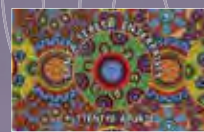


Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation
& Santa Teresa Enterprises Ltd

Annual Report 2023 - 2024



Welcome to
Etyentye Apurte
Country country



photo by Eastbywest



● Ltyentye Apurte

AAAC VISION

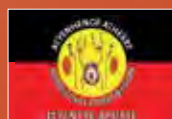
Autonomy of the people of Ltyentye Apurte in every aspect of life

AAAC PURPOSE

AAAC exists to realise the vision and aspirations of the people of Ltyentye Apurte for a strong, independent, and a self-determined future.

Our commitment to local decision making is at the core of everything we do, it directs our focus, and enhances our impact.

We do this by amplifying the voices of the community, strengthening leadership, reinforcing culture, building prosperity, and enhancing a safe and healthy environment for all.





From the Directors



This has been another busy and productive year for AAAC and Santa Teresa Enterprises. We looked to the past, the present and the future of our community and worked hard to finalise AAAC's 2024-2026 Local Decision Making Agreement.. Implementation of all the incredible activities of AAAC continue, and we are proud to bring you the Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation Annual Report for 2023 - 2024.

2023 was the 70th Anniversary of Ltyentye Apurte and we celebrated in style! The celebration was held from 27th to 29th October 2023, and events on the weekend included a pool party, Blessing of the Grotto by Bishop Charles, an amazing photo exhibition at the school, Morning tea on the Basketball Court with speeches by Bishop Charles, Jane Lloyd from Catholic Care and Ellie Kamara from AAAC on behalf of the Board. Evening mass was held on the oval followed by Merne Mwarre's excellent dinner for community & visitors.

We supported 18 new and ongoing projects through the Stronger Communities for Children Strategy, funded through the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA). All projects were identified by community members as being beneficial to Santa Teresa and approved for funding by the local Decision Making Group.


The Alternative Education Programme continues to achieve this year and is a shining example of a whole of community approach. The young mens programme continues to move along well, ably led by RJ Conway, the young ladies program has slightly less participation on a regular basis, but there more girls participating this year than last. Our hopes that this successful program would

be rolled out to other communities has come to fruition as the NIAA have proposed merging the Alternative Education Programme into a Junior Ranger Programme, with a wider scope, for our community and for others. Agreements are in process and the Junior Ranger program will commence from 1st July 2024.

Our focus on building economic and employment sustainability through social enterprises, while challenging in a remote setting, continues to be well-founded. The SCFC projects mentioned above and the Santa Teresa Enterprises employed 42 community members. A core principle of Santa Teresa Enterprises is to build community resilience through small businesses, and we believe the money was well spent on wages for each enterprise. Additionally, the Traditional Craft Centre, the Ltyentye Apurte Hair Salon and Merne Mwarre remained available to CDP participants, providing further income to help sustain their growing businesses

The Traditional Craft Centre, Spinifex Skateboards, the Ltyentye Apurte Hair Salon, Merne Mwarre (Good Food) Nutrition Program, and the Store Precinct Furniture Shed and Coffee Van have had some great successes this year. Traditional Craft has gone from strength to strength this year, with sales increasing 65% .

Purte Warrke-Irreme (Working Together) has also jumped ahead in leaps and bounds this year, thanks to Central Land Council employing Joel Stellar who was able to focus on this exciting project. The collaboration with Central Land Council, Paul Ramsay Foundation and Australian National University will have significant impact in the community in the coming years. This year we have focused on the design stage and by the end



of 2024 we will have a proposal for Paul Ramsay Foundation for a five year trial, to commence early in 2025 to conduct research on new and innovative employment practices in remote communities.

In September 2023 we opened the Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark, the first of its kind in a community in the NT. The opening ceremony was a fantastic day with a demonstration by Indigenous Skate Team Songlines and to the visitors from across Australia who came to help us celebrate. The skatepark is testament to the drive and energy of many people, but particularly to Nicky 'Skateboard' Hayes' long held vision of an outdoor skatepark in the community. The skatepark is in constant use, both for skating workshops and each evening for community adults and kids.

Sadly this year the Ltyentye Apurte Sports Weekend was rained out, but it has not dampened the enthusiasm with which the community uses our beautiful Oval which is in constant use since its opening in June 2021. We are continually grateful to MFC & MCC for their support of our MCG of the Desert.

The Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project has been extremely lucky to continue to be supported by two ex-ARUP employees, Michael Salt & Alex Reilly, who have continued advising the community in a volunteer capacity. Their support, in addition to the support provided by Chris Croker, joined this year by David Dawson is essential for the project & without their help we would not have continued beyond the feasibility study; we thank them sincerely.

AAAC continued to provide support to Ltyentye Apurte Community Care (Aged Care - LACC) at the beginning of this year; Georga Ryan (ex AAAC Staff) agreed to take on the LACC Manager role and has done a sterling job, allowing AAAC to step back. We remain available for support should the need arise.

This year we have worked hard to engage with NT and Federal Governments to finalise our Local Decision Making Agreement; this agreement encompasses the capacity of AAAC, ensuring we maintain an holistic view of the social & economic status of the community, strengthening community health & wellbeing, developing positive pathways for our young people, strengthening the existing social enterprises and starting new ones. The agreement is ready for signature and a signing ceremony will take place in July 2024.

In this report we bring you the stories from this year about helping make Ltyentye Apurte strong, safe, and healthy for our children and grandchildren. We thank you, our members, for your ongoing contribution, for talking to us, for watching what we do and holding us to account. We want to make you proud.

Annalisa Young
Clare Young
Emma Hayes
Keith Castle
Leocardia Young
Louise Cavanagh
MC Mulladad
Matthew Cavanagh
Nicky Hayes
Raymond Palmer
Veronica Wallace





ATYENHENGE ATHERRE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

Santa Teresa Mission was established in 1953 with land purchased by the Catholic Church, and in 1977 the Mission's administration was passed to the Ltyentye Apurte Aboriginal Lands Trust in accordance with the Aboriginal Lands Rights (NT) Act 1976. In 1981 The Santa Teresa Community Council was established and many of the assets of the Mission were transferred to the Community Council and thus to Community Control.

This changed again in 2007 following the Northern Territory National Emergency Response, also known as The Intervention, and the installation of Government Business Managers. One year later the local council was closed and Ltyentye Apurte became part of the MacDonnell Regional Council. These two major changes led to confusion about who was doing what in Ltyentye Apurte and what had happened to community management.

Community Elders began negotiation to set up an organisation to regain community control. The Elders were supported by some external partners, and in 2010 Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and Santa Teresa Enterprises were registered.

AAAC was incorporated on 1st May 2010 as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Affairs (ORIC) Indigenous Corporation Number 7370. STE was registered as a company on 1st June 2010 and both AAAC & STE were registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission in December 2012.

The AAAC board is made up of 12 people including nine elected by the community and three non-member directors nominated from the Jesuits, Santa Teresa Church and the Santa Teresa Clinic.

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC)

Strategic Plan 2023-2028



SOCIAL/POLITICAL

**Atyenhenge Atherre
Aboriginal Corporation
(CATSI Act)**

100+ Members
12 Directors

SOLE MEMBER

**Ltyentye Apurte
Coordinating
Body**

**Stronger
Communities
for Children**

**Horse
Program**

**Purte warrke-lrreme
(working together)**

**Oval
Project**

**Ltyentye
Apurte
Skate Park**

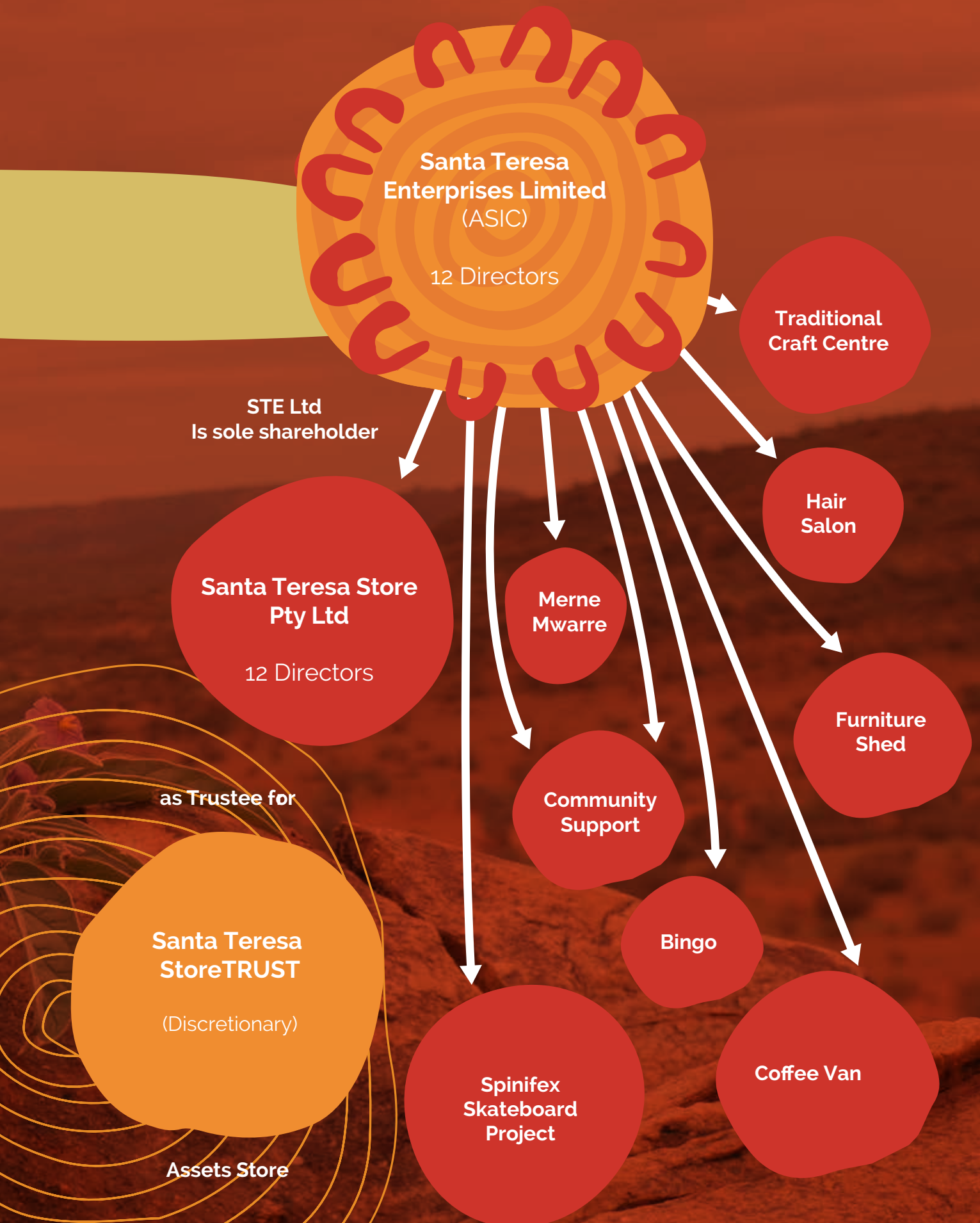
**Town Lease
Project & Community
Managed Housing**

**Solar
Power
Project**

**Alternative
Engagement/
Junior Ranger
Program**

**Camps/
Community
Programs**

BUSINESS





AAAC Local Decision Making Agreement 2024 - 2026

Following on from our five year strategic plan which was finalised in May 2023, AAAC has been negotiating a Local Decision Making Agreement with the Northern Territory Government and the Federal Government, represented by the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

The Northern Territory Government has acknowledged AAAC's priorities in reinforcing and expanding upon our decade long accomplishments. The Local Decision- Making (LDM) Agreement aspires to support our vision for a resilient, self-reliant future for the Ltyentye Apurte community, bestowing upon AAAC and its members the authority to determine service delivery models that are most suitable for our community.

The Department of Chief Minister and Cabinet Central Australia played a pivotal role in facilitating the consultation and development of the LDM Agreement, with support from the Northern Territory-based non-profit organisation, Circulanation, who also assisted us in finalising our 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. The LDM agreement spans a two-year period, from 2024 to 2026, aligning with the short-term (1-2 years) priorities identified in the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. A further LDM will be negotiated in 2026.

The LDM Agreement is finalised and a signing ceremony is planned for July 2024. By signing the LDM Agreement, all parties involved demonstrate their commitment to transparent, consultative, and accountable implementation of the actions. These efforts align with overarching Local Decision- Making guiding principles, including self- determination, flexible and place-based approaches, co-design, and community control, furthering AAAC's mission to empower and elevate the Ltyentye Apurte community.







Sporting Facilities

Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark

Our Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark opened in September 2023 with a spectacular opening event attended by NT dignitaries, skatepark enthusiasts, and the Songlines Indigenous Skating Team who came from all over Australia to attend. The Skatepark is the first permanent outdoor skatepark in a remote community in the Northern Territory, and it is gaining attention from many other communities across the Territory. The Skatepark is a dream come true for Traditional Owner Mr Nicky Skateboard Hayes, founder of Spinifex Skateboards and Director of AAAC.

The skatepark is a huge attraction for the community and for skating enthusiasts from far and wide. It is busy every evening with skateboarders, scooter riders and cyclists growing in confidence and use of the Skatepark. Several Skateboard workshops have been held in collaboration with Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School and with Stronger Communities for Children program.

The project was made possible through the generosity of the traditional owners, who provided the land and committed their own income from leases to fund the skatepark. The project is proudly community-funded, reflecting the spirit and commitment of Ltyentye Apurte to make their home vibrant and strong.

The opening day featured a Welcome to Country, a smoking ceremony, traditional dances led by Chris Wallace, and a skate demo by Indigenous skate team Songlines Skateboarding. The atmosphere was filled with joy and unity as kids painted skateboards, tie-dyed Spinifex t-shirts, and enjoyed skating with their peers. The involvement of key organisations like the Central Land Council,

East by West (who designed the park), and Grind Projects (who built it) was crucial in bringing this vision to life. The event was filled with vibrant energy, bringing together community members, traditional owners, and visitors from Alice Springs and beyond to celebrate this achievement.

The skatepark has quickly become a gathering space for young people, who have been skating every afternoon since it was completed. It's inspiring to see the excitement and community spirit that this space has brought to Ltyentye Apurte.

The success of this skatepark is a testament to what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared vision.



MCG of the Desert

Our beautiful grassed Oval continues to delight the community and has been in constant use since its opening in June 2021; Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School are using the oval each day, and the kids gravitate to the oval in the evenings and on weekends. CAFL games were held twice during the course of the Community Footy Competition, the footy team are training every night, a locally organised competition started in October 2024 between close communities, the Alternative Engagement Team play soccer on Fridays and MacYouth make good use of the space for Auskick and other activities. The sporting centre of the community is now supplemented with the Skatepark and both are welcoming and fun for all of the community.

Super Partners Melbourne Football Club, Melbourne Cricket Club, and Melbourne Cricket Club Foundation all managed to visit this year –MCC Foundation managed a quick visit one afternoon, and the Melbourne Football Club

Womens Team joined a School Gala AFLW day and the AFLW Kungas Grand Final on 31st May. The Melbourne Ladies then joined some AAAC Staff and community elders for an overnight immersion camp at Philipsons Bore.

Our maintenance of the oval has gone from strength to strength with Abi, Matto & the fellas keeping the oval in great condition. This year, with the support of the MCC Foundation we have been able to engage Sunil Dhanji to help with ongoing mentoring for the team, and been able to ensure regular maintenance on the oval. We do not underestimate the support we receive from MFC, MCC & MCG and we send our wholehearted appreciation for their support for the Oval.

Our Sports Weekend was planned for March this year, but we sadly rained out. The weekend was reluctantly cancelled for safety reasons for the participants and officials. We are now planning an even grander Sports Weekend for 2025.





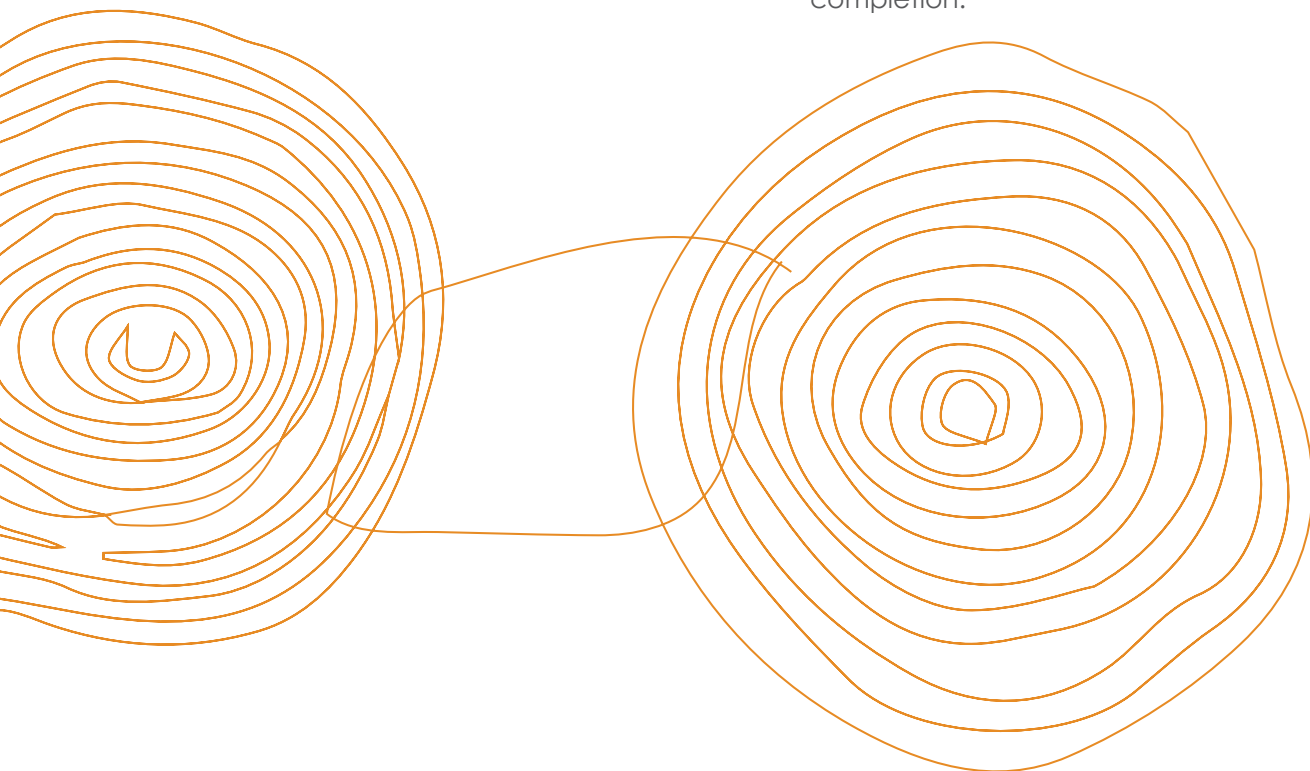
Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project

AAAC has continued working this year on the Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project (LAMP). The initial feasibility study was completed in late 2020 and this year we have made substantial progress in development and planning. Key milestones include the completion of technical design and cost optimization, the preparation of permitting application documents, and the submission of a detailed connection application to the Power and Water Corporation. We also completed a housing survey to assess the possibility of rooftop solar, however at this stage the most cost effective proposal is still a solar farm. The project has actively engaged with various stakeholders to develop project commercial arrangements.

In recent months, efforts have intensified on securing grant funding to support the construction phase, with a strong focus on identifying and applying for suitable funding opportunities. Additionally, the project has been discussing the project with potential delivery partners to help support the robustness and longevity of the project opportunity.

Matto Cavanagh & Ethan Mulladad began their microgrid training this year, helping Marlinja Solar Project install their solar system, and Abi Kamara & Nathan Douglas joined for the opening ceremony. We continue to look for other training opportunities in advance of the construction of our own microgrid.

Our microgrid project relies on the super support of our volunteer management team, Michael Salt, Alex Reily, Chris Croker, and David Dawson. It is their commitment will bring our Microgrid to completion.



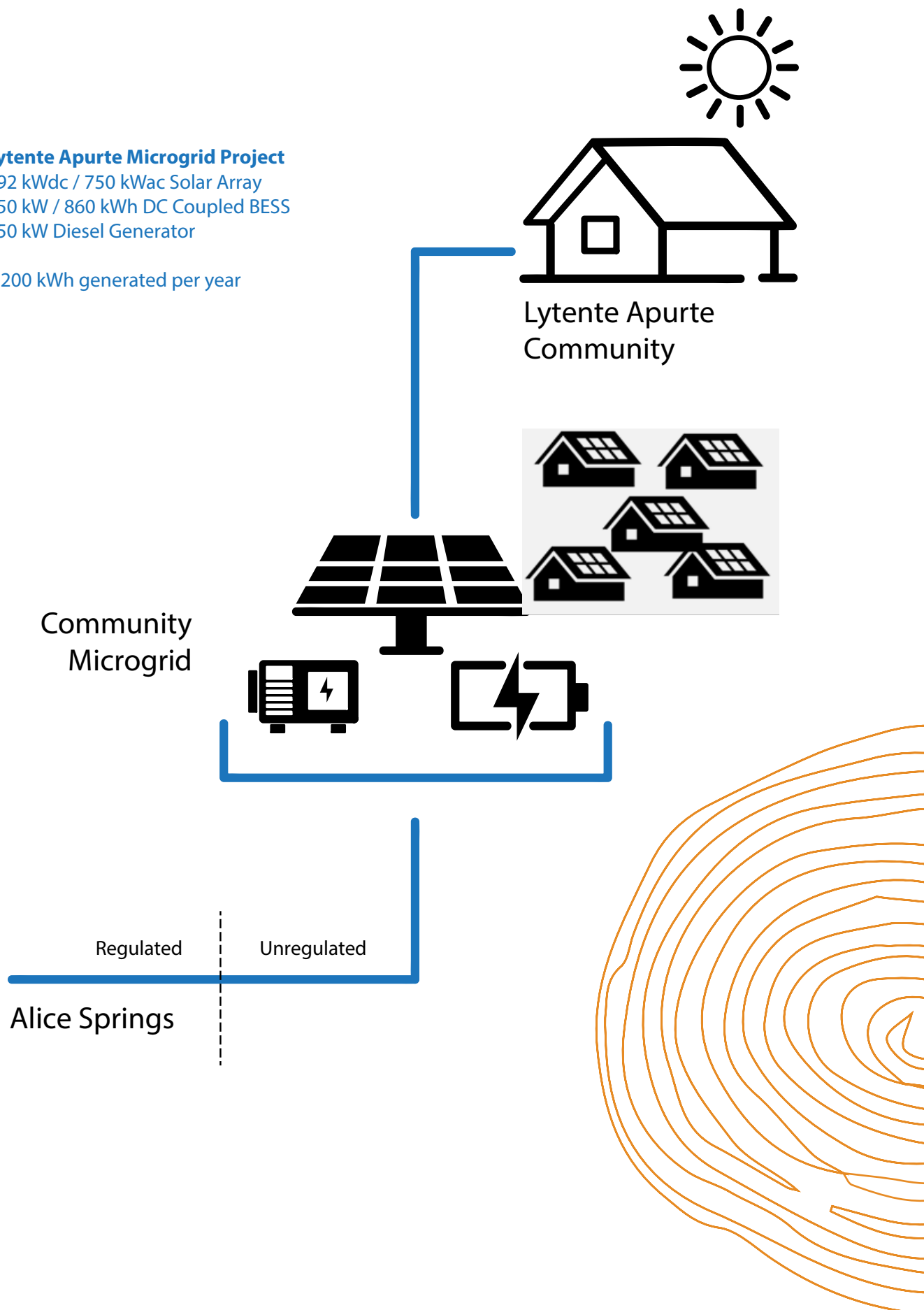
Lytente Apurte Microgrid Project

992 kWdc / 750 kWac Solar Array

750 kW / 860 kWh DC Coupled BESS

750 kW Diesel Generator

1,200 kWh generated per year





Township Leasing Project & Community Managed Housing

AAAC received funding in 2020 to investigate the possibility of Ltyentye Apurte gaining a Township Lease under the Land Rights Act.

A Township Lease would enable Traditional Owners, AAAC and community members to negotiate directly on who gets to use our land, and how they use it. The primary outcome would be that TOs, AAAC and community members will be in control of how our community develops and runs. A legacy for our children and grandchildren.

A township lease would last for 99 years (4 – 5 generations) and have rules that include:

- Respect for culture
- Transfer of lease
- Lease payments
- Master Plan for Ltyentye Apurte
- How to solve problems

This year the Township Lease stalled due to a confusion in the funding arrangements. We have now signed a continuation of the agreement and included in the funding is a business plan for Community Managed Housing.

Community Managed Housing was removed from Community Control after the Intervention and the introduction of MacDonnell Regional Council. Resuming control of housing maintenance has long been a goal for Ltyentye Apurte residents and writing a business plan will help us understand how a community housing model trial should be conceived; even including a proposed budget and staffing analysis. Prior to starting to work we must understand what is involved and the business plan will be our starting point for the project.

The critical aspect of the project is the importance of AAAC working together with all of the stakeholders to both assist our progress but allow us all to learn and adjust together.





Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC)

Consistent with arrangements for SCfC across all ten NT communities where this large program operates, SCfC activities and their funding allocations are determined in Ltyentye Apurte – indeed written into an annual community plan – by our SCfC Decision Making Group (DMG), a subcommittee of the AAAC Board and thus representative of the community. The following are a sample of the good mix of activities the DMG decided to fund in 2023-24. These were then implemented by the relevant AAAC staff, outsourcing some activities and closely supervising the resulting subcontracts, where possible with Indigenous firms.

Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

The 2023 Knowledge Sharing Seminar was held in Darwin in October. Nine DMG members attended the conference over the seminar's two days. Our DMG members learnt about SCfC activities run in other communities, just as the other communities learnt about SCfC at Ltyentye Apurte in a DMG presentation to this large seminar. Our members participated in a range of practical seminar workshops, including to better understand budgets. These Knowledge Sharing Seminars are an important part of community/DMG capacity building and improving SCfC here and elsewhere in the NT.





Auskick

AAAC subcontracted AFLNT to run eight weeks of Auskick as a SCfC activity in 2023-24. This was the first such formal AFLNT Auskick project in a remote Central Australian community. Over the eight weeks, at least 35 Ltyentye Apurte kids eagerly and happily participated in the Auskick activities each Wednesday evening. These Wednesdays were always in fact family nights. Towards the end of the Auskick itself, women and men played six-a-side football matches. This helped to create a great, safe family atmosphere. Consistent with that safety, at least one evening saw the NO MORE anti domestic violence campaign

involved, adding more value. The subcontract included AFLNT's provision of all football gear required for the Auskick, including balls, goal posts, agility equipment and training cones, to remain at Ltyentye Apurte. The young Auskickers were presented with medallions and Auskick backpacks with a football and other gear inside on the final evening of the program, an evening that saw the NT Government's Alcohol and Other Drugs health promotion team attend with their healthy living messages. Very importantly, AFLNT gave on the job training over the eight weeks to Ltyentye Apurte's youth team in how to run Auskick activities.

Mums and Bubs

Focussed on even younger kids than Auskick, we subcontracted Alice Springs-based Indigenous firm Blak Doll Sport and Fitness Mob to run five weeks of mums and bubs activity (after earlier running activities for young school age children too, at the school). The mums and bubs activity was squarely consistent with an early childhood priority in our SCfC community plan, and the widely-known research that early childhood support is critical to child development. Across the five sessions, in a variety of modules, the mums and bubs activity helped prepare kids aged 1 to 4 to be kindy and school ready, and their mothers to have a better understanding of the life skills to support this. Said one mum: *'The mums and bubs program has been good for us to come to being a parent. I look forward to the sessions all the time. My little girls love coming as well, doing activities with Blak Doll Mob, and them sharing important messages with us.'*



Family Camp

This year's annual AAAC family camp, fully SCfC-funded, was held at the iconic East MacDonnell Ranges' Trephina Gorge, traditionally owned by two Ltyentye Apurte families. Eighty-five people camped, young and old, most from Ltyentye Apurte, accompanied by some senior traditional owners as cultural advisors coming from their homes in nearby communities. This was double the number of campers at our previous family camps. As a feature activity at this year's camp, 18 teens, boys and girls, completed the beautiful yet rigorous 8km mountain bike ride between nearby Emily and Jessie Gaps, along the Yeperenye trail funded by the traditional owners of that part of the range, reading the wonderful interpretive signage in Arrernte and English along the way.



Skate workshop

Late in the 2023-24 financial year, AAAC social enterprise Spinifex Skateboards ran the first of four three-day skate workshops that it will run with SCfC support this calendar year on Ltyentye Apurte's own skatepark. An estimated average of 20 kids keenly and very happily joined in the workshop



on each of the three days, including five girls who greatly increased their skating confidence and several experienced boys who stepped up their skating skills. This was an excellent example of the cross-fertilisation of AAAC's community development (or social/political) and social enterprise (or business) arms, SCfC and Spinifex Skateboards respectively. It further fostered Spinifex as a business that not only sells skateboards and merchandise but also successfully sells its expertise in workshops in our community and others.

Oval water tank mural

After nicely completing two murals with the Alternative Engagement Program, a group of girls progressed to more professional artwork. SCfC funded a well-known mural artist based in Alice Springs to design a mural with the girls, project it onto the big water tank at Ltyentye Apurte's oval and paint it on the tank over several days. The activity was great piece of art education and teamwork, producing a very engaging mural the girls can be rightly proud of.



Alternative Engagement Program

Funded by the National Indigenous Australians Agency, NIAA, our Alternative Engagement Program (AEP) continued strongly through 2023-24. The program will transition into a three year junior ranger program; a testament to the program's success.

With the support of local Indigenous facilitators, young fellas and girls regularly engage in a variety of learning experiences to augment their regular class learning. Without the program they may skip school, possibly engage in anti-social behaviour or stay in class but switch off from the curriculum content. The participants attend classes in the morning, have lunch provided by AAACs Merne Mwarre, then attend the program activities. Other students remain at school relatively free of distraction from their learning, since the frequent source of much of that distraction – the program participants – is diverted to the program after lunch.

The program acts as an incentive to come to school, because the program facilitators generally pick up participants from school; and there it acts to encourage better classroom behaviour and hopefully classroom learning by rewarding participants with participation on the program on any given day. Applauding the program in an online ABC article in May, the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School Principal stated attendance is over 90 percent.

Further, the program has a quasi restorative justice element. In this, young people on the program found to be involved in anti-social behaviour are taken to people or agencies on the receiving end to apologise or in some way compensate for the behaviour. This element of the program is fortunately rare, with it widely acknowledged the program goes far to diverting young people from such behaviour.

A key to the program's success is the variety and flexibility of its alternative learning activities, often refreshed to keep participants' interest, and frequently relying on good program partners and our relationships with them. This year the program's flexible daily afternoon schedule included for the fellas the likes of horse riding with AAAC's stockmen, gym activities with the police sergeant, media activities with Literacy for Life, bush trips and Friday afternoon soccer. To this we added Barber Blak Kings barber training for fellas from April 2024. The girls schedule included the above gym and media activities, the former with the Congress (Aboriginal Health Service) physiotherapist, bush trips with the school and public art works, namely designing and painting murals. In holidays, both the fellas and girls went to town for lunch and a special occasion: visits to the likes of the Reptile Centre, the Desert Park, a movie and/or the town pool.

The estimated average number of fellas participating daily throughout the reporting period was five, but was sometimes 6 to 8 on any given day. From July to December 2023 there were fewer girls on average, but more girls participated in 2024.

The junior ranger activities represent the most significant opportunity to refresh the Alternative Engagement Program and possibly even better it entirely. Junior ranger funding will bring not only a set of added learning experiences, but added vehicle and human resources to AAAC. It should bring closer synergies with the school as it gears up to make pictorial children's books in Arrernte, for instance, including with photos taken on junior ranger activities. AAAC intermittent radio workshops in partnership with Central Australian Aboriginal Media (CAAMA), in the Ltyentye Apurte's little radio studio, might in fact segue into a junior ranger show, locally broadcasting news and recordings of our junior ranger activities. CAAMA has flagged it may incorporate filming as well. Ranger activities out bush will include anything from traditional craft making with AAAC's Traditional Craft Centre men to safe sessions with Ltyentye Apurte's senior ranger group on the likes of endangered species monitoring, providing not only learning but possible employment pathways. Notably, from January 2025, AAAC's junior ranger activities will be available to other Ltyentye Apurte school students, not just those needing alternative educational engagement.





Ltyentye Horse Riding Program



The Ltyentye Apurte Horse Program, funded by the Aboriginal Benefits Account, continues to work extremely hard to care and maintain the Philipson's Bore yards and the several horses we use for our Youth Engagement programs. Our passionate, reliable local stockmen provide many safe, youth-friendly activities through school programs, the Alternative Engagement Program and other youth activities.

The Ltyentye Apurte Horse Program delivered school engagement activities and engaged with young people through the Alternative Engagement Program. Thus, the horse program is part of a wider program that operates to not only (re-)engage young people with learning in the broadest sense, but also to divert them from anti-social behaviour. It offers the chance for youths to get out on country with the stockmen and learn horse care skills.

The Horses and Stockmen were a highlight of the Family Camp held at Kwemanteye Springs in July 2023. Horse rides were conducted in the mornings and afternoons and many if not most of the young people had rides, many multiple rides, to their delight and the apparent pleasure of the stockmen who closely supervised the rides, saddling up, leading and then watering the horses. This is significant in a community steeped in horseback.





The Ltyentye Apurte Horse Race was held in October 2023; with Stockhorse and Thoroughbred races held over Saturday and Sunday; culminating in the Ltyentye Apurte Stockhorse & Thoroughbred Cups on Sunday afternoon. The Horse Race Weekend is a fifty year tradition in Ltyentye Apurte and is a fantastic community event attended by the whole community.

Part of the work our stockmen do is closely tied in with land management. The stockmen work throughout the year maintaining healthy horse

condition, breaking in new horses, fencing, trough repair and general yard care. Water challenges continued this year at Philipsons Bore; we have a comedy of dramas between the old water tank, the bore, and the water pipes connecting the tank to the stockyards. This year SCfC funded replacement water pipes from the tank to both stockyards, but then encountered challenges with the water pressure from the bore. AAAC has been working together with the CLC and MRC to come up with a long term solution for the water at Philipsons.





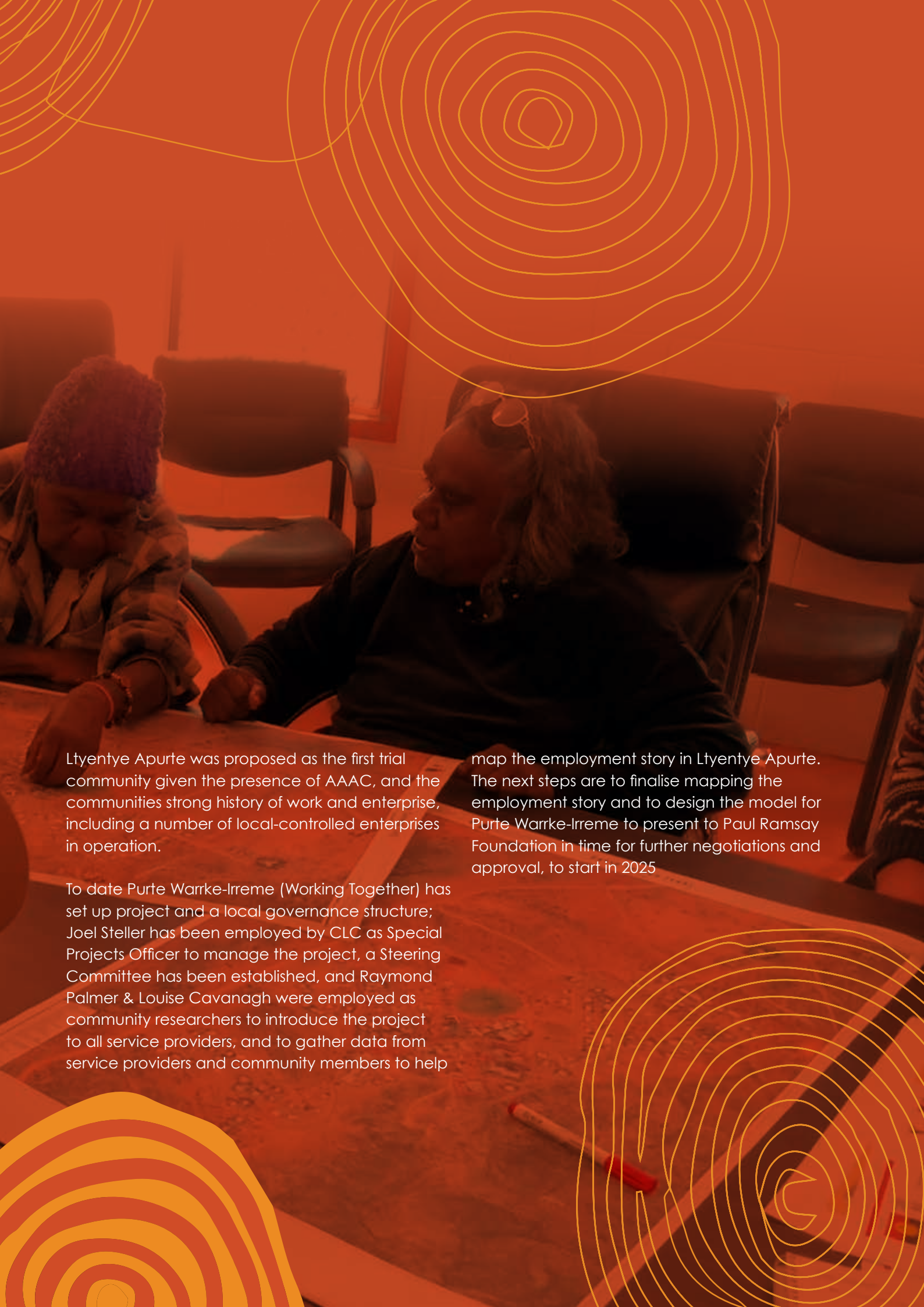
Purte Warrke-Irreme (Working Together)

Paul Ramsay Foundation has funded the Central Land Council and AAAC to design and deliver a five year trial of APO NT's Fair Work Strong Communities (FWSC) model, seeking to reimagine how employment and economic development is approached in remote communities. Central to this model is a shift in focus to job creation and community control, while providing appropriate employment support.

The trial will contextualise, explore and test key elements of the FWSC model to generate insights, lessons and build a strong case to inform the Government's remote employment agenda. Australian National University will support the trial with data to enable strong advocacy.

The Trial will aim to:

- Fund new jobs that support the aims of the community and address local needs, including youth employment pathways
- Provide employment pathways, quality support and training to help people get jobs and stay in them
- Strengthen self-determination through a community-development approach and building strong local governance
- Advocate to improve systems that are needed to help people into employment and support people who are out of work.



Ltyentye Apurte was proposed as the first trial community given the presence of AAAC, and the communities strong history of work and enterprise, including a number of local-controlled enterprises in operation.

To date Purte Warrke-Irreme (Working Together) has set up project and a local governance structure; Joel Steller has been employed by CLC as Special Projects Officer to manage the project, a Steering Committee has been established, and Raymond Palmer & Louise Cavanagh were employed as community researchers to introduce the project to all service providers, and to gather data from service providers and community members to help

map the employment story in Ltyentye Apurte. The next steps are to finalise mapping the employment story and to design the model for Purte Warrke-Irreme to present to Paul Ramsay Foundation in time for further negotiations and approval, to start in 2025



Community Programs

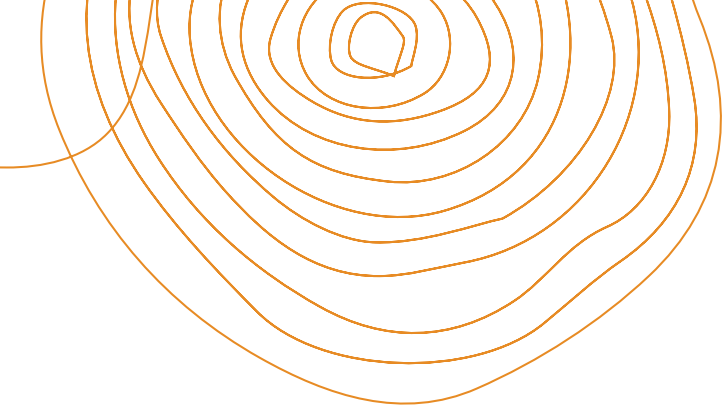


Through out the year Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and Santa Teresa Enterprises organise various Community events. Sometimes funded through STE, sometimes by grants sourced by AAAC, and sometimes with shoestring budgets and huge efforts by AAAC staff and other community service providers. 2023/24 was a huge year, and included a visit by 50 Family Court Judges, the 70th Anniversary celebrations, the AAAC bus was finally mechanically sound and available for community members to use for funeral and sporting events. Here is a small tasting of the big events for 2023/24:

70th Anniversary Celebrations

Ltyentye Apurte Community celebrated its 70th Anniversary in 2023, 70 years after Santa Teresa Mission was established by the Catholic Church. A pilgrimage was held at Arltunga by the church in June 2023, 50 years after community members uncles, aunts, grandparents and parents drove, walked, and rode to Santa Teresa Mission, and a huge celebration was held on the weekend of 28th & 29th October 2023.

A committee from all service providers organised the event, Br Mark organised car bonnets to be painted & installed around the community, Catholic Care installed the long awaited solar light at the cross on the hill and also installed the



cowboy that now graces our front entrance. YMCA started the weekend with a Sausage Sizzle & Pool Party at the pool on Friday night. Saturday started with a blessing of the grotto and plaques at the memorial gardens, the school organised a fabulous photo / video exhibition in the school library, Keringke Arts and the Spirituality Centre were open for visitors and service providers set up stalls at the basketball court. The formalities were held at 11am with a Smoking Ceremony & Welcome to Country; Ellie Kamara CEO of AAAC welcomed all the visitors, there were speeches by Bishop Charles, Jane Lloyd from Catholic Care and Ellie Kamara of AAAC; all topped off with a cake sponsored by Hon Chansey Paech and morning tea organised by AAAC's Merne Mwarre.

The evening was spectacular – mass was held on the oval with the sunshine going down in the West and the Moon rising in the East. Dinner was whole of community BBQ organised by our always reliable Merne Mwarre staff.

The huge efforts by all to hold such a magnificent event and to gather our history together to ensure it is not lost deserve a massive congratulations to all involved.





Young Women's Wellbeing

This program was extended through half of the 2023-24 year and varied to include trips to Alice Springs to take Ltyentye Apurte girls and young women for competition football games and training, in addition to the program's original bush trips with their bush-based activities for girls' and women's wellness. The town trips in fact sometimes included town pool swimming and exercises. Girls/young women travelled to play football and softball at the sports carnival in the neighbouring community of Titjikala. And we co-convened an indoor soccer game of eight girls with the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress health service female physiotherapist (followed up with another such game after Xmas, later in 2023-24). All of these varied activities were certainly great for the girls' and young women's physical and mental health. Eighteen girls/young women participated in this Young Women's Wellbeing program, with at least 25 playing in the girls soccer games.

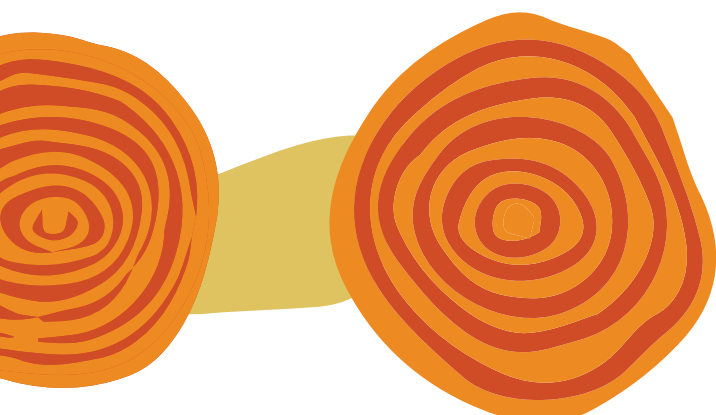
Stakeholder Meeting

The first of many future stakeholder meetings was held in June 2024. There was good participation and sharing from most service providers, who presented their programs to the AAAC Board of Directors. In 2025 we hope to be able to increase the scope of these meetings; to ensure that the community better understand what service providers are doing, to allow the service providers to report to the entire community, and to enable the community follow 2-3 Key Performance Indicators per organisation.

Community Christmas BBQ

In December the community came together for a fun Christmas BBQ organized by AAAC supported by other community organisations. It brought happiness and a warm feeling to everyone who joined. The event saw a remarkable turnout as families and friends from across Ltyentye Apurte Community came to the Oval to celebrate the festive season together; Santa Claus also joined the festivities!

Merne Mwarre staff, renowned for their commitment to promoting healthier eating habits, prepared a delicious and nutritious food at their kitchen for the entire community.





Christmas Light Competition:

Local residents put in significant effort to decorate their homes with creative and eye-catching Christmas light displays, contributing to a vibrant and festive atmosphere in the neighbourhood. On December 19th, mystery judges toured the community after dark to evaluate and select the winning displays. The judges were joined by ABC Radio and ABC TV who reported on this annual event

The three winning houses received cash prizes, and another 15 houses across the community received \$100 Store vouchers.

Finke Desert Race 2023/24

This year AAAC proudly supported Jason McMillan (JM) and Terrence Conway (RJ) in the Finke Desert Race, one of the toughest off-road races in Australia. JM competed in his fifth Finke Desert Race, showcasing not only his talent but also his pride in representing the Arrernte community. Unfortunately RJ, who was set to race for the fifth time, suffered a broken collarbone whilst in training for the race and was unable to compete. Despite this setback, AAAC supported both Jason and RJ from registration through to the race's conclusion. JM's participation got national attention, with several news outlets covering his journey. *"I feel proud,"* JM shared with ABC News. *"We're racing on Arrernte country, and we're Arrernte locals passing through that land."* His motivation goes beyond personal achievement; he races to inspire his community. *"I just do it for the kids and the families from Santa Teresa, and it makes them happy,"* he said to ABC Alice Springs. With 465 entrants at the 2024 Finke Desert Race, the event was a significant occasion.

A large group of family members and community supporters gathered at Double Tank, about halfway along the racetrack, to cheer JM on. Many others camped along the track, cheering from the start line to the finish, showing strong community spirit and support for JM.

AAAC's commitment to encouraging community involvement in events like the Finke Desert Race highlights its dedication to promoting pride, resilience, and unity among the people of Ltyentye Apurte.

General

From time to time, AAAC convenes a focus group of relevant Ltyentye Apurte agencies. This is to try to address issues, and work to help at-risk individuals, where they might otherwise be falling through the service gaps. Participating agencies typically include the police, clinic, MacYouth, and school, as well as AAAC. The agencies are expected to bring their local Indigenous staff to meetings. Only one such meeting was convened in 2023-24, it in fact serving more as an update on matters largely resolved in the prior year.

During the year it became apparent that the use of social media is causing some challenges amongst the teenagers in the community. AAAC engaged the U Right Sis? collective who specialise in workshops with girls and women on safe and respectful social media use. U Right Sis? ran two such workshops in the community and we will look to continue this in the future.

AAAC also convened a session from Kidsafe NT in 2023-24 to explain to Ltyentye Apurte parents the importance of kids' and babies restraints in cars, and to fit these for free in a number of cars here.



Santa Teresa Enterprises Limited

Santa Teresa Enterprises Limited (STE) is a subsidiary of the Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC). A core principal of Santa Teresa Enterprises Limited is to undertake economic development opportunities for the benefit of our community. The Community Store is our major enterprise, and the modest store profits support the continuation of local enterprises that highlight our culture and country and provide ongoing employment.

Community Store

Our agreement with Outback Stores was renegotiated this year and we have signed for another five years up to June 2028.

Store Managers Sai & Harika are wonderful additions to the community and adding to their experiences are the occasion relief management in other locations. This allows them to gain experience in other stores, and for other relief managers to join Ltyentye Apurte Community for brief periods.

The store employed 14 local staff at year end; trainings continued throughout the year and congratulations are due to Emma Hayes on attaining her Certificate II in Retail Services and Shania Williams for her Certificate III in Retail Management.

Community Support

We continue to provide community support with discretionary funds for community use. A major incident occurred on 30th June 23 due to the Telstra network going down for 3-4 days, with significant consequences for the community. With no network the EFT machine at the store couldn't work, nor the fuel pumps. As a result approximately 2/3rd of the community were unable to purchase power cards and were without power over the coldest weekend in many years. AAAC/STE provided power cards for all community houses; thanks very much to the staff who organised and delivered the emergency power cards. The store upgraded its internet provider to ensure this does not happen again.



This year we supported the community with funeral costs and clothing for funerals, supporting the young men through their initiation, helping young people at Boarding School, sporting activities including the horse race and sponsoring two community members for the Finke Desert Race, the Christmas lights competition, fuel for emergency trips into town, the use of AAAC vehicles for taking families to funerals, and teams to sporting events, and food for sorry business.

BINGO remains one of our most popular activities, attracting men, women (and children) to the Board Room on Thursday evenings. Profit from the BINGO nights are used to support projects in the community and participants can enjoy their winnings knowing their money is going back into the community.





Traditional Craft Centre (TCC)

The Traditional Craft Centre (TCC), established in 2018, has continued to thrive as a vital part of the Ltyentye Apurte community. Dedicated to preserving and celebrating Eastern Arrernte culture, the Centre provides a platform for local artisans to create and sell traditional hand-made tools. TCC is now an associate member of both Tourism Central Australia and DesArt.

Production at TCC increased significantly this year; our three senior artists Clinton Oliver, Dean Oliver and Stefan Smith and artist Darren Hayes worked consistently throughout the year producing enough goods to serve the high flow of customer demand. Glen Smith returned briefly this year and rejoined the team for a short time until he returned to Adelaide. This year has been marked by growth, increased visibility, and successful community engagement.

This year we have seen a 65% increase in sales, supported by a multi-channel approach that includes in-person sales at markets, online purchases through our website developed in collaboration with the Melbourne Football Club, and direct walk-in sales. Regular updates on social media have also played a crucial role in boosting visibility and driving online sales.

Darren Hayes who is our youngest craft man says:
"The senior Fellas working at the Traditional Craft Centre encouraged me to join them, to learn how to make the weapons and the other craft items. I like coming to work every morning, I like working with the wood, to see how something starts as a just a piece of wood, but ends up as a weapon, or a coolamon that could be used for a baby. It is interesting how one tree is so different to another tree, and each item comes out differently. I like being able to learn the ways of making the craft items, using the ways of the old people."





Key Events:

- Desert Mob Exhibition and Market place: During the exhibition in September 2023, ten items were displayed at the Araluen Arts Centre, and our senior craftsman Dean Oliver's two boomerangs were featured at the Desert Mob 2023 Catalogue. During the market day, hundreds of visitors from around the world had an opportunity to see, touch, feel and learn about our craft. Our first year at DesertMob Marketplace was very successful, both in sales and in exposure for TCC.
- Alice Springs Markets: Traditional Craft exposure continued with the various Alice Springs Markets and the craftsmen and AAAC staff attended the Finke Night Market, Blak Business Twilight Markets, the Christmas Carnival Night Market amongst others. These events provide an excellent opportunity for our artists to showcase their traditional crafts, to engage directly with customers, sharing their stories and the techniques behind each piece.
- Parrtjima – A Festival in Light: In mid April, our artists participated in the Parrtjima night festival; an audience in excess of 80 joined our show, where our artists shared the cultural significance of their craft and demonstrated traditional techniques of making the tools. This event allowed us to connect with a diverse audience and further showcase our crafts.

Ltyentye Apurte Hair Salon

Our collaboration with Deadly Hair Dude which started last year has continued throughout this year and continues to be a great success with eight one-week trainings conducted this financial year. Our trainees receive practical hair dressing skills and work together to complete the coursework. Cherelle Davis attended this years CDU graduation ceremony to receive her Certificate I in Workplace Skills. Cherelle has been a constant at the salon since it started but has since left the community, however she is still in contact with Deadly Hair Dude to finish her training. Rochelle Wallace is also very close to finalising her training, and plans are to open the salon 2-3 days per week once she has graduated.

We have had several trainees floating in and out of the Deadly Hair Dude Training; whilst Rochelle is our most consistent, the skills everyone has learned remain with them.

SCfC have signed an agreement with Kings Narrative's Blak Barbers project. They will be in the Salon in July & August 2024, and we look forward to seeing Blak Barber training some young men in the community!



Furniture Shed

The Ltyentye Apurte Furniture Shed has continued to be one of the most successful and meaningful enterprises within Santa Teresa Enterprises, directly benefiting the community by providing affordable, high-quality second-hand furniture. This year, the Furniture Shed has strengthened its role by offering both material support and a social hub for community members.

The Furniture Shed is open every Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, thanks to the dedication of Stacey Davis & Rochelle Wallace. The Shed offers an extensive range of second-hand items, including mattresses, bed bases, couches, cupboards, camping gear, kitchenware, linen, and blankets. These items are available at prices that are accessible to all, and then delivered home by the AAAC fellas; all designed to overcome the challenges of freighting furniture from town.

Furniture is still mostly sourced by AAAC staff Abi & Madhu on evenings and weekends; this year Nicole Johnson has been helping out and her time and efforts are hugely appreciated as it relieves some of the pressure from AAAC staff.

The Furniture Shed has become more than just a place to purchase furniture; it serves as a gathering point for community members, especially women, who use the space to sit, chat, and support each other. The Shed also plays a critical role in community support by providing free funeral clothes to families on the day of a funeral, reinforcing our commitment to serving the community in meaningful ways.

Looking Ahead:

As we move forward, the Furniture Shed aims to continue prioritizing the needs of the community by sourcing high-quality, affordable furniture and maintaining a welcoming space for everyone. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Furniture Shed throughout the year; together, we are making a positive impact on the lives of our community members.



Coffee Van (Desert Café)

The Desert Café, our community's coffee van, has had a lively year, serving as more than just a spot for a good cup of coffee. Open three days a week—Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00 to 12:30—the Desert Café has become a vital gathering place for visitors, workers to local people across the community.

The café was reinvigorated this year thanks to volunteer Louis Jagger, who came to reopen the van for two days a week. Mr Jagger Jnr's dedication ensured the Desert Café was reopened as a welcoming space for the community and he trained some staff in coffee making skills; he worked briefly with Camila Young who brought great enthusiasm to her role as a barista support, unfortunately, Camila had to leave due to family commitments.

In May, Jason King came back to AAAC and now opens the Desert Café three days a week serving all varieties of Coffee and Hot Chocolate. During community events the queue for the Desert Café is very long & Jason is kept extremely busy! In the summer months, we are planning to introduce Iced coffee and chocolate paired with cookies.

The consistent opening has shown in increased sales on regular days; and whilst sales are minimal the Desert Café's main achievement has been providing a common space for the community to gather. Whether it's a busy event or a quiet weekday morning, the van has become a hub of connection and conversation, bringing people together over a shared love of coffee.

Looking Ahead:

As we move forward, our goal is to continue offering a warm, welcoming space for the community while also finding and training new local baristas. The goal of the Desert Café is to be more than just a coffee van; it aims to serve as a vital hub for the community. Our objective is to create a welcoming space where people can connect, share stories, and build relationships. We are committed to nurturing this sense of community and ensuring the Desert Café remains a cherished part of everyday life in Ltyentye Apurte.





Merne Mwarre (Good Food) Nutrition Project

Merne Mwarre has had a remarkable year, making significant contributions to the Santa Teresa community through its commitment to providing affordable nutritious meals to help improve health outcome and promoting healthier eating habits. . Merne Mwarre has been a registered food business since 2017 and complies with all regulations stipulated by the Department of Health.

Our team worked persistently throughout the year to prepare and serve a wide variety of meals, supporting various community programs and events. We have prepared 60-70 lunches daily from Monday to Thursday, catering to the needs of several programs, including CDP, Spirituality Centre, Literacy for Life, the Alternative Engagement Program, and AAAC Programs. Over the year,

the Merne Mwarre team prepared a total of 7,919 daytime meals, with May seeing the highest number at 901 meals. The meals ranged from traditional Favorites like Beef or Lamb Curry with rice to Roasted Pork Belly with coleslaw salad and Ham or Egg Sandwiches.

This year we resumed opening for evening meals on Wednesdays and Thursdays with thanks the evening selling team Sheree Doolan and Delphina Cavanagh. Evening sales at our newly named 'Healthy KFC' average around 100 hot meals per night, plus fruit and sugar free drinks.

Merne Mwarre plays a vital role in community events, most notably for the Community Christmas Party and the the 70th Anniversary where our team prepared and served a delicious and nutritious feast! The Merne Mwarre team are always up for the extra workloads for these and other events such as sporting events on the oval and the horse race. The positive feedback from the community emphasizes the importance of our efforts in promoting healthy eating.

This year, our team saw some changes. Mango continues to manage Merne Mwarre with her cool and calm manner, despite the departure of long time colleague MC, who transitioned to work with the local police. She has been ably replaced by Anthea, and the team remain committed and

productive. Maggie Murphy, who joined us in mid-2022, shared her gratitude for the opportunity to learn from senior staff, particularly her Mother-in-laws Mango and Anthea. Maggie's story highlights the strong mentorship and skill development fostered within Merne Mwarre.

Survey Feedback and Improvements:

We conducted a two-week survey to gather feedback from the community. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, with suggestions for new menu items like Steak Sandwiches, Hamburgers, and more variety in the meals served. There were also requests for more professional development opportunities for our staff, which we plan to address in the coming year.





My name is Maggie Murphy, and I'm 29 years old. I began working at the Merne Mwarre Kitchen in mid-2022, and it has been an incredible journey of learning and growth for me. I am fortunate to be guided by my Mother-in-laws, Mango and Anthea, who have been teaching me the art of cooking the traditional way—making meals both healthier and delicious.

Working at Merne Mwarre has allowed me to connect deeply with our community's culinary traditions. I remember one day in June when the three of us prepared 130 lunches for the staff of several organizations. It was a busy and fulfilling day, seeing all the meals come together and knowing we were providing something special for the community.

In May, there was a day when I was the only one in the kitchen, and I made 60 sandwiches for lunch all by myself. It was a challenging experience, but it showed me how much I had learned and how confident I had become in my skills. Every day at Merne Mwarre is an opportunity to learn something new and to contribute to our community.



I'm grateful to AAAC for giving me this opportunity to work and learn alongside my family. The support and mentorship I've received have been invaluable, and I'm excited to continue growing my skills and sharing the delicious, healthy meals we create with our community.



Spinifex Skateboards

This year, Spinifex Skateboards has demonstrated its strength in not only providing quality skateboards and merchandise but also in delivering meaningful, well-received skateboarding workshops across remote communities. These workshops have allowed us to engage deeply with local youth, fostering confidence, skills, and a love for skateboarding. We look forward to expanding our reach and continuing our mission to inspire and empower young people through skateboarding in the years to come.

Spinifex Skateboards, together with the Songlines Skating team, conducted workshops this year at Utju, Yuendumu, and Managrida Communities. Plus, of course, skating workshops here in Ltyentye Apurte! Workshops provide an opportunity to try new activities that enhance and challenge people's balance and coordination, while encouraging them to find alternatives to regular team sports, and new ways to express themselves in an active way. All skate workshops receive overwhelmingly positive feedback, and interest in more sessions far outweigh our capacity.

Spinifex has held a number of skateboard workshops this year, some funded by the School and some by SCfC, with more planned before December 2024. Enthusiastic kids participate each day, both boys and girls, learners and experienced. This has always been the goal of Spinifex Founder Nicky Hayes, delivering high-quality, engaging workshops to Ltyentye Apurte, and on our very own Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark!

photo by Eastbywest







Partners and staff

AAAC is proud to partner with both government and non-government organisations who share a positive vision for Ltyente Apurte.

- Australian National University
- Bowden McCormack Lawyers
- CatholicCareNT – CDP, Remote School Attendance, and media Hub
- Central Australian Aboriginal Congress
- Central Australian Football League
- Central Land Council
- Chansey Paech MLA
- Circulanation
- Commonwealth Government; National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Debbie Miller Bookkeeping
- DesArt Incorporated
- East by West
- Grind Projects
- Impact Investment Partners
- Jesuit Social Services
- Keringke Arts
- Literacy for Life Foundation
- Ltyentye Apurte Arelhe-Ingkerrenyekekenhe-Apmere Aboriginal Corporation
- Ltyente Apurte Catholic School
- Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project
 - ARENA (Australian Renewable Energy Agency)
 - Indigenous Land & Sea Council (ILSC)
 - Territory Generation
- Ltyente Apurte Rangers (CLC)
- MacDonnell Regional Council: MacYouth, Night Safe, Child Care, Civil Team & Workshop
- Marist Brothers
- Melbourne Cricket Club
- Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Melbourne Football Club
- Michael Long Learning & Leadership Project
- NT Government
 - Community Benefit Fund
 - Department of the Chief Minister & Cabinet
 - Department of Health, Harm Minimisation Unit
 - Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
 - Department of Tourism, Sport and Culture
- Nothings Wrong Magazine
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations
- Outback Stores
- Paul Ramsay Foundation
- Santa Teresa Parish
- Services Australia
- Songlines Skate Team
- The Purple House
- Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi

The AAAC and STE teams 2023 – 2024

- Abi Kamara
- David Jagger
- Ethan Mulladad
- Leocardia Young
- Matthew Cavanagh
- Nathan Douglas
- Robert Wallace
- Sheree Doolan
- Temika Bloomfield
- Dane Donnelly
- Ellie Kamara
- Johanna Shand
- Madhu Panthee
- Natasha Conway
- Nevanka Conway
- Rochelle Wallace
- Stacey Davis
- Terrence Conway

MERNE MWARRE

- Anthea Mulladad
- Maggie Murphy
- Veronica Peters
- Delphina Cavanagh
- Marie Mulladad

TRADITIONAL CRAFT CENTRE

- Clinton Oliver
- Dean Oliver
- Jane Oliver
- Darren Hayes
- Glen Smith
- Stefan Smith

HORSE PROGRAM

- Dale Mulladad
- Jason McMillan
- Dwayne Alice

Hair Salon

- Jamie Young
- Trina Wallace
- Kasey Williams

Furniture Shed & Coffee van

- Camilla Young
- Jason King

Spinifex Skateboards

- Nicholas Hayes



Overview of Financials

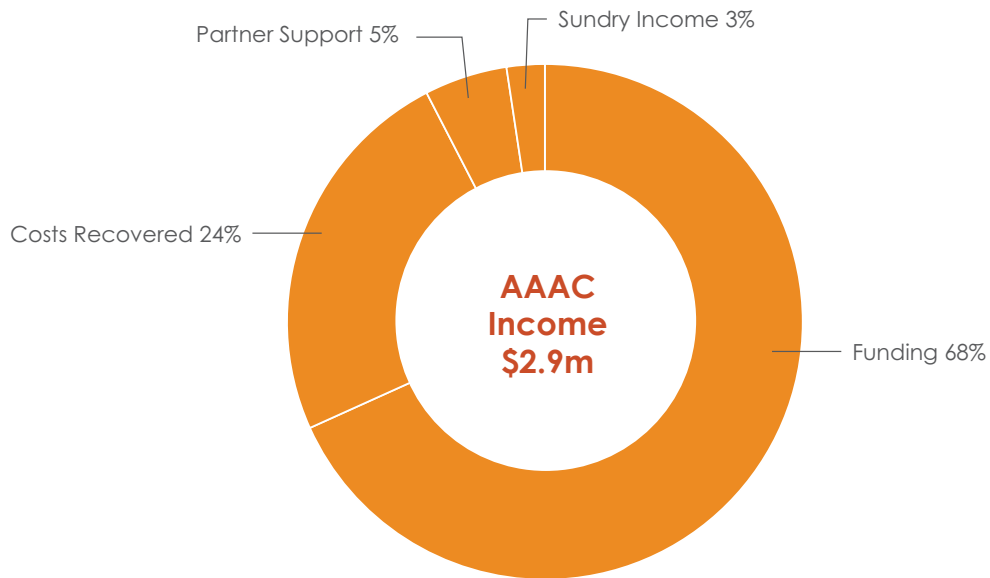
Atyenhenge-atherre Aboriginal Corporation ACN 88 539 368 587

The operational performance of AAAC at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year resulted in a surplus of \$332,686.

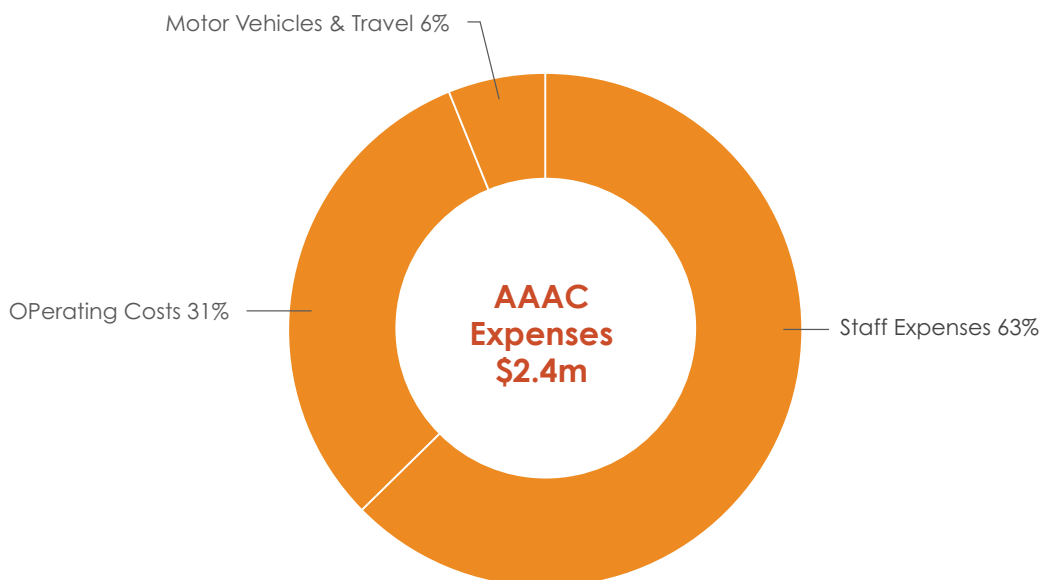
AAAC is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet its obligations towards all respective donors.

Detailed results are in the full financial report available on request.

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation
Income 2023/24



Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation
Expenses 2023/24





Overview of Financials

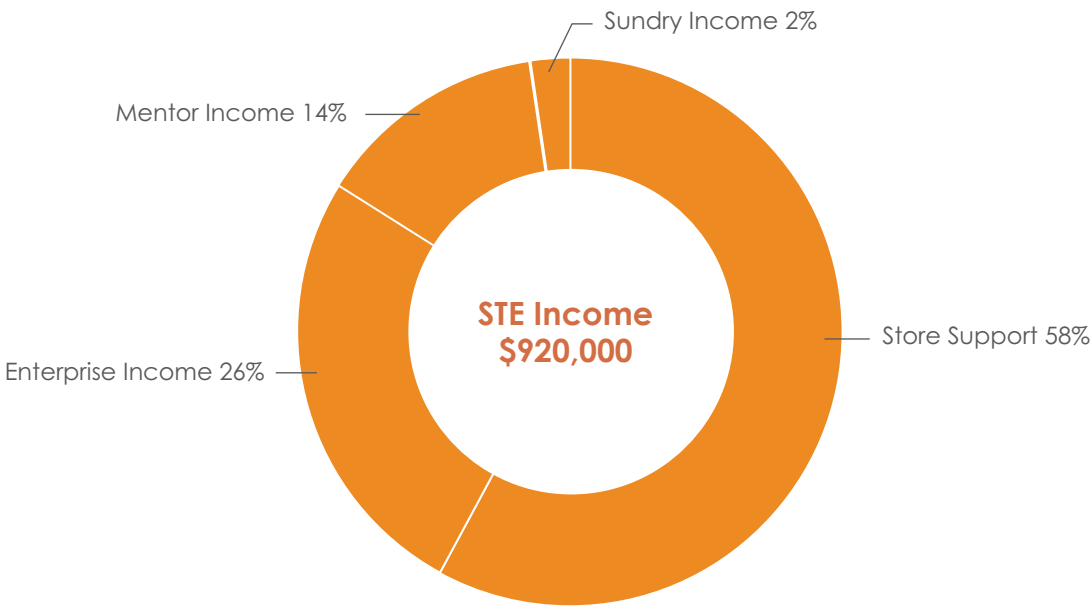
Santa Teresa Enterprises Limited ACN 73 144 999 084

Santa Teresa Enterprises ended the June 2024 financial year with a surplus of \$111,498.

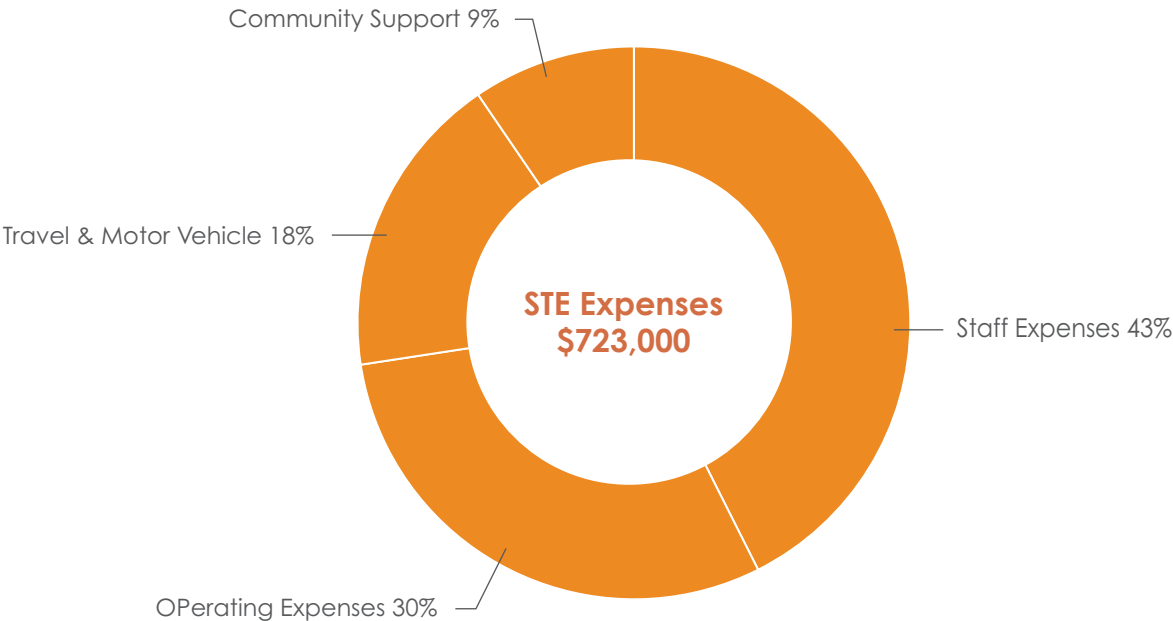
Santa Teresa Enterprises is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet its community obligations.

Detailed results are in the full financial report available on request.

Santa Teresa Enterprises
Income 2023/24



Santa Teresa Enterprises
Expenses 2023/24







Atyenhenge Atherre
Aboriginal Corporation

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation (AAAC)
Ltyentye Apurte, Santa Teresa, Northern Territory (NT)
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