for cultural learning was expressed by some adults. By contrast, not one adult called for the improvement in the levels of English literacy standards.

# ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING



The social environment in which young people grow is important for their development. For many young people participation in sport and recreational activities is one way to mix with and make friends. For others, volunteering is important. It is also important for children to be provided with opportunities to speak and feel heard. For these things to happen, children and young people need places that meets their needs and strong organisational structures.

## Community aspiration:

### *Safe community spaces and environment.*

#### COMMUNITY VOICE

- positive youth perceptions about town pool •
- positive youth perceptions about sport •
- festivals and events •
- nothing to do •
- need for collaborative and community-led solutions •
- need more youth activities and services •
- need more sport and recreation opportunities, parks and playgrounds •

strengths

#### SUMMARY OF DATA

- relatively high rates of youth volunteering

challenges



That they grow strongly with the support of all of the older children and adults in their lives. That they continue to thrive in environments that nurture and encourages their sense of belief in themselves, pride, cultures and communities.



## Summary: How are we doing?

Many adults we surveyed talked about the need for community-led solutions to the challenges young people faced. The issues they want addressed include the need for more youth activities and services and more facilities.

Beyond the challenges, young people themselves see lots of positives from their involvement in sport and particular places like the town pool. The data also shows relatively strong rates of volunteering among young people in Alice Springs.

## Key indicators

- Parks and recreation facilities
- Participation in sport (0-12 years)
- Youth volunteering



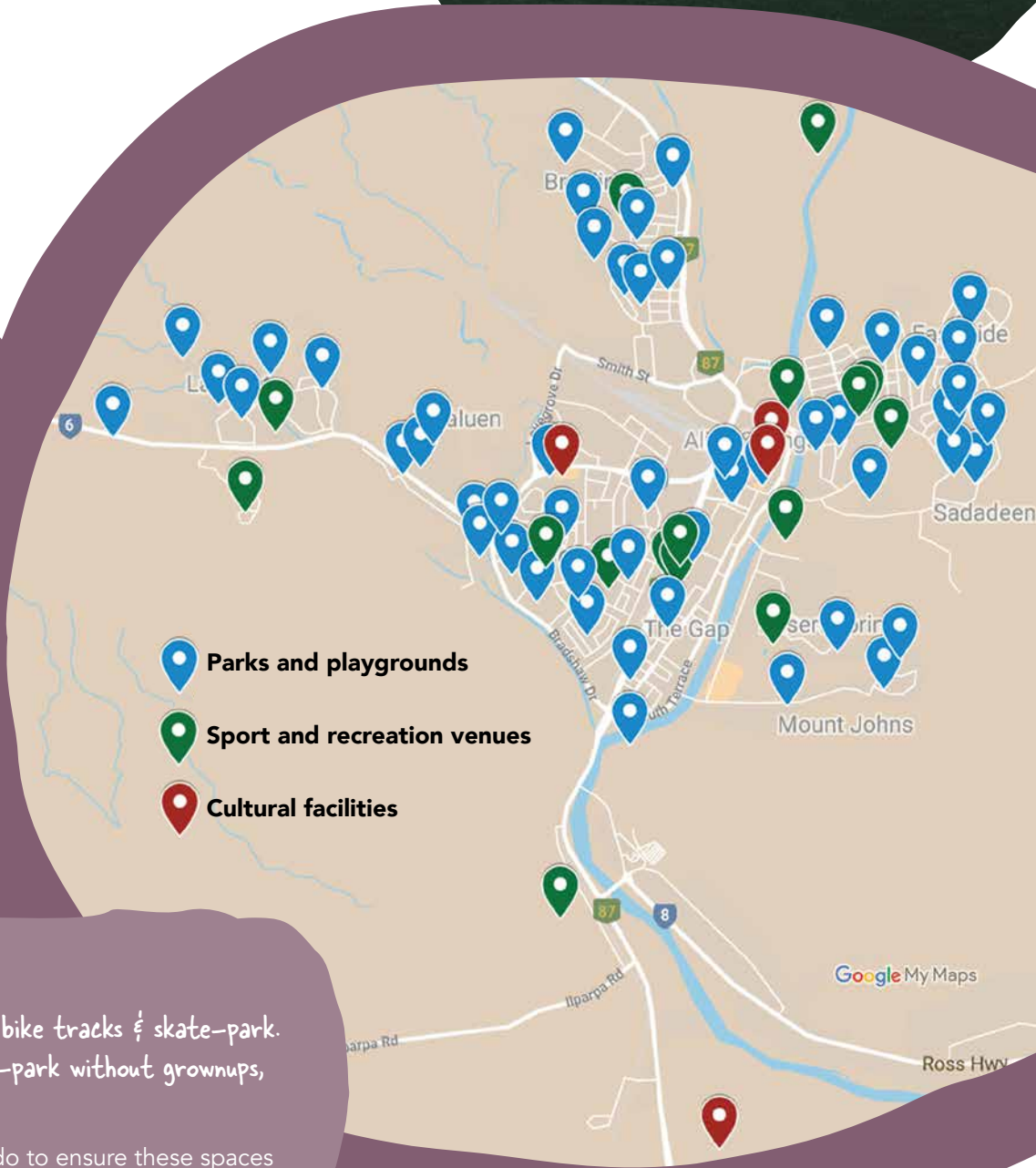
## Community spaces are child and family friendly




### Parks and recreation facilities

The map here shows the location of more than 70 parks, playgrounds, sporting venues and cultural facilities. The map is based on information available from the Alice Springs Town Council. The facilities at each site vary. Most parks are not fenced, and not all parks offer shade. Also, there are parks in Town Camps, Amoonguna and the rural locations south of The Gap (not included in the map).



**47**  
parks in  
Alice Springs  
with play  
equipment



-  Parks and playgrounds
-  Sport and recreation venues
-  Cultural facilities

### Reflection

 Glass all over bike tracks & skate-park. Big mobs of kids at skate-park without grownups, swearing & smoking.

What can the community do to ensure these spaces are safe and friendly for children and families?

## Children can safely voice their views and feel heard


It is important that children and young people are listened to, are supported in expressing their views, that their views are taken into account and they are involved in decision-making processes that affect them. It is difficult to measure the extent to which children and young people are involved in these processes.





## Community provide opportunities to access and participate in activities

Alice Springs provides a variety of low-cost and free community activities and events. Some of the community did not perceive this to be the case. Why?



 A lack of children and young people focused programs and events to teach life skills.

 More holiday activities for all teens, a waterpark for summer instead of the town pool, laser tag, music concerts, more shopping.

 Sometimes I'm not allowed to go out to town by myself. There's not much to do in town for older kids.

Young people had many suggestions for more activities. By far the most popular suggestion was the need for a water park, which came up more than 100 times.

### What do you think?

How could children and young people be involved in the design of a waterpark? How can we involve children in the design of child-friendly spaces?





### Participation in sport (0-12 years)

While the child and youth survey clearly showed how popular sport and recreation activities are in Alice Springs, we cannot say for sure how many children are actively involved in sporting clubs.



There are over **40** sporting and recreational organisations identified on the ASTC website



There are lots of sport activities.

While many people in surveys talked about participation in sport, quite a few also said there is not enough for young people to do. Sometimes this was associated with antisocial behaviours and a worry from parents that if they let their children go out alone, they might get into trouble.

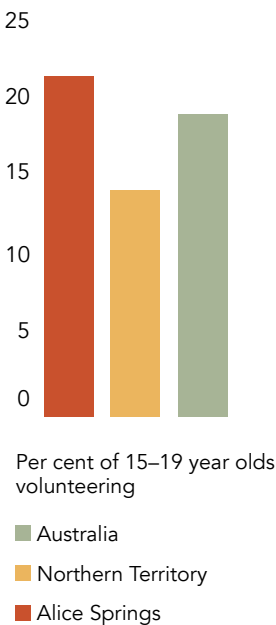
### Reflection

**Community controlled & led responses that are process driven.**

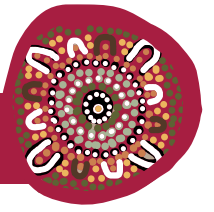
Lots of adults spoke of the need to work together to address the needs of young people. This comment points to the need for community-led responses rather than interventions that come from government, which are led from the 'top down'. The comment here also refers to process-driven responses, rather than those that are just about outputs or outcomes. The way we create change is often more important than the change itself.

### Youth volunteering

The proportion of young people aged 15 to 19 who volunteer in Alice Springs compares favourably with both the Northern Territory and Australia. No one in either of the surveys talked about youth volunteering, though some adults suggested there was a need for more volunteers in general. Volunteering is a positive sign of civic participation, social capital and social inclusion. Strong social capital and cohesion is a good foundation on which to build a strong community.



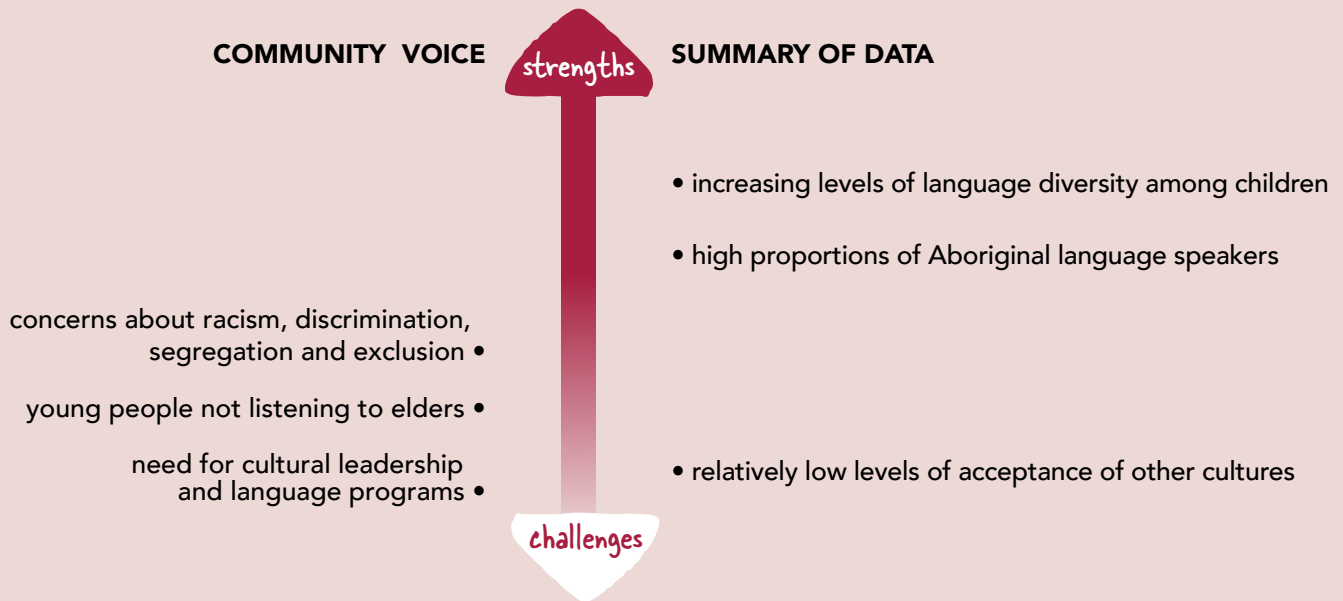
# POSITIVE SENSE OF IDENTITY AND CULTURE



It is an expression of individuality and uniqueness; knowing where you come from, where you are, where you belong, that you are valued and have the capacity to choose where you're going. Culture is about being part of a way of life – ideas, values, customs and behaviour.

## Community aspiration:

*For people to be respectful, living in harmony.*



Everyone working together & respecting each other. Recognising that everyone has different values. Acknowledging that this is Arrernte country & bringing Traditional Owners in to all of the town planning & decision-making meetings.

By contrast, awareness among adult respondents about culture and identity was often strongly articulated. For some, the hopes and dreams they had for their children were directly related to the need for all people to behave respectfully.

## Summary: How are we doing?

As young people grow up they gradually develop character and identity. Adolescence is a particularly turbulent time for many young people as they grapple with who they are and where they belong culturally. Their values and beliefs are shaped as they learn to navigate different ideas and different ways of being in the world. Many adults in our survey wanted to see young people growing up respectful of all people, living in harmony with others regardless of culture.

Alice Springs is increasingly becoming a culturally and linguistically diverse place. The strength of Aboriginal languages spoken across the town is something to be celebrated. However, our survey data shows many people were concerned about racism, and external data shows relatively low levels of acceptance of those with different cultural backgrounds.



## Key indicators

- Acceptance of other cultures
- Aboriginal languages spoken
- Languages other than English spoken at home
- Organisations that support language and culture



## Children have a sense of belonging to people, place and culture

Children and young people did not have a lot to say about what they thought was 'good' in relation to language, culture and identity. Some were able to identify issues they felt were not right. For some, this was reflected in statements about racism and discrimination, but these comments were seldom voiced.

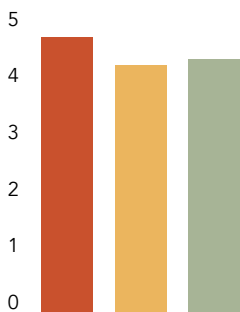
*I would like to see Aboriginal and white people getting along with each other and not fighting or arguing with each other all the time.*

*The fairness towards Indigenous people isn't that great.*

*Racism. A blaming, judging mentality. Lack of respect for & valuing of difference.*

### Acceptance of other cultures

The diversity of Alice Springs is a strength, however the results of the adult survey suggests that some people find that diversity challenging. Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics General Social Survey suggest that proportionally slightly more people in Alice Springs have difficulty accepting other cultures. The differences are however very small when compared to the Northern Territory and Australia. Racism and discriminatory attitudes get in the way of hopes and dreams.



People who disagree with acceptance of other cultures Rates per 100

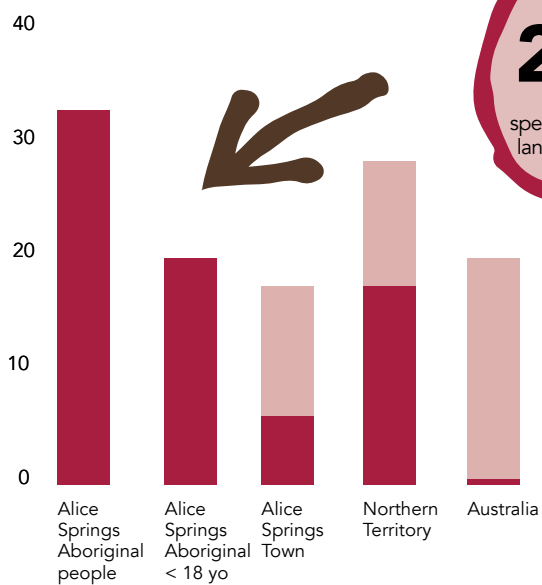
- Australia
- Northern Territory
- Alice Springs

## The community supports children to learn and use their language

There are a diverse number of languages spoken at home, but it is difficult to capture how the community supports children to learn and use their language. Most schools offer a range of language learning opportunities.

### Aboriginal languages spoken

About one-third of Aboriginal people living in Alice Springs speak a traditional language or creole at home. For the Australian population, only 0.3 per cent speak an Aboriginal language, and among Aboriginal people, only one-tenth speak an Aboriginal language at home.



Per cent of population speaking a language other than English at home

- Any language other than English
- Aboriginal language speakers



## Languages other than English spoken at home

After Aboriginal languages, the most commonly spoken languages other than English are southern Asian and south-east Asian languages. The 32 languages listed here make up the bulk of languages other than English spoken at home in Alice Springs.

## Aboriginal Languages

Arrernte – Eastern/Central/Western

Warlpiri

Pintupi-Luritja

Alyawarr/Anmatyerr

Pitjantjatjara

**10%**

of Alice Springs residents speak one of the following languages at home:

Sinhalese (Sri Lanka)

Tagalog (Philippines)

Malayalam (India)

Vietnamese

Mandarin (China)

Samoan

Filipino (Philippines)

Afrikaans (South Africa)

Punjabi (India)

Spanish

Korean

Hindi (India)

French

German

Nepali

Shona (Zimbabwe)

Urdu (Pakistan)

Italian

Cantonese (China)

Thai

Japanese

Māori (New Zealand)

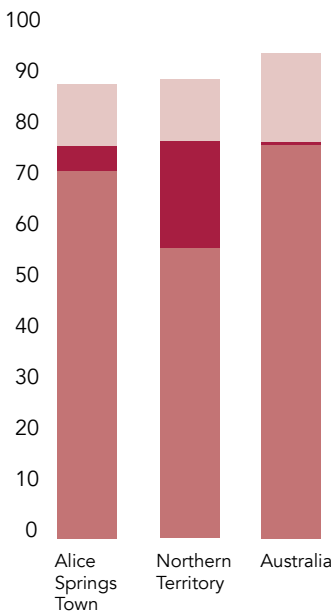
Arabic





### Languages spoken by children and young people

We noted earlier that about 20 per cent of Aboriginal children in Alice Springs speak an Aboriginal language at home. This translates to about five per cent of the total population, much less than for the Northern Territory, but many times more than for Australia. The proportion of those children who speak another language other than English at home is comparable with the Northern Territory and slightly less than for Australia.



Languages that children and youth speak (per cent of 0–18 year olds)

- Northern European languages (inc. English)
- Australian Aboriginal languages
- Other languages (Asian, African, other European languages)

### Organisations that support language and culture

There are organisations that support language and culture in Alice Springs, but we do not have access to this data.



#### Community reflection

*EOJ [We need] local school holiday programs, free access to the town pool, bush trips to learn about culture, tucker and hunting. Language to remain strong in communities. Language lessons at school run by parents and caregivers as paid employment. More community involvement in schools. For Aboriginal people in particular, the need to strengthen cultural leadership came through strongly in the survey, and particularly among Town Camp residents. Educational programs that strengthen language and ties to local culture were also sought. Despite the diversity of cultures and languages other than English or Aboriginal languages, there were few comments in the surveys about immigrants, their culture or their languages.*



## WHAT NEXT

The data and the comments in this Profile help us understand the community today, and provide us with the opportunity to work collaboratively to make decisions in response to the needs and concerns identified. This is the beginning of a conversation between community members, service providers and governments. Careful consideration and sensitivity is required as this resource is used to further explore and understand the priorities most important to this community.

The Profile provides evidence for change, and the impetus for a collective response. That response will begin with the co-creation of a local Action Plan. The data will form a baseline to measure change over time. It is a resource for professionals, planners and community members as they seek to improve children's wellbeing.

### Let people know

- Distribute the Profile widely
- Hold a workshop for those interested in gaining a deeper understanding of the data and what it means
- Present at focus groups and key stakeholder meetings
- Ask what people think – what does it mean to you?
- Promoting the Profile

### Using the information

- Look at the data. Do we need to find out more? Do we need other data?
- Review the data in the Technical Report for more content
- Consider the data in conjunction with other relevant local data and the context from which it is reviewed
- Think critically about what the data is saying – analyse it and ask yourself what it means, what isn't there and what else you need to know?
- Consult with community – what are the priorities?
- Advocate for change within the community, service providers and government

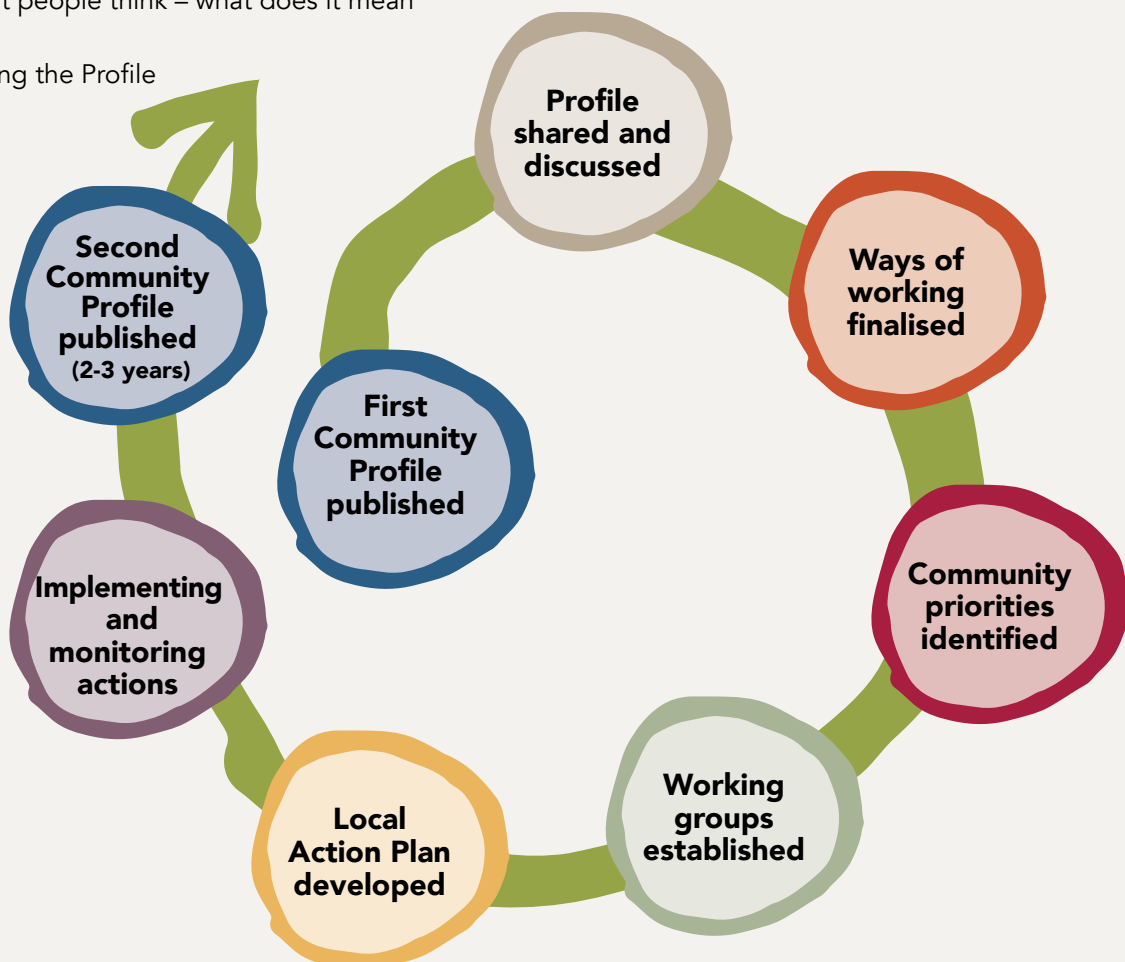


### Planning

- The Profile can be used to inform a Child Friendly Alice Local Action Plan and other local planning
- Provide the basis for a coordinated community approach

### Consolidate

- Develop a second Profile in 2 – 3 years' time (resource permitting)

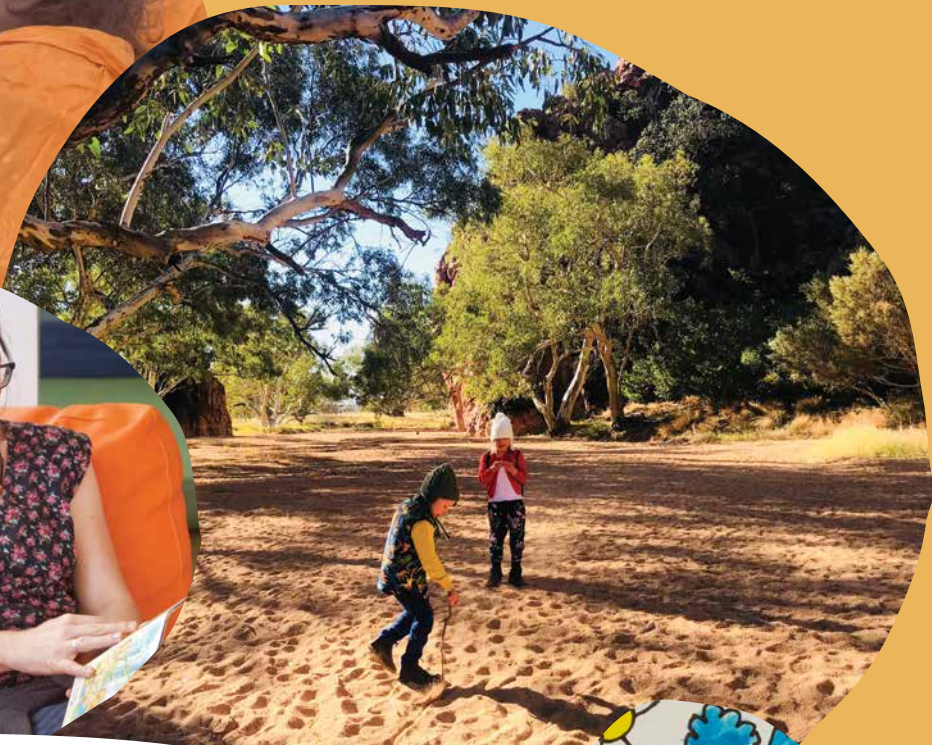






A vision without a plan is just a dream.  
A plan without a vision is just drudgery.  
But a vision with a plan can change the world.

(Anonymous)



\*The Connected Beginnings Program is funded by the Australian Government\*



Communities for Children Alice Springs is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



the power of humanity

