

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation  
& Santa Teresa Enterprises Ltd



# Annual Report 2024 - 2025





## Acknowledgement

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation  
it's Board and Staff proudly acknowledge the  
Traditional Custodians of the land on which  
we work and the rich and continuous culture  
of these land and peoples, and pay respect  
to our Elders past, present and emerging.

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  
should be aware that this publication  
may contain images, voices or names of  
deceased persons. We sincerely  
apologies for any distress, sadness and/or  
offence this may cause.*



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● 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.







## 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)

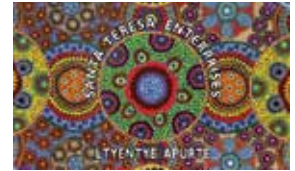
Strategic Plan 2023-2028







## From the Directors



**This has been another busy and productive year for Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation and Santa Teresa Enterprises. Implementation of all the incredible activities of AAAC continue, and we are proud to bring you the Atyenhenge-Atherre Aboriginal Corporation Annual Report for 2024 - 2025.**

Following a year of engagement and negotiation AAAC's Local Decision Making Agreement was signed on 16th July 2024. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives of both Northern Territory and Federal Government; the agreement is an important milestone for the recognition of AAAC as the peak organisation in Ltyentye Apurte. The 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.

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 transitioned into the Junior Rangers Program this year with new dedicated funding up to June 2027. The program







continued 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, and the young ladies program has increased its participation.

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. This year Santa Teresa Enterprises has won a significant number of awards: The Mparntwe NAIDOC Award for Business, NT Chamber of Commerce Best Not for Profit Award, Merne Mwarre won the NT Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Customer Service Award,

and Traditional Craft Centre won the NTIBN Best Blak Creative Business Award. These awards are recognition of the community resilience built through the STE's Social Enterprises; validating the core principle of STE to build community resilience through small 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 another year of continued success. The Salon has had some training challenges, but we look forward to new initiatives in the coming year. The recognition of The Traditional Craft Centre & Spinifex Skateboards is proven with the wide increase of TCC Sales and the Sydney Festival of







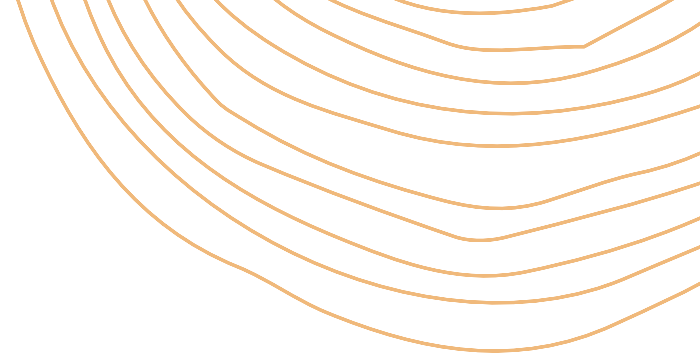
NORTHERN  
TERRITORY  
INDIGENOUS  
BUSINESS  
NETWORK

Best Blak Creative  
Business

2024

LTYENTYE APURTE  
TRADITIONAL CRAFT  
CENTRE





Urban Design requesting Spinifex' Nicky Hayes as key note speaker.

Research into employment in the community has shown the direction for Purte Warrke-Irreme due to start in 2026. The collaboration with Central Land Council, Paul Ramsay Foundation and the Yajillary Trust will have a significant impact in the community in the coming years.

After a rained out weekend in 2024, the 2025 Ltyentye Apurte Sports Weekend was a great success. Our MCG of the Desert is in constant use, as is the Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark. Both are extraordinary additions to the community and we remain very proud of our role in ensuring that Ltyentye Apurte Community has the best possible infrastructure!

The Ltyentye Apurte Microgrid Project has been extremely lucky to continue to be supported by an extraordinary team of Microgrid experts: Michael Salt, Alex Reilly, David Dawson and Chris Croker, joined this year by Dan Kelly of Redgum Legal; this amazing team have continued advising the community and we have progressed significantly to ensure a fully funded Microgrid for our community. Without their help we would not have continued beyond the feasibility study; we thank them sincerely.

The AAAC 'Little Bus' finally arrived this year. With funds provided by the Central Land Council's ABA Stimulus Program, the long awaited HiAce was presented to community members at a BBQ in April. The first priority for the Little Bus is for Community Use, and AAAC is proud to have such a vehicle that community members are able to access for sports, funerals, and in emergencies.

This year the Ltyentye Apurte Adult Learning Centre has created a curriculum for leadership trainings within the community; two modules have been held to date and we hope to continue these trainings throughout the year and in the coming years. It is exciting the note that four AAAC staff/ board members have been awarded scholarships for leaderships trainings this year: MC Mulladad and Emma Hayes were awarded scholarships to attend the Strengthening Community Leadership Program, and Stacey Davis & Veronica Peters gained scholarships to the First Circles Leadership Training Program; they have been attending training modules since the beginning of 2025 and we are proud to say they are on track to graduate in October.

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.

Clare Young  
Emma Hayes  
Ethan Mulladad  
Keith Castle  
Louise Cavanagh  
Marie MC Mulladad  
Mary Mia Mulladad  
Matthew Cavanagh  
Rosemary RP Palmer  
Raymond Palmer  
Terrence RJ Conway  
Veronica Wallace

## SOCIAL/POLITICAL

Atyenhenge Atherre  
Aboriginal Corporation  
(CATSI Act)

100+ Members  
12 Directors

SOLE MEMBER

1

Ltyentye Apurte  
Coordinating  
Body

2

Stronger  
Communities  
for Children

3

Junior  
Ranger  
Program

4

School  
Holiday  
Program

5

Horse  
Program

11

Solar Power  
Project

12

Town Lease  
Project &  
Community  
Managed Housing

10

Ltyentye  
Apurte  
Skate Park

13

CDP Joint  
Venture  
Catholic  
Care

9

Oval  
Project

8

Ltyentye  
Apurte  
Learning  
Centre

7

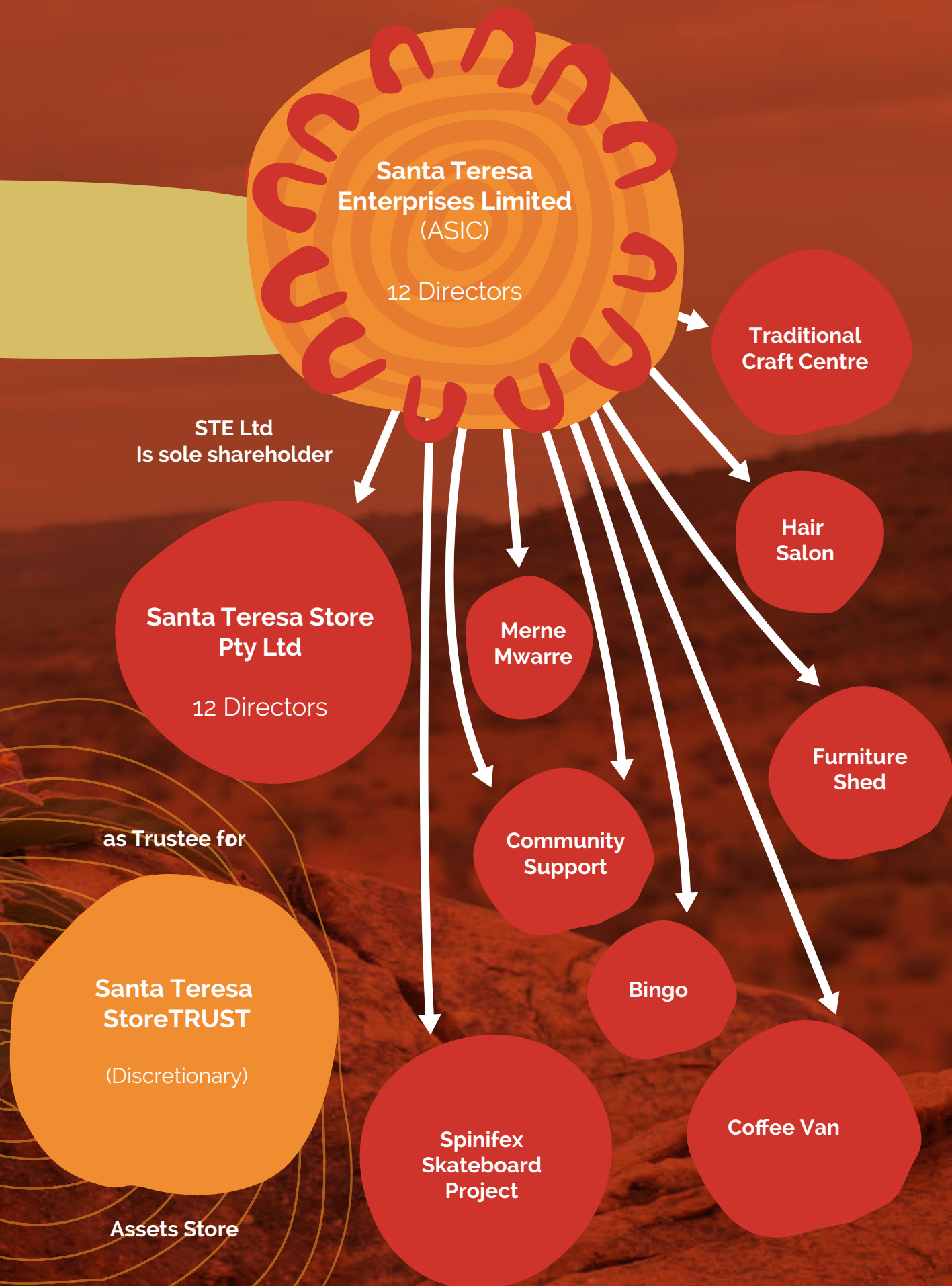
Purte warrke-lrreme  
(working together)

6

Community  
Programs



# BUSINESS





## Stronger Communities for Children (SCfC)

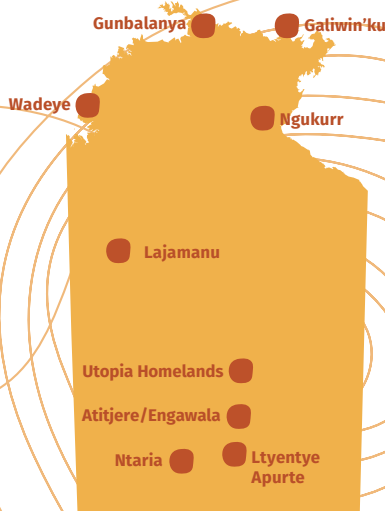


**Consistent with SCfC arrangements across all ten NT organisations through which this large program operates, SCfC activities and their funding allocations are determined in Ltyentye Apurte by our SCfC Decision Making Group (DMG). This is a sub-committee of AAAC and thus representative of the community.**

The following is a sample of the good mix of activities the DMG funded in 2024-25. These were then implemented by the relevant AAAC staff, outsourcing some activities and closely supervising the resulting subcontracts, where possible with Indigenous firms, where outsourcing provided the best outcome. All our activities were consistent with the priorities of the DMG per its community plan, while compliant with NT-wide SCfC imperatives and the AAAC's SCfC agreement with the National Indigenous Australians Agency, NIAA.

### Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building

The 2024 Knowledge Sharing Seminar was held in Alice Springs in October, run by Ninti One, the organisation that supports capacity building across the ten SCfC organisations. This year for the first time, the two-day event included a parallel and overlapping two-day Youth Forum, with the youth joining the seminar itself on the forum's second day. Five DMG members and five Ltyentye Apurte youth joined participants from the other nine other SCfC organisations. We learnt about SCfC activities run in other communities, just as the other communities learnt about SCfC at Ltyentye Apurte.







Our members and youth participated in a range of seminar and forum capacity and confidence building activities. It is expected the Youth Forum will remain a permanent complement to the annual Knowledge Sharing Seminars, together now important parts of community/DMG capacity building and improving SCfC at Ltyentye Apurte and elsewhere in the NT.

### **MFC fellas leadership trip**

The young Ltyentye Apurte men who participated in the Youth Forum were part of a group of six young men accompanied by several older Ltyentye Apurte men on a leadership support trip to Melbourne in August. Melbourne Football Club (MFC), with whom Ltyentye Apurte has a long and close relationship, kindly hosted the team to attend a MFC training, a visit to the MCG and the last Demons game of the season. Our AAAC elders also organised a range of other fun and broadly educational Melbourne activities. It will be girls' and women's turn in 2025-26.

### **Auskick**

Delivered to an estimated 80 children over eight weeks in late 2024, the 2024 edition of Ltyentye Apurte Auskick was expanded to include men's and women's social football competitions after the Auskick itself. This made for a safe, family-friendly footy environment. AFLNT staff again provided professional development to the local youth program staff throughout the eight weeks. AFLNT also identified, casually employed and trained a Ltyentye Apurte man who went on to work on 90 per cent of the Auskick sessions and conducted one independently, demonstrating strong leadership. For his efforts, AFL selected him to travel to Perth on an emerging Central Australian leaders trip to watch the Indigenous All Stars game in February, a trip on which he also undertook coaching and umpiring training and associated other professional development.

### Barber Blak Kings

Three school age fellas were selected to train with the all-Indigenous Barber Blak Kings (of the Kings Narrative group) at the AAAC salon one afternoon a week for a the winter school term. Two fellas completed the training. Though non-accredited, this experience boosted these fellas' confidence and provided them with a foundation in the very transportable skills of barbering.

### Arrernte Boxing

The Arrernte Boxing Academy came from Alice Springs with SCfC funding to run ten weeks of safe boxing afternoon workshops for fellas and girls at the Ltyentye Apurte school. This was great for the participants' physical and mental fitness.

### Skate workshops

Our very own Spinifex Skateboards organised four skate workshops on Ltyentye Apurte's very own skatepark this year. This year Spinifex were joined by Chuffed Roller Skating Team and all Indigenous Songlines Skating team. The Chuffed Roller Skating ladies donated a collection of new roller skates and safety gear for ongoing workshop use.

Chuffed, Spinifex and Songlines turned on hugely enjoyable workshops; during school time classes rolled out and everyone was included; Chuffed's involvement meant many more girls participating than fellas in two of the workshops, a big tick for AAAC's gender inclusivity efforts. Fellas and girls learnt new skills or reinforced some existing ones, and developed muscles perhaps never before used. Ltyentye Apurte's DMG has since readily agreed to have another three skate workshops in 2025, two again involving Chuffed Skates.





### School Excursions

SCfC funded two school excursions this year, one for middle school students to Adelaide and one for senior class students to Sydney, benefiting 24 students in total. The teachers in charge of the Adelaide excursion reported back that 'students were given the opportunity to experience and try new things and learn more about themselves. They developed their social skills, communication and listening skills. Students were given the chance to handle responsibility and model good behaviour.

*"As a teacher, I was astounded at the growth and confidence of their language skills. And I was so proud as there were numerous times where people from the public (shop keepers, shoppers, restaurant diners) made positive comments re the behaviour of my class."*


### Barista Training

Four trainees participated in a Barista Training at Du Yu Coffee in Alice Springs in May & June. They learned practical coffee making skills, customer service and the individual support given to each trainee helped them to shine! On their final day they worked in the coffee shop at a special café event which boosted their confidence. We have great expectations for the Ltyentye Apurte Coffee Van next year with our new Baristas!

### Blakdoll Role Models Program – Mums & Bubs and Deadly Dads

The Blakdoll Role Models Program brought together Mums & Bubs and Deadly Dads for a series of culturally safe and health-focused sessions delivered over five weeks. Participants engaged in activities designed to strengthen cultural identity, parenting skills, emotional wellbeing, and life skills. Sessions included ball games, arts, yarning circles, nutrition bingo, life planning, and goal-setting, as well as community celebrations that encouraged connection, confidence and leadership.





The program delivered five Health Education Modules, with regular participation from five to ten parents and children. Participants reported improved parenting skills, mental wellbeing and school readiness, while the program fostered cross-generational engagement and peer learning, creating a safe and empowering space for families.

### **Crank It! Bicycle Mechanic Program**

The Crank It! Bicycle Mechanic Program, delivered by Chase & Grace Projects in early June 2025, was a highly engaging and practical workshop for Ltyentye Apurte youth. Participants learnt valuable mechanical, teamwork and safety skills while

repairing and restoring 14 bicycles, which were then donated to the school for community and students use. The facilitators created a supportive and hands-on learning environment, encouraging problem-solving and responsibility through real-world activity. Despite large group numbers and some logistical challenges with adult participation and storage, the workshop maintained strong youth engagement and enthusiasm throughout.





### Annual Family Camp

Each year annual family camp grows in enthusiasm and popularity. This year the SCFC funded family camp was held at Ooramina Homestead, traditionally owned by two Ltyentye Apurte families. Nearly 100 people slept over for two days, and we were joined by a contingent from Ltyentye Apurte Community Care / Aged Care for lunch on Wednesday; the aged care ladies worked with the young girls collecting and making bush medicine whilst the male elders took the young fellas to sacred sites for country visits and yarning. The whole camp was great fun, held in a safe inclusive environment with lots of time for storytelling, cooking kangaroo tail & damper and fire side stories in the evenings.







## Alternative Engagement & Junior Ranger Program

**Our Alternative Engagement Program began in 2021 together with the Ltyentye Apurte Catholic School; originally a ten week program funded on a shoestring budget with the support of all service providers in the community. The program aimed to support young people who were struggling with school attendance and who were at risk of anti-social behaviour. The ten week trial transformed into a very successful four year program, and from January 2025 has transitioned over to a Junior Ranger Program.**

The Junior Ranger Program has retained the key imperatives and principles of the Alternative Engagement Program including close partnership with the Ltyentye Apurte school, engagement of young people who don't necessarily suit classroom learning while nevertheless encouraging school attendance, giving participants a variety of afternoon alternative learning opportunities following their mornings in class, and if necessary providing an informal restorative justice framework in the event that young people become involved in anti-social behaviour.

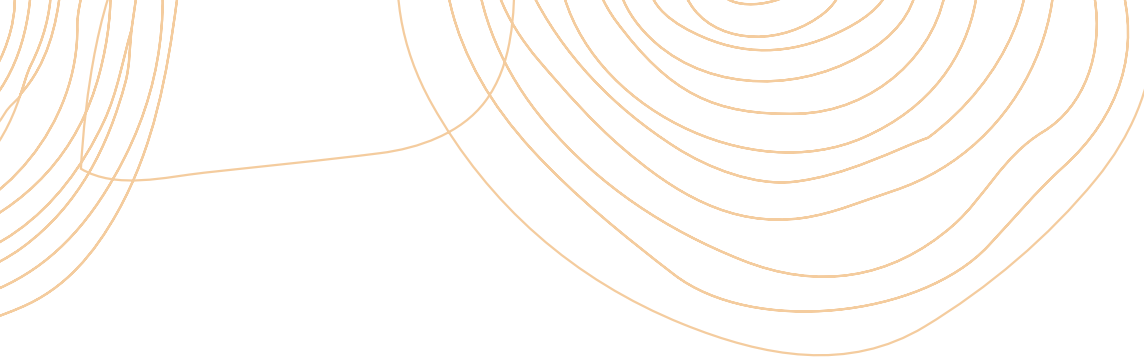




To optimise the variety of experiences, which is critical to the participants' sustained engagement and learning, Junior Ranger Program activities are broadly bush-based but not exclusively out bush; some of the activities include girls' exercise sessions led by a visiting female physiotherapist at the Ltyentye Apurte clinic, and young fellas making concrete grave headstones at the Men's Shed, girls collecting bush medicine and making it into handcream in the Ltyentye Apurte kitchen, and fellas collecting wood with our Traditional Craft Centre men, tracking emus and hunting perenties.

Two other exciting activities included a large group of students to the Sustainability Hub at Alice Springs' Saint Philips College to learn about bee keeping and honey making, and in school holidays, a group of young people went to the Reptile Centre in Alice, and to the Territory Wildlife Park and to see jumping crocodiles in the wild in the Top End.





We expect the activities will broaden the young participants' appreciation of the environment and of their culture connected to country. We have broadened those participating beyond youth originally on the Alternative Engagement Program to include any students the school thinks would benefit from Junior Ranger activities. In this process, we trust some of the activities will become incorporated into the school curriculum, and we are helping to seed that process.

The Junior Ranger membership remains open and fluid, flexible just like its program of activities. Yet, participation for most is via the school to

maximise school attendance. Young people like to participate in the Junior Ranger Program and we hope to broaden its appeal to young people from school and for those who have left school.

Activities have also started together with the Ltyentye Apurte 'senior' Rangers. It has been a slow start due to some staffing issues, but we fully expect this relationship to grow and activities on country on to increase, including perhaps some short work experience stints with the seniors, thereby opening up an employment pathway for Junior Rangers.







## School Holiday Program

**In the context of spikes in juvenile crime in Alice Springs during school holiday periods, the federal government through its National Indigenous Australians Agency urged AAAC to apply for funding to run school holiday activities to augment those of MacDonnell Regional Council's MacYouth program. These activities engage and entertain young people often at a loose end and sometimes tempted to drift into town in their holidays. The activities are designed to keep the young people busy and occupied during the holidays, and to be entertaining and good fun.**

Our first school holidays under the program were over the 2024-25 long hot summer, and during April school holidays. We ran a range of sporting activities in collaboration with MacYouth at the recreation hall, we took young people on bush trips and town trips to see movies, to roller skate and ride bikes, to Parrtjima Festival of Light, to the Reptile Centre and star gazing. There were nearly 50 different activities with participation of more than 300 children and youth (many in repeat participation) comprising 197 instances for the young fellas and 103 for the young girls.







## 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 Junior Ranger Program and other youth activities.**

This year we experienced four months of extremely hot weather which impacted the delivery of the program, plus a significant number of water challenges. In a massive success from years of discussion and negotiation the old water tank was removed this year, and a new tank was installed at the Philipsons Stock Yard, courtesy of the Central Land Council; new water pipes were also installed bringing the water to the tank from the Bore. The completion of the pipes and new tank will be a game changer for the horse program in







the coming years, as the stockmen were often spending their days filling the troughs from a water trailer they filled in the community – a situation which has been less than ideal.

The delivery of the Ltyentye Apurte Horse Program has been intermittent this year due to the heat and lack of water; however the stockmen have delivered school engagement activities and engaged with young people through the Junior Ranger 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 Ltyentye Apurte Horse Race was held in October 2024; 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.

In October ten community members successfully completed a Cert II in Rural Operations at the Charles Darwin University Campus in Katherine. The attendees included the Horse Program Stockmen, AAAC's Team Leader, and young stockmen who we hope will join the Horse Program in the future. This training was a fantastic collaboration between the Ltyentye Apurte Learning Centre, CDU and AAAC. A second training is planned for August to ensure the stockmen have the qualifications to organise horse trails.







## Community Programs

**Throughout 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. 2024/25 was another huge year and here are some of the events supported by AAAC during the year.**

### **Marist Schools Australia**

More than 70 staff from Marist Schools visited the community on 30th July this year, coinciding with their conference held in Alice Springs. The visitors started their day with Morning tea at the Marist Brothers house and then a presentation on the Past Present & Future of Ltyentye Apurte Community, followed by a community visit including the Oval, Merne Mwarre, Traditional Craft, Spinifex, Store, Furniture Shed, Spirituality Centre, Salon, Keringke Arts & School. A community lunch was held on the basketball court, followed by Mass and then back to Alice Springs.





### Little Bus

The AAAC 'Little Bus' finally arrived this year. With funds provided by the Central Land Council's ABA Stimulus Program, the long awaited HiAce was presented to community members at a BBQ in April. The first priority for the Little Bus is for Community Use, and AAAC is proud to have such a vehicle that community members are able to access for sports, funerals, and in emergencies.

### Finke Desert Race June 2025

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 sixth Finke Desert Race, showcasing not only his talent but also his pride in representing the Arrernte community. After a set back last year with a broken collarbone, RJ

completed the Finke Race this year, achieving his dream of once again competing in the Finke Desert Race.

A large group of family members and community supporters gathered at Double Tank and at Finke to support the two men and to cheer them on. Many others camped along the track, cheering from the start line to the finish, showing strong community spirit and support for JM & RJ.

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.



### 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.

In December, mystery judges toured the community after dark to evaluate and select the winning displays. A community BBQ was held at the oval the following evening and the winners were announced. Another great community event where the eighteen houses that received prizes were joined by the whole community for the BBQ.

### 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 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 dinner at their kitchen for the entire community.





### Stakeholder Meeting

Two stakeholder meetings were held this year, the first in June 24 and the second in December 2024. There was good attendance and participation from the service providers who presented their programs to the AAAC Board of Directors. We hope to continue these stakeholder meetings and widen the scope of community members that attend. It is important that the community better understand what service providers are doing, to allow the service providers to report to the entire community, and ultimately to enable the community follow 2-3 Key Performance Indicators per organisation.

### Other

AAAC frequently collaborates with other agencies on short term, broadly community development projects. This collaboration can be merely making available a suitable AAAC space for a workshop, to greater involvement, committing staff resources to help at a workshop, for instance. This year Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi conducted a workshop on girls period health at the Ltyentye Apurte Hair Salon and a weekend computer animation workshop for youth was run by Indigenous Community TV and the small illustration social enterprise Stick Mob.

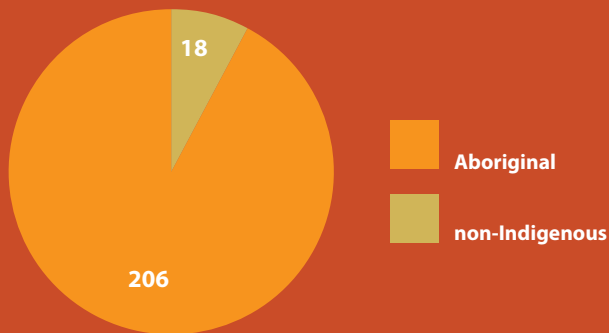




## Purte Warrke-Irreme (Working Together)

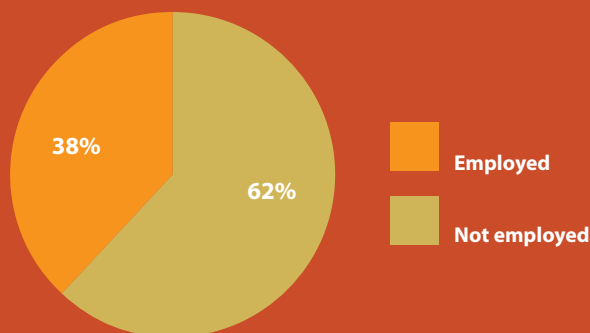
### Compared to other remote communities

**Lots of people in Ltyentye Apurte are working:**

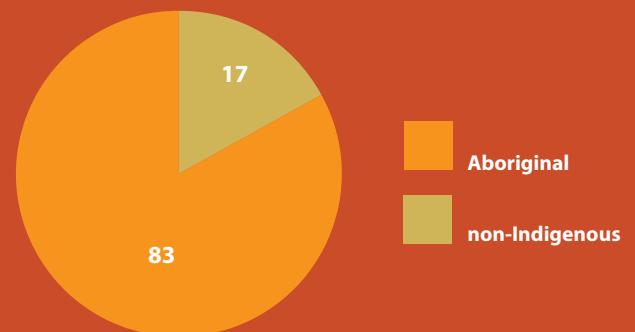


**There are lots of people looking for work:**

Proportion of people (18-64 years) employed:



**Most jobs are filled by Aboriginal people:**



**Paul Ramsay Foundation (PRF) & Yajillara Trust have approved funding for AAAC and the Central Land Council for a five year trial supporting youth employment in Ltyentye Apurte. The initial research stages of the program started in earnest this year, with two community researchers (Raymond Palmer & Louise Cavanagh) conducting interviews with employers (managers & supervisors), people who are working, people who are not working, and young people to better understand the employment situation in Ltyentye Apurte to determine the way forward for the program.**

A Steering Committee was established, and together we confirmed the five aims of the project: Strong local community governance, ensuring young people are not left behind, more people doing work that makes them happy, helping people to learn in a way that works best for them, and iwerre imerneme 'showing the way'.

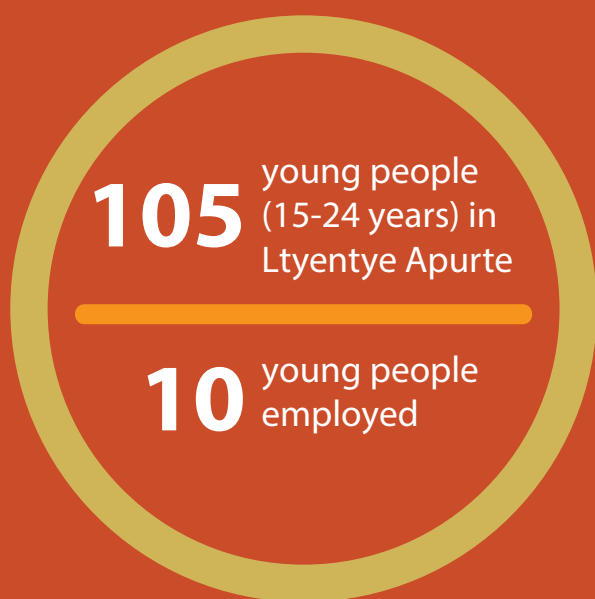
The research showed us that Ltyentye Apurte has some success stories:

- 38% of working aged people in Ltyentye Apurte are working, compared to 22% of people in other remote communities



But Ltyentye Apurte still has challenges

## Not many young people are employed:



Most positions are filled – there is only 8% vacancy rate, compared to 21% vacancy rate in other remote communities.

- 83% of jobs are filled by aboriginal people, compared to approx. 50/50 in other remote communities.

However there are some challenges:

- If 38% of the working age people are employed, it means that 62% of people aged 18-64 are not employed
- Of the 105 people aged between 15-24 years, only 10 are employed.

This research shows us that we need to improve the employment story for young adults. Purte Warrke Irreme will focus on work experience and jobs for young people in Ltyentye Apurte, creating real jobs, learning new skills, ensuring that young people have support from older people as mentors, this should all work towards building confidence amongst our young people.





## Ltyentye Apurte Learning Centre

**The Literacy For Life Learning Centre has seen many successes over the past year. Through strong local leadership and decision making, the centre has expanded its capacity to address the needs of the Ltyentye Apurte Community.**

Through effective planning and networking the centre has expanded membership in the Ltyentye Apurte Adult Education & Training Stakeholder Committee, and forged many new relationships and avenues for greater support across the region. Together with AAAC the local team has worked closely with the Department of WorkPlace Relations

to secure an application for a competition free, invite only, process to secure \$1.65 per year for the next three years to transition to a fully community owned and community controlled workforce and learning centre with a regional approach to addressing the needs of Apatula, Titjikala, Amoongunna and Ltyentye Apurte.

Through new partnerships the centre has created changes in the landscape of Registered Training Organisations across the region, who are now better equipped to service Ltyentye Apurte and across the region.



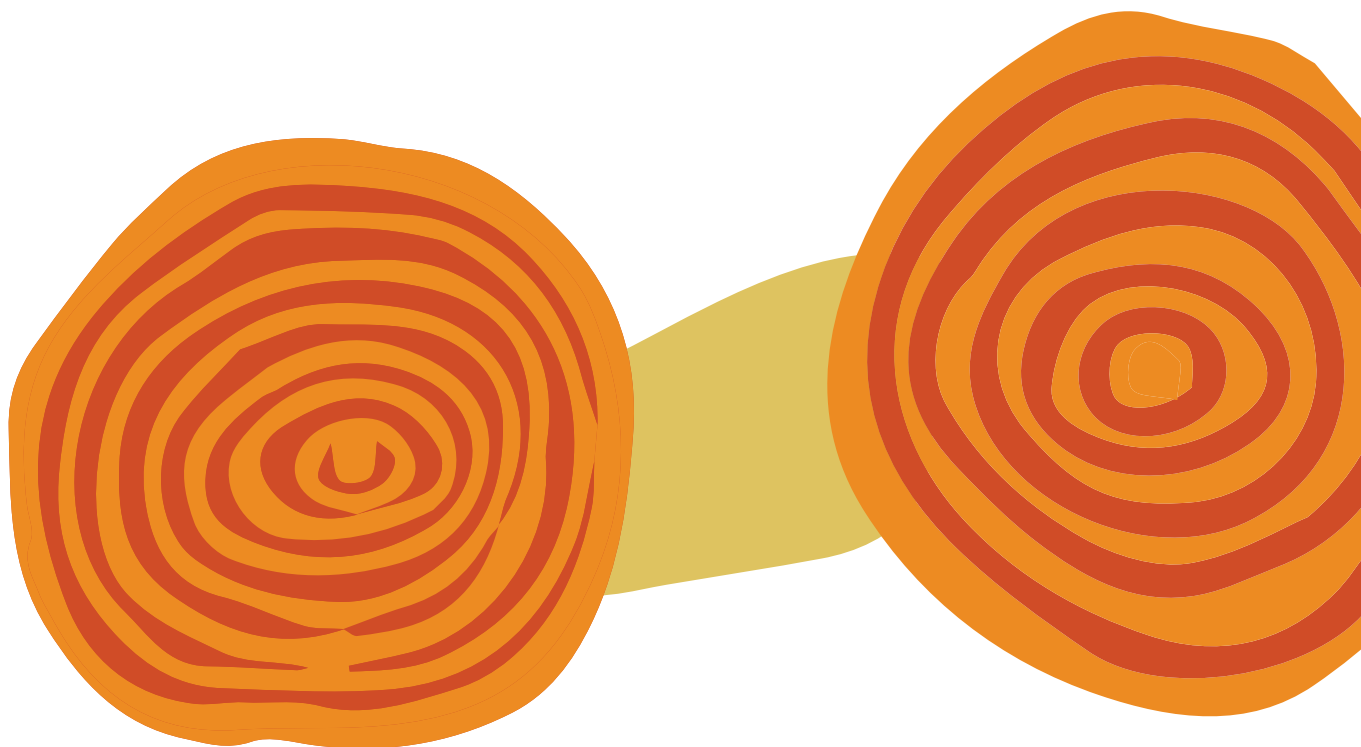




The centre has also shifted gears in preparation for transition to a community controlled workforce and local staff are receiving more structured support and training along with more responsibilities at the Learning Centre.

2025 has seen the highest attendance for certificate students to date (154 instances of participation across 32 certificate students). This has built momentum and motivation which is also reflected in the ongoing support for the certificate programs and other Ltyentye Apurte Learning Centre activities.

Flexibility in delivery timelines contributed to the successful engagement of students in these certificate courses. In addition to certificate and short courses, the Centre has continued high interest in drop-in services (over 100 instances this year) where the local team responded to and supported the needs of the community in a positive and culturally appropriate way.





## Sporting Facilities

### Ltyentyies Oval - 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, and NTAFL organised an amazing Auskick training / competition from October to December 2024. The sporting centre of the community is busy every evening with community members either on the oval, the basketball court or the skatepark.

We are always excited to see our Melbourne Football Club cousins, and this year they visited in May. NTAFL held morning sessions to prepare





the kids in advance, and the community greeted the MFC players, supporters and management team with delight. We are very proud of our collaboration with MFC and the day they spend with us in the community is one of the main highlights of the year. We do not underestimate the support we receive from MFC, MCC, MCG and the Jim Styens Foundation (JSF); we send our wholehearted appreciation for their support for the Oval.

Our Sports Weekend was held in March and was greatly anticipated following the rains of the previous year. The Oval was busy, as was the softball oval, the basketball court, and the skatepark. We had teams playing Footy, Softball, Basketball; winners for the weekend were Ntaria for Footy, Santa Teresa for Softball, and Halls Creek for

Basketball. Communities came from all over and the sportsmanship on display was wonderful to see.

### **Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark**

Our Ltyentye Apurte Skatepark is busy every evening with skateboarders, scooter riders and cyclists growing in confidence and use of the Skatepark. The skateboard and roller skating workshops held on the skatepark are helping the Ltyentye Apurte youth grow in confidence and strength, learning new & different skills with each workshop.

New funding has been obtained through the NT Government Community Benefits Fund for landscaping, shadies and lights. We are looking forward to another beautiful addition to the sporting centre of the community.





## 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. Detailed work continued this year and we have made substantial progress in preparing the environmental review, concept design and initial planning documentation. These are required to help source funding for the two stage project. We hope that by the end of 2025 we will have secured funding to commence the formal development stage of the project including the economic analysis, detailed design, and tender documentation. Then following successful gateway review by the funding agencies we can continue on to the deployment (or construction) stage. Consultation with the local community and Traditional Owners will be a significant part of the development stage once it is funded, and we are looking forward to this interaction.**

Key milestones for this year included the completion of an Environment Impact Assessment on the proposed Microgrid Site. The survey was conducted by Low Ecological Services, together with the Traditional Owners and staff from the CLC Rangers and AAAC. The report is being prepared with the good news result that the proposed solar array is expected to have minimal and temporary environmental impact over the life of the project. Other major milestones this year have been discussions with Territory Generation (TGen) regarding future project management and maintenance oversight of the Microgrid; continuing engagement with various stakeholders to develop project commercial arrangements; and ongoing discussions with Power and Water Corporation on connection of the microgrid to the electricity network.

Our Microgrid project relies on the super support of our (mostly) volunteer management team, Michael Salt, Alex Reily, Chris Croker, and David Dawson; this year we have also had support from Dan Kelly of Redgum Legal and from Bowden McCormack Lawyers. We sincerely acknowledge their expertise and commitment to this important project.









## 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

Over the years the Township Lease negotiations stalled and last year we 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. This year we have received confirmation that Community Housing Central Australia agreed that they would like to investigate ways they can work with AAAC on Community Managed Housing. The four main steps that we now need to decide on are the Money Storey, Tenancy Management, Repairs & Maintenance, and Infrastructure.









## 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**

Store staff completed five certificates in Retail Management during the year: congratulations are due to Silvia Heffernan for completing Cert II, Monica Armstrong and Donna Palmer for Cert III, and Store Managers Harika Akula and Saikiran Girkati for Cert IV.

Congratulations are also due to Troy Turner who started working at the Store in 2009 and has now worked there for 16 years!

Congratulations also go to Store Managers Saikiran & Harika and our store who won an Outback Stores Fruit & Veg Competition. Out of 48 Stores Santa Teresa won with a volume increase in the amount of Fruit & Veg sold between October-December 2024, with a 176.2% increase!!! Saikiran & Harika left the Store in February 2025 after two years, and then came back to work for AAAC & STE in April 2025! Their sterling work at the store has easily transitioned to their work as SCfC Program Coordinator and Enterprises Manager.





## Community Support

We continue to provide community support through the Santa Teresa Store Trust, which allows some discretionary funds for community use.

The AAAC 'Little Bus' finally arrived this year. With funds provided by the Central Land Council's ABA Stimulus Program, the long awaited HiAce was presented to community members at a BBQ in April. The first priority for the Little Bus is for Community Use, and AAAC is proud to have such a vehicle that community members are able to access for sports, funerals, and in emergencies. 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, the sports weekend 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)

Dean Henry Oliver is one of our senior and most respected craftsmen. Dean is a proud Arrernte man from Ltyentye Apurte and one of the founders of the Ltyentye Apurte Traditional Craft Centre (TCC). One day we had a visitor at our Centre and asked Dean why TCC is important for him then:

*"When I was 10 years old, I used to want to ask my grandfather "can you make a spear for me?" because at that age I wanted to own a spear and I thought "one day I'm gonna do that."*


*Starting TCC feels good. Like we're trying to get these traditional tools back. A lot of the old people are gone and a lot of the tools are gone with them. So I want to keep it alive, you know. A long time*

*ago I used to see the old people walking around with a shield and a woomera, boomerang. They loved those things. It's like if you buy a new torch then you love that new torch, you know? That's how they were for their tools.*

*I would like to make TCC bigger. Not only for us but for everyone. These are the tools that our mob used to have. The community wants us to keep going. Some of my relatives from another community, when they come up, we show them what we're doing and they say "that's good! Keep the things alive otherwise they'll get forgotten." My family feel happy and proud. We went out bush, got some trees and I made some clapsticks and my partner dot-painted them. Nearly every day my little daughter walked around making a big noise with them. It made me more than happy, more than proud.*







*This work, I'm really enjoying it. We sit around and share a lot of jokes and laughs, but I'm not doing it just for fun. It's in me.*

The Traditional Craft Centre (TCC), established in 2018, continues 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 beautifully crafted traditional hand-made tools. TCC is now an associate member of both Tourism Central Australia and DesArt.

This year we won the Best Blak Creative Business Award at the NTIBN Gala. Having all our craftsmen attend the event was a proud moment for our team and for our community. Recognitions such as this give us a strong national exposure and confirm







that the Traditional Craftsmen are not just making beautiful quality crafts — they are preserving a culture and telling a story the world needs to hear. Stefan Smith was featured in the Desert Mob Catalogue in 2024 — with his signature #7 boomerangs showcased alongside his personal story and photo. The 2025 catalogue will feature Clinton Olivers traditional weapons (Amirre and Iltyarte), highlighting both his craft and his cultural legacy.

We have expanded our presence at Markets; this year the Traditional Craft team attended various events in the community and markets at Desert Mob, Christmas Carnival, Finke Desert Race market in Alice Springs, Parrtjima Festival market, and had a stall at the Centralia Senior College Twilight Festival. These stalls at each event are more than a selling point — they became a space to educate, share stories, and build relationships with customers. Our success this year didn't come from just one big change. It came from several small, consistent

actions rooted in our values: community, culture, and craftsmanship. By focusing on steady production, youth engagement, public visibility, and storytelling, we've grown not just in sales (which increased 29% this year from last year) , but in purpose and pride.

The next step for TCC is to continue without losing the integrity of its work. We believe the path forward is not just about how many products we sell — but how many lives we touch and how many traditions we keep alive.

Our crafts are not just tools — they are stories, they are language, and they are living culture.



### Ltyentye Apurte Hair Salon

Established in 2017, the Ltyentye Apurte Salon has continuously provided a safe and positive environment for community members. Our Salon is offering a warm, safer, welcoming space for the community people to connect, share stories and build relationships.

One of the Salon highlights of this year was that Rochelle Wallace received her Certificate I in Workplace Skills, and is very very close to finalising her other Certificates to become a qualified hair dresser.

Due to the funding limits our Salon has had a challenging year. In mid November we had our only training session for the year run by Deadly Hair Dude. Several trainees floated in and out over the course of the week, and about 50-60 community people took the opportunity to get their hair done. The skills our people learn during the training sessions remain with them and some of them use those skills at home for their family members.

One day a week over the winter term this year the salon hosted the all-indigenous Blak Barber Kings providing barbering training; this was funded by the SCFC program and as mentioned previously two fellas completed their training.

The Salon is also used from time to time for workshops and trainings; this year Waltja Tjutangu Palyapayi regularly used the for their workshops, as does Literacy for Life for some trainings.

Next year we hope that Rochelle will open the Salon two days a week, and that we continue to maintain the Salon as a safe, welcoming space for the community to connect, share stories and build relationships by renting the space to other organizations. We are also looking into alternative hairdressing options to be able to continue training new community hair dressers.



## Furniture Shed

MC (Marie) Mulladad on why the Furniture Shed is so important to her and the community:

*"this Furniture Shed is one of our most loved enterprises as it provides our families with an array of sturdy furniture items at reasonable prices and delivered to our door." She adds - "It is very tough for the community people to get the furniture items from Alice Springs," first thing : Most of the people don't have car, and you need bigger car to transport the furniture. Second thing : These Furniture are very heavy to pick load and unload to the car. Third thing : you need to travel all the way to Alice Springs- spend money on fuel- damage the tyres and car-.... MC emphasises: Buying furniture items is not easy like buying grocery. It is huge task for the people like me who are old. So I love to buy furniture from here.*

The Second-Hand Furniture Store is one of Santa Teresa Enterprises most successful and meaningful enterprises that directly services the community. It provides families with good quality second hand furniture at affordable prices; with the price determined by what we are able to negotiate during second hand sales! The Furniture Shed is open on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and the occasional Friday morning, with the option for door to door delivery.

Local people can access sturdy and decent, second-hand furniture; beds and mattresses , tables & chairs, couches, cupboards, camping gear, kitchen wear, linen and blankets are all very popular items. Community members often provide us with suggestions on other furniture items which we try to prioritise.

The Furniture Shed owns two shipping containers and the turnaround time for the containers is largely governed by availability; we source the furniture from garage sales, second hand shops, the tip shop and Buy Swap Sell in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). We have recently developed a relationship with Alice Springs Real Estate offices, who often call with a 'full house' option; this activates the whole STE and Maintenance Team to head to Alice to shift a whole household of furniture – either into the container or straight onto the Truck for quick delivery to the community. Once the Alice Springs container is full and the Ltyentye Apurte Furniture Shed is empty, we organise to switch the containers over.







### Coffee Van (Desert Café)

This year the Desert Café had a very busy start! Several large community events including the Marists Brothers visit, the Career Expo, and the Ceremony for the Signing of Local Decision-Making Agreement were very very busy days for Barista Jason King who was quickly joined by Volunteer Diwa Bhusal. During the Marist Bros visit and the Signing Ceremony Jason & Diwa kept the very long queue moving and together they made approximately 300 cups of tea and coffee each day.

Jason kept the coffee van open three days a week from 9am to midday until the end of the year 2024 when he was called back to his nursing management duties. We are happy for the communities that Jason went on to work in, but we miss him dearly as the coffee van is a vital gathering place for visitors, workers and to the local people across the community.

We are hoping that the young ladies who have received their Barista Training from Du Yu Coffee in May & June will take up the calling and open the coffee van to continue the great vibe around the Store Precinct.





# Merne Mwarre Canteen

## Merne Mwarre (Good Food) Nutrition Project

Merne Mwarre was set up in response to the community identifying a need for easily accessible, healthy, and affordable meals to help improve health outcomes within the community. Merne Mwarre has been a registered food business since 2017 and complies with all regulations stipulated by the Department of Health.

Merne Mwarre has had another remarkable year, winning the NT Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Customer Award. Merne Mwarre continues to make a significant contribution to the Santa Teresa community through its commitment to providing affordable nutritious meals to help improve health outcomes and promoting healthier eating habits.







Veronica Peters, Anthea Mulladad and Maggie Murphy worked persistently throughout the year to prepare and serve a wide variety of lunches, 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 Junior Ranger Program, and other AAAC Programs. Over the year, the Merne Mwarre team prepared a total of 5,543 daytime meals; less than last year as the CDP program ordered less than previously.

Sheree Doolan and Delphina Cavanagh continued their sterling efforts opening Merne Mwarre on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, serving in excess of 100 'Healthy KFC' meals each evening – more on BINGO nights!



Merne Mwarre plays a vital role in community events, most notably for the Community Christmas Party, plus busy weekends such as the Sports Weekend, the Horse Race Weekend, and other oval events such as the Community games held on the oval; the whole Merne Mwarre team are always up for these exciting events. The positive feedback from the community emphasizes the importance of our efforts in promoting healthy eating.



## Spinifex Skateboards

**Spinifex Skateboards, the first Ingenious owned Australian skateboarding label and winner of the 2020 NT Human Rights Award for Youth Program, focuses on youth engagement and opportunity across the Central Australian region, whilst remaining grounded in Ltyentye Apurte. This enterprise has become a symbol of community spirit and strength, demonstrating that with the right support and resources, local businesses can sustain themselves and even grow.**

Greg Barnes, owner of Nothing's Wrong Magazine, has been working closely with Spinifex Skateboards since February, working with Nicky on social media updates & organising new merchandise. Three new skateboards were planned for release before the end of the year, but the release has now been delayed until Sept/Oct 2025. New t-shirts

and bucket hats will complement the existing merchandise range.

One of the key highlights of this year was our Spinifex founder, Nicky Hayes, being invited as a speaker at the Festival of Public Urbanism 2024 in Sydney. The festival explored a wide range of topics, including skating, BMX, WCMX, and creative approaches to building healthier, more playful public spaces through art and design.

Nicky took part in panel discussions, sharing insights and debating key topics alongside academics, activists, politicians, and industry leaders. The program included discussions, walking tours, and podcast sessions across Sydney and beyond.





Our Spinifex skateboards were proudly displayed behind the panellists throughout the event, drawing attention and reinforcing the presence of community-led initiatives on a national platform. The City Canvas Symposium was held from 17 to 18 October 2024.

### Skate workshops

This year, Spinifex Skateboards hosted four SCfC-funded skate workshops at Ltyentye Apurte's skatepark, led by Spinifex Skateboards with support from Chuffed Skates and the Songlines Indigenous Skate Team. Chuffed Skates' female facilitators boosted girls' participation and donated roller skates and safety gear for ongoing use. The school released students to attend, and both boys and girls enjoyed building on their skills, learning new skills and building confidence. Following the

success, the SCfC Decision Making Group has approved three more workshops in Ltyentye Apurte for 2025, including two with Chuffed Skates.





## Partners & Staff

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

- AFL NT
- Arrernte Boxing Academy
- Australian National University
- Blak Doll Sports & Fitness Mob
- 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
- Chuffed Skates
- Commonwealth Government; National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Debbie Miller Bookkeeping
- DesArt Incorporated
- DuYu Coffee
- East by West
- Jesuit Social Services
- Jim Stynes Foundation
- Karine Tremblay, Mural Artist
- 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
- ManyRivers
- Marist Brothers
- Melbourne Cricket Club
- Melbourne Cricket Ground
- Melbourne Football Club
- Mpwelarre Health Service (Congress)
- Ninti One
- NT Government
  - Community Benefit Fund
  - Department Housing, Local Government, & community Development
  - Department of Education & Training
  - Department of Trade, Business, & Asian Relations
  - Department of People, Sports, & 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
- The Y, Remote Pools Project
- Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi
- Yajillara Trust





## Overview of Financials

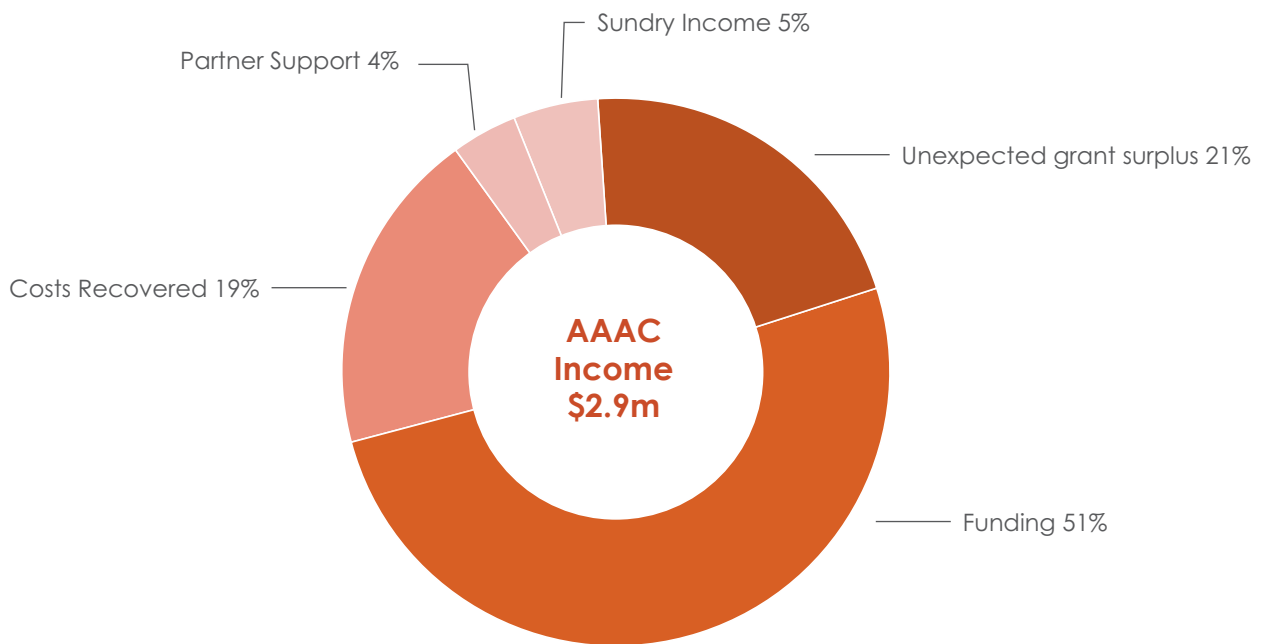
Atyenhenge-atherre Aboriginal Corporation ACN 88 539 368 587

*The operational performance of AAAC at the end of the 2024/2025 financial year resulted in a deficit of \$262,462*

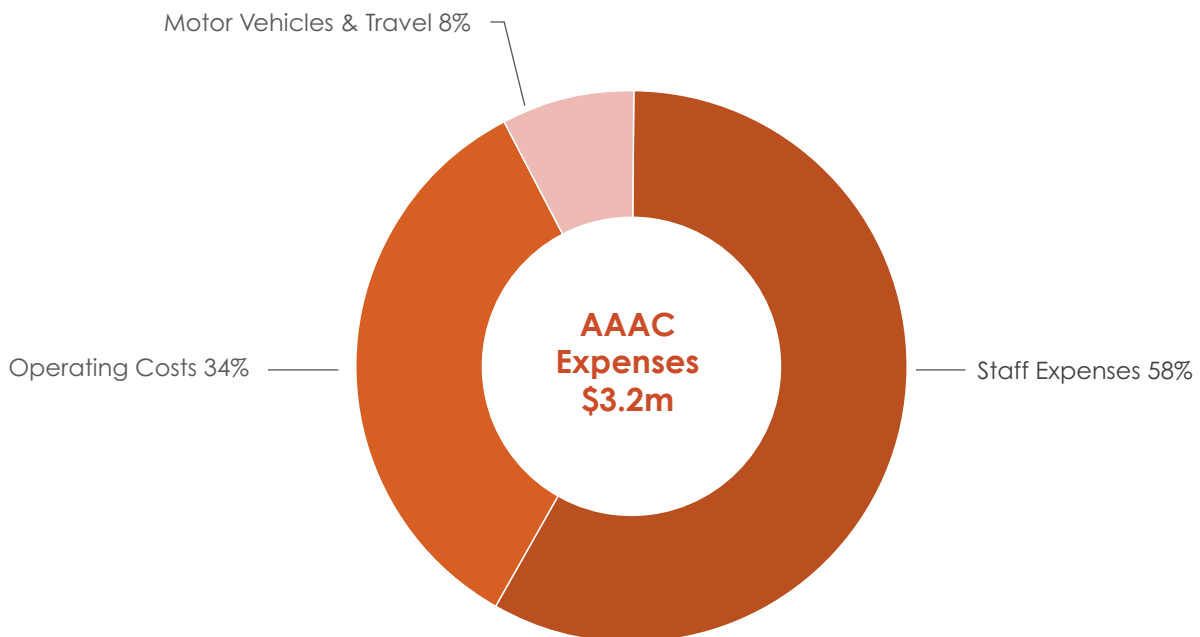
*AAAC is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet its obligations towards all respective donors.*

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

Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation  
**Income 2024/25**



Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation  
**Expenses 2024/25**







## Overview of Financials

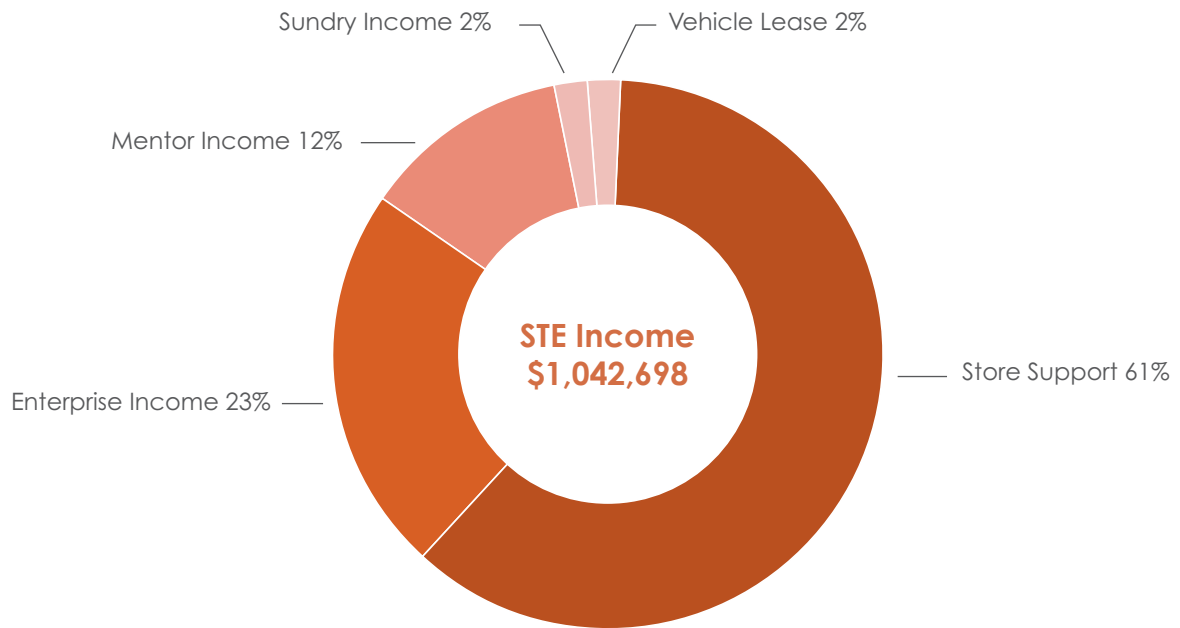
Santa Teresa Enterprise Limited ACN 73 144 999 084

*Santa Teresa Enterprise Limited at the end June 2025 financial year resulted in a surplus of \$19,047.*

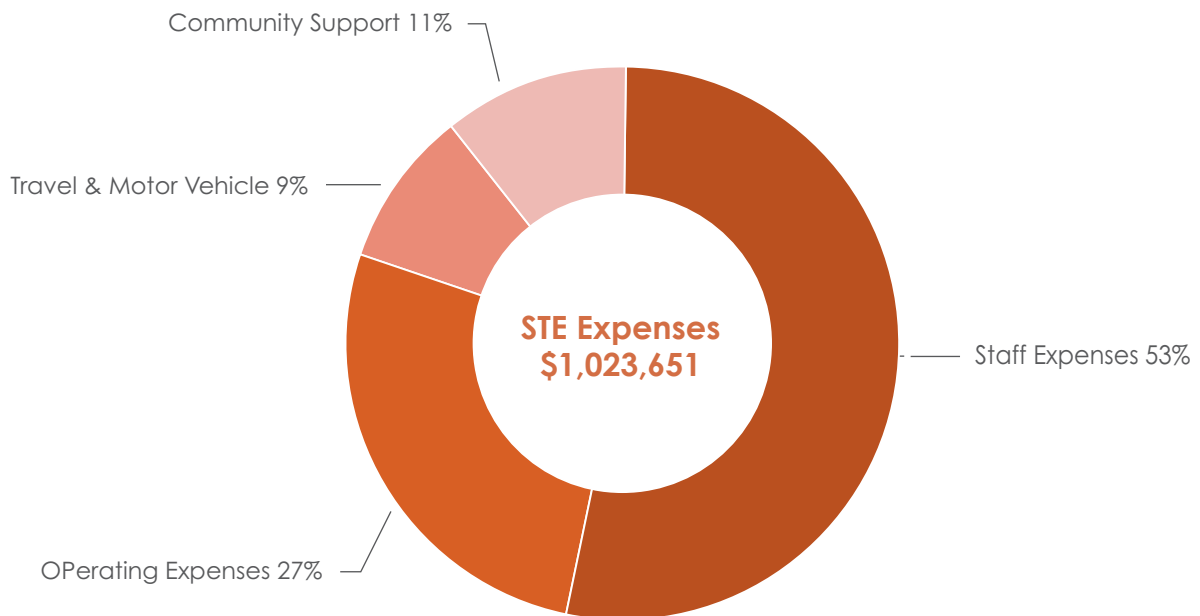
*Santa Teresa Enterprise Limited is in a good financial position and continues to have sufficient funds to meet its community obligations.*

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

Santa Teresa Enterprises  
Income 2024/25



Santa Teresa Enterprises  
Expenses 2024/25















## Atyenhenge Atherre Aboriginal Corporation

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