



Parliament of South Australia

Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee

Report on the Key Issues Raised During its Visit to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands 7 – 9 May 2019

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The Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee, Parliament of South Australia would like to show our respect and acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.

We would also like to pay our respect to those who were removed from their country and have resided on lands not of their heritage, however, consider such land their home.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions made and wisdom shared to this review by Aboriginal peoples across South Australia.

Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee

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The Committee

The South Australian Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee (the Committee) was established pursuant to the *Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee Act 2003*. Its six members are drawn equally from both the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly.

At the time of travel the committee comprised:

Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins MLC, (Presiding Member)

Hon. K. J. Maher, MLC

Mr E. J. Hughes, MP

Mr S. J. Duluk, MP

Hon. T. A. Franks, MLC

Mr F. J. Ellis, MP

The travelling party consisted of:

Hon. J.S.L. Dawkins MLC, (Presiding Member)

Hon. K. J. Maher, MLC

Mr E. J. Hughes, MP

Mr S. J. Duluk, MP

Mr F. J. Ellis, MP

Dr. Ashley Greenwood (Executive Research Officer)

Apologies:

Hon. Tammy Franks, MLC

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Overview

The Aboriginal Lands Parliamentary Standing Committee consists of 6 members of Parliament and serves to enquire into matters affecting the interests of traditional owners of the South Australian Aboriginal Lands¹ and the operation of the Acts under which those lands are held - the *Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013*, the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984* and the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*.

Between 7 May 2019 and 9 May 2019, five members of the committee travelled to the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands as part of this remit. The travelling party comprised of Hon. John Dawkins, MLC (Presiding Member); Mr. Sam Duluk, MP; Mr. Fraser Ellis, MP; Mr. Eddie Hughes, MP; and Hon. Kyam Maher, MLC. They were accompanied by the Executive and Research Officer to the committee, Dr. Ashley Greenwood.

Over the three days, the committee visited with four communities; Pukatja, Pipalyatjara, Amata and Mimili as well as the administrative centre of Umuwa. During this time, the committee met with community members and service providers to hear about the successes and obstacles that the communities face. These issues included housing concerns, feral animal control, child and adolescent problem sexual behaviour, potential mining and exploration activities in the area, disability services, education and health services. This report outlines the key issues raised in each of the meetings that the committee undertook.

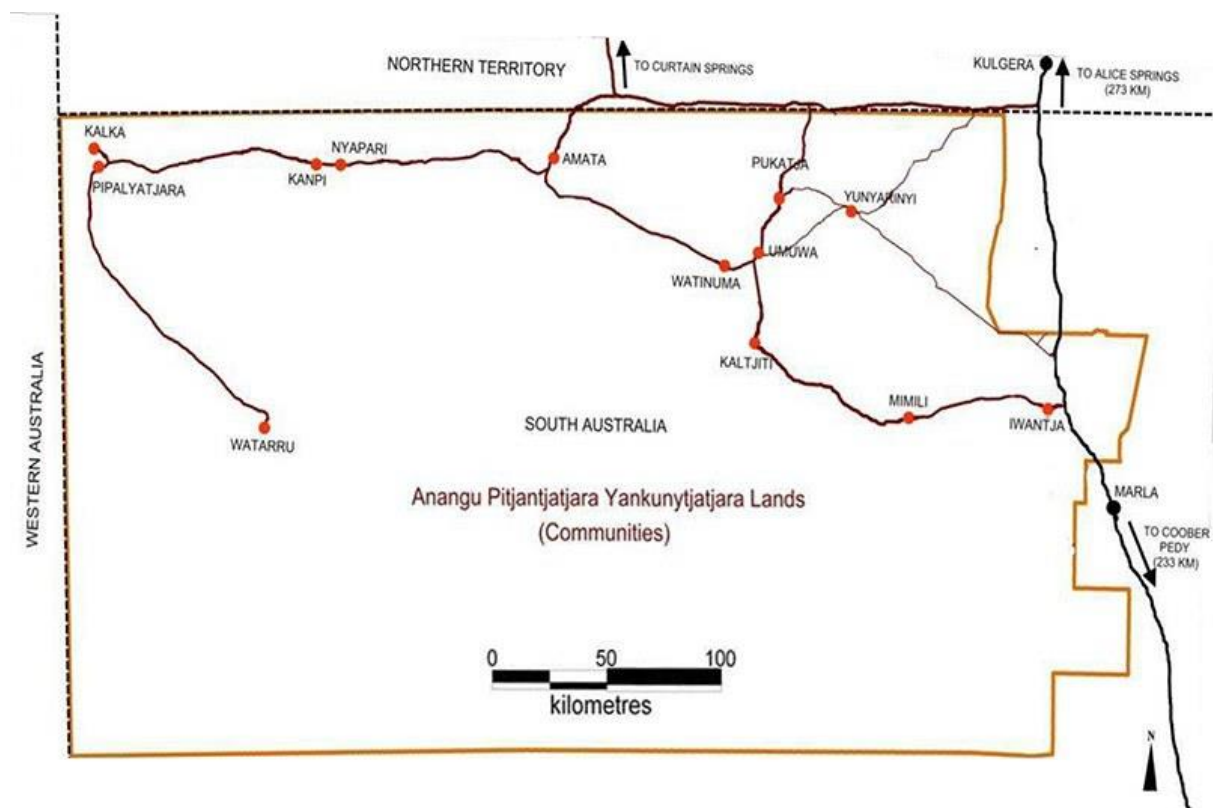


Figure 1 APY Communities (<https://www.rasac.com.au/working-with-apy-communities/apy-lands-communities>)

¹ Being those who are traditional owners of lands falling under the legislative auspices of *Aboriginal Lands Trust Act 2013*, the *Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act 1984* and the *Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act 1981*;

Umuwa

Umuwa is a service centre for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. Anangu Pitjantjatjara was formed in 1991 in order to bring the governance of the Lands to Umuwa from Alice Springs, housing the administration and services infrastructure. Umuwa is the base for the APY Executive and its administration as well as a number of non-government agencies; Nganampa Health, a community controlled health service; and PY Media, providing not only daily radio programming, but video, multimedia and interactive services, information delivery and media education for all communities and for all agencies on the Lands. The NPY Women's Council also has an office working from Umuwa. Umuwa has a population of approximately 80 people.

Pukatja (Ernabella)

Pukatja is an Anangu community on the APY Lands in the north west of South Australia. The Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands are held on freehold title under the terms of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights legislation. Pukatja (Ernabella) Community is located in the Musgrave Ranges about 30 km south of the Northern Territory border. It lies approximately 330 km south west of Alice Springs and approximately 25 kilometres north of Umuwa. The land surrounding Pukatja is of great cultural significance to the local community. The population of Pukatja ranges between 600 and 700 people, including a number of Piranpa (non-Aboriginal) people who work in the community to support Anangu.

Pipalyatjara

Pipalyatjara is located approximately 200 km south west of Uluru in South Australia. The Community occupies part of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands (APY Lands) in the north west of South Australia. The Pitjantjatjara country consists of a long chain of mountain ranges, the Musgraves, Mann and Tomkinsons, stretching east to west on the southern side of the Northern Territory border, isolated ranges and hills and extensive sandhill plains. APY also has affiliations with land in the Northern Territory to the Petermann Ranges and in Western Australia. At the 2016 census, Pipalyatjara had a population of 189.

Amata

Amata is located approximately 115 km due south of Uluru in South Australia. The Community occupies part of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara lands in the north west of South Australia. Amata Community is located at the western end of the Musgrave Ranges about 14 km south of the Northern Territory border. It lies approximately 380 km south west of Alice Springs. Amata has a population of approximately 500 people.

Mimili

Mimili is an Anangu community on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands in the north west of South Australia. It lies approximately 645 km south of Alice Springs. It is located 70 km away from Indulkana community and approximately 125 km from Umuwa; the administrative centre of the APY Lands. The Community is located at the base of the Everard Ranges. The population of Mimili ranges between 250 and 500 people, including a number Piranpa (non-Aboriginal) people who work in the community to support Anangu. Community members have kinship ties over a large area of Central Australia and many people have ownership status to specific areas of land in the region around Mimili.

1. Tuesday 7 May 2019

1.1. APY Executive Board

Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) is incorporated by the 1981 Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Land Rights Act whereby the SA Parliament gave Aboriginal people title to more than 103,000 square kilometres of arid land in the far northwest of South Australia. All Pitjantjatjara, Yankunytjatjara and Ngaanyatjarra people who are traditional owners of any part of the Lands are members of Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara. APY oversees the activities of the various constituent groups serving the needs of the people on the Lands. It also helps shape policies regarding economic and social development.

Under the *APY Land Rights Act*, the Executive Board is the governing body of APY. Its 14 elected members from across the APY Lands are elected for a three year term under an election supervised by the Electoral Commission of South Australia. The Executive Board chooses its own Chairperson. The APY Chairperson is Mr Frank Young. The APY Executive Board must meet at least every two months, though it often meets monthly because of the number of issues they consider.

Key issues raised:

- 1.1.1. Mining

There are a lot of mining opportunities that may arise out of the Wingellina mining project in Western Australia. While the actual mine is situated on the WA side of the border, the processing and logistics of the operation will likely require APY resources. This includes the provision of lime and water for the processing and concentration of minerals and transport routes through APY Lands.

Chris Doon (*APY Mining Tenement Officer*) outlined the various procedures required for mining activities in the Lands.

Mining processes in the APY are the same as for the state but with additional assessments (see section 2.1.1. for further discussion of these).

- a) Assessments of cultural significance
- b) Assessment of the impact of activities to be undertaken

The process of the distribution of monies resulting from mining activities states that

- a) One third would go towards general state revenue,
- b) One third to the Traditional Owners and is distributed through the APY Executive. It is unclear if this would go to individual Traditional Owners (TOs) or collectives as there has not yet been an occurrence of this to be negotiated. In previous cases where TOs have received funds, they have made the choice to quarantine some of the revenue in a trust for issues like water security and funeral support. As mining has not yet been conducted in the area under the APY Land Rights Act, the specifics around APY royalties have not been detailed.
- c) One third placed in a trust fund for the benefit of all Aboriginal people in SA.

- 1.1.2 Camels

The recent drought conditions in the APY Lands resulted in massive issues with camels in search of water. The camels have been causing damage to infrastructure in and around communities as well as the loss of commercial cattle infrastructure and resources.

In order to manage the issue, camel mustering was undertaken. In a recent intensive mustering exercise three to four thousand camels were contained. While the camels are purchased for slaughter, the project is labour intensive and not profitable.

Camels earn \$200 per head but as they are large animals, only 20 fit on a truck. The cost of transport per truck is roughly \$1,400 on top of the hay provided to them prior to transport – a cost that has also risen as a result of the drought.

On the other hand, the cost of not acting is likely to be much greater. APY Executive Board General Manager, Richard King, estimates that the camels cost in excess of \$500,000 per annum through infrastructural damage, maintenance and interruption of cattle grazing. The issue remains that if it stays dry, more camels will continue to be drawn to locations with water sources.

Ways to manage the camels going forward:

a) In 2005 there were discussions about the building of an abattoir on the Lands and a business plan was submitted to government. Some concerns were raised about the running of it and employment. There were concerns about a lack of Traditional Owner consultation should the Indigenous Land Corporation take control. On the other hand, the APY Executive needs to mature more as an organisation in order to secure the management of such an operation. Training models will need to be developed etc. and the APY Executive is not currently equipped for the project.

b) Installation of watering points to keep camels away from communities and infrastructure followed by virtual fencing is the most feasible solution but does not have funding. Each watering point would cost approximately \$150,000. Requests for financial support for this project have been made to Alinytjara Wilurara – Resources and Mining (AWNRM), the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). DPMC have offered support for one generator.

- **1.1.3 Housing**

Housing shortages continue to be of great concern to the APY Executive as well as individual families. Families continue to grow and this demand is not being met through the construction of new houses. Additionally, housing processes do not properly account for cultural factors that result in families moving in and out of houses at high frequencies.

Concern has been raised about the Federal Government pledge of \$37 million as a one-off housing support. Meaning that this will be the only funds received for housing in the APY for the foreseeable future.

- **1.4 Employment/Police clearances**

Board members have also raised the issue of lack of employment opportunities for residents of the Lands. Lack of employment opportunities is seen as being one of the major causes of alcohol abuse and associated problems.

One of the key issues discussed by Traditional Owners was that police clearances are required for any work done through the APY Executive – where most employment opportunities are available. Men are therefore not able to engage in work such as land management – work they are willing and able to do and which, they argue, should not require police clearance.

The Presiding Member of the Committee, Hon. John Dawkins, MLC, also presented the APY Executive board members with some information regarding a potential collaboration with Wesley LifeForce Suicide Prevention Services.

Wesley LifeForce provides suicide prevention services designed to educate and empower local communities and support people at risk. This includes prevention, postvention and intervention programs. Since 2007, Wesley LifeForce has established and supported 92 communities, 20 of which are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. They are keen to establish suicide awareness and prevention initiatives in the APY Lands in collaboration with APY communities and service providers.

Following the visit, the Presiding Member has been informed that the APY Executive has extended an invitation to Wesley LifeForce to visit the APY Lands for discussions around such a proposal.

1.2. Housing Authority

The APY Housing Authority has staff in charge of tenancy and of maintenance. They provided us with a tour of two unoccupied houses that were in the process of being rebuilt/updated. On the current five year agreement, forty houses are to be built as either new or replacement housing - all of which will be made disability accessible. However, housing shortages and overcrowding continue to be issues raised by service providers and community members.

Key issues raised:

- **1.2.1 Housing shortages & Long-term funding**

The one the main areas of discussion regarded the costs of meeting the housing needs of Anangu. The Housing Authority also raised concern over the future funding of housing in the APY. The costs are often inflated by the 'tyranny of distance', Each house costs \$375,000 to build and a full 40% of that cost is on the freight of materials.

One of the issues is that more housing requires the expansion of infrastructure and services which makes the project considerably more expensive and labour intensive.

- **1.2.2 Other costs related to APY housing**

The Remote Housing tenancy and assets staff discussed the management of the minerality of the water in the area. This hard/salt-laden water causes infrastructure to degenerate faster than in urban areas. For example, air-conditioning units that weigh 4 kilograms when installed will weigh 11 kilograms within 11 months due to the caked salt throughout the units.

The water also causes the baffle base of concrete water tanks to become damaged. Consequently, the concrete water systems in place have a life of approximately 5 years. The introduction of poly tanks has been very successful, with the new tanks having an estimated life of 20 years. They will be replacing 65 of the old concrete tanks with the new poly tanks on the Lands.

1.3. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service APY (CAMHS APY) is a free community-based mental health service provided through the Women and Children's Hospital under SA Health. In the early 2000s there was an alarming increase in suicides in the region and a branch of CAMHS was set up in the Lands in 2006 as a Visiting Service. In 2010 the service developed a Lands-based component, initially funded through COAG now CTG until June 2020. The branch is referred to as KATU and has had various funding arrangements over the years. The funding currently covers 6 FTE Clinicians (including a Manager) and 4 FTE Anangu Malpa/Aboriginal Mental Health Consultants. All of the Malpas work casually or part-time and we have about twelve regular workers. The Mental Health Division provide psychiatric clinical support and supervision.

In 2010 the size and complexity of problem sexual abuse and intergenerational trauma became clearer to CAMHS following a number of disclosures in one of the communities. An intensive therapeutic, community-wide response was funded for about eighteen months and allowed CAMHS staff to build relationships with, educate and support families to be better able to acknowledge and respond to issues.

In 2013 an Anangu Steering Committee was established with male and female representatives from all communities and a representative from each Anangu-led organisation. It meets four times each year. The specific aim has been to seek guidance from Anangu regarding how to work in culturally appropriate ways when dealing with problem sexual behaviour and sexual abuse in the APY Lands. CAMHS staff estimate that 80% of children in the APY Lands have exposure to or continue to experience problem sexual behaviour. This behaviour occurs in the context of intergenerational trauma, domestic and family Violence, substance misuse, poverty and overcrowding. It is a complex interplay of trauma, neglect, abuse, peer to peer engagement and self-soothing behaviours.

While CAMHS staff are frequently exposed to disclosures from their young clients and relevant notifications are made to the Department of Child Protection and SAPOL, those children are rarely able to disclose in the forensic setting. This is understood to be caused by myriad interconnected issues including the cultural complexities of the interrelatedness of families, fear of removal, fear of deaths in custody, suicide and payback.

Whilst Community have come a long way in acknowledging problem sexual behaviour and sexual abuse across the Lands, many complex issues are ongoing and these issues remain of major concern.

Key issues raised:

- **1.3.1 Clinical and therapeutic services for adults**

CAMHS clinicians deal specifically with children and adolescents under the age of 18 and their families, however they perceive that many of the chronic issues effecting the young are related to the broader community-based trauma. They argue that clinical and therapeutic services for children and adolescents cannot be effective while those children are situated in homes and communities where adults are also experiencing trauma or dealing with past traumas.

When issues arise in communities in relation to child sexual assault and problem sexual behaviours, this can psychologically trigger many of the adults and carers in those communities who have experienced similar events but did not previously have access to

supports. The impact that concerns with children may have on the adult population is not being appropriately dealt with and can result in increases in drug and alcohol abuse, child abandonment and domestic violence.

Another of the major concerns that CAMHS clinicians discussed was the implications for children and youth living in communities with high numbers of adults with acquired brain injury resulting from the petrol-sniffing epidemic in decades past. Systematic support for brain injured people and the risks around those people is crucial. Currently there is no formal diagnosis or disability support for adult members of the community experiencing the effects of brain injury.

- **1.3.2 Housing**

As discussed above, children and adolescents are living in increasingly overcrowded houses with adults who often have brain injury or complex PTSD from a variety of historical traumas. This exposes them to increased risk, poor role modelling of behaviour and poor living conditions. The housing shortage also makes removing children from their parents care and placing them in safe homes within their own communities logistically difficult.

- **1.3.3 Need for therapeutic spaces and experiences**

Elders alongside CAMSH clinicians raised issues about access to resources to provide children with therapeutic spaces and experiences. They argue that children need both cultural experiences and experiences out of community and off the Lands in order to develop healthy engagements and become successful in broader society. Youth who are experiencing abuse and trauma are often denied these experiences because of the behavioural issues associated with their circumstances. Many of the activities that are supported by schools and communities are therefore not available to the most traumatised children.

CAMHS staff also discussed the need for a therapeutic space for the kids in or near the communities. At present there is no designated space for the therapeutic services that CAMHS provides and staff are often obliged to open their homes to provide a safe and neutral space for the young clients to open up.

2. Wednesday 8 May 2019

2.1. Mining – Metals X, APY Mining Officer, TOs

The Central Musgrave Project is operated by Metals X. It encompasses approximately 2,000 km² of prospective exploration tenure that includes Wingellina, the Claude Hills nickel deposit, and the Mt Davies exploration prospects. While Claude Hills is the only part of the project located within South Australia, the APY Lands is likely to become critical to the labour and processing and transport of materials for the whole project.

The Central Musgrave Project has a Mineral Resource containing approximately 2.0 million tonnes of nickel and 154,000 tonnes of cobalt within which Wingellina hosts an Ore Reserve of approximately 1.56 million tonnes of nickel and 123,000 tonnes of cobalt.

Wingellina is one of the largest nickeliferous 'pure oxide' limonite accumulations in the world. The mineralogy of the Wingellina ore is a major strength of the project as, unlike most Australian nickel

laterite projects, Wingellina ore has characteristics perfectly suited to High Pressure Acid Leaching (“HPAL”), with high iron grades (resource average 47% Fe₂O₃) and a very low concentration of magnesium (resource average 1.6% Mg).

Claude Hills Project

The Claude Hills deposit is located approximately 30 km to the east of Wingellina within the South Australian border. A significant exploration project was completed in 2010 which identified an initial deposit of 33.3 million tonnes at 0.81% Ni and 0.07% Co. The additional resource at Claude Hills demonstrates the potential to add a significant amount of additional reserves and mine-life to the Wingellina Project. It is currently an inferred resource and requires more exploration to understand its full scope.

Key issues raised:

- **2.1.1 Approvals process**

The APY Lands currently has 61 outstanding (unresolved) exploration licence applications, some dating back to 1995. Chris Doon, the Mining Officer for the APY Executive has identified issues with understanding the mining approval process as being responsible for this deadlock. An example of this is confusion is that Traditional Owners are required to approve an exploration licence prior to seeing specific details about the locations and environmental impacts. Mining operators do not typically outline a workplan prior to the approval so Traditional Owners must trust that this initial approval will not undermine their rights or result in cultural heritage harms. Once the licence is approved and a workplan has been created, the plan is subject to cultural heritage assessment by anthropologists and Traditional Owners.

Poor understanding of this process causes Traditional Owners to be suspicious about what they may be approving mining operators to do. Historical failures of the mining industry are also having a massive impact on the approvals process. In the Claude Hills area there remains evidence of drilling and explorations activity from the 60s and 70s. At this time there was no requirement for the rehabilitation of the country/landscape upon the cessation of activities. Traditional Owners still remember the ‘big mess’ that was made and left for them to clear up and are reluctant to undergo this again.

These misunderstandings and complications in the approvals process continue to hinder the future mining possibilities in the APY Lands.

2.2. Disability Independent Living

The Disability Independent Living facility in Amata is a successful project that allows Anangu to remain on the Lands in supported living. Services include accommodation, daily meals, day activities and overnight excursions, laundry services, personal care and shopping assistance as well as assistance with medical appointments.

Key issues raised:

- **2.2.1. Possible impacts of the NDIA**

Staff identified that they were unsure of what impact – positive or negative – the introduction of the NDIA may have on the service they provide. They had concerns that introducing a number of different service providers may dilute the quality of care that clients receive.

3. Thursday 9 May 2019

3.1. Mimili Anangu School

Mimili Anangu School is located in a remote community in the far northwest of South Australia in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands. Mimili is approximately 1350kms by road from Adelaide, including 200 km on unsealed roads. The community has a population of approximately 300 people, and student enrolments fluctuate between 55 and 65. The school caters for students from birth to Year 12. It includes a school-based preschool and playgroup. Most students' first language is Pitjantjatjara or Yankunytjatjara and English is frequently only spoken at school. The transience rate is high as the school can have students who attend for periods of days or weeks and then return to their home communities. The school has an ICSEA score of 625 and is classified as Category 1 on the DECD Index of Educational Disadvantage. The median ICSEA score across Australia is 1000. The school population includes 15 (25%) Students with Disabilities.

Mimili Anangu School has had some successes while working in challenging conditions.

The First Language Maintenance and Development program continued to implement the release of the languages section of the Australian Curriculum. The school worked with the Coordinator from AES office, the hub leaders and 5 AEW language instructors to implement the units of work. Students and AEWs responded enthusiastically and are learning skills to read Pitjantjatjara texts with comprehension. The school employed an AEW 2 to coordinate Pitjantjatjara lessons. Mimili community is supportive and very positive about this program.

Partnerships with schools across the Lands have also been very successful. While in urban environments the model may be problematic because schools tend to be competing against one another, in the Lands this is a vital element of maintaining consistency where students often move between communities and schools.

Key issues raised:

- 3.1.1. Retaining experienced teachers

Retaining experienced teachers in APY schools is fundamental to ensuring students get optimal support. The working conditions in the Lands are very different to metro schools and teachers usually stay an average of eighteen months due to the difficult conditions of the work. School leadership at Mimili stated that someone who has worked in the Lands two years is more valuable than someone who has worked only in mainstream schools for more than ten. Creating a situation where good teachers with experience in the Lands are encouraged and supported to stay where they are needed is a matter of critical importance.

Some of the impediments to this include:

- a) Early childhood teachers who are funded by the playgroup program are not eligible for permanency. This means that these early childhood teachers have less job security and are therefore less inclined to move their lives up to the Lands or stay on. Not knowing if their contract will be renewed each year is a disincentive for remote area teaching.
- b) Incentives for staying in remote areas stop after 5 years, encouraging teachers to move on. Teachers argue that as the conditions of the remote work remain the same, the incentives should be continued.

- c) Finding housing for teachers is an ongoing issue and can result in unfilled positions, even when funding is available for them. Teachers need safe and secure housing but are not prioritised when so many community members are also in need of housing.

- **3.1.2. Training for Anangu Educators**

Anangu Educators are a vital element of the education process because of the language and cultural barriers experienced by students and teachers. Educators often feel like they are just babysitting because they are not properly taught how to be useful in the classroom.

At this stage no formal training has been implemented in South Australia for Anangu Educators. While some general certificates are available through TAFE, these require regular travel to TAFE sites and as most educators have dependants, this is often impossible. As a result, a previous teacher training program providing access to Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care was not very successful. Educators are simply not able to travel long distances and stay away from their families for extended periods of time.

There is no site-level training available, which is identified by school leadership as being a more ideal way of implementing the training and providing pathways for success. The educators need to feel valued and have their confidence built so they can fulfil their potential as important members of the education teams in their communities. It is difficult for teachers and school leadership to carry this out on top of their normal workloads.

- **3.1.3. Support for teachers**

Teachers identify the value of well-trained Anangu Educators in support in the classroom, particularly regarding language barriers, but they also state that there are other areas in which they need more support. As a result, they are trying to fill the role of teacher, behaviouralist, psychologist, cleaner, driver, IT technician.

- a) IT support: Last year an IT support person was employed at the school, however the contract expired at the end of last year. By May, at the time of our visit, the new position had still not yet been formally approved and therefore no recruitment was in progress. As a result, the students have iPads but they are just “expensive paperweights” as there is no internet. One of the teachers is doing what little technical support they are able but this is time-consuming and not what they are trained for.
- b) Cleaning: The contractor, Servicing SA, has been unable employ a cleaner and as a result there is a lot of cleaning to do for the teachers. This does not only pertain to their classrooms but also all outdoor areas, including the toilets and basketball courts– which are often used extensively by community members on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights as well as by students during the days.
- c) Behavioural problems in the classroom: While the implementation of a behavioural chart (OK > Warning > Timeout) has been relatively successful, teachers are constantly confronted with trauma-based behavioural problems that they do not feel equipped to deal with without more training and support. This would be eased a little by having better-trained and more confident Anangu Educators but is still a complex issue that teachers are left to figure out for themselves.

According to teachers, a number of the behavioural issues they experience in the classroom are a result of the chronic housing issues in the communities. Overcrowding results in trauma (as discussed in 1.3.2) and sleeplessness for the students.

The broad range of skill levels found in each classroom also puts pressure on teachers in developing materials as well as dealing with behavioural issues and inattention. This would also be eased by better trained Anangu Educators and more staff. This range of student capacity results from age differences, inconsistency of attendance and trauma. Community conflicts also often spill over into classroom dynamics and can result in behavioural problems or refusal to attend.

- **3.1.4. School buses recalled**

The schools at Mimili, Pipalyatjara, Ernabella and Murputja have had some recent issues with their buses. They were provided with new yellow school buses that were modified for the terrain in the region but that these modifications resulted in some failures and the buses were therefore recalled.

The buses were picked up by the respective school principals on 9 March 2019 and by 12 March they were directed to cease driving them and were eventually taken away. No further information has been provided to the schools regarding replacements/repairs or the timetable for a return to service.

As the schools were required to exchange their older buses in Alice Springs prior to collecting the new ones, the communities have now been left without the capacity to pick up students from homelands or take students on camps and excursions. The buses also form an important resource for their entire communities.

3.2. Nganampa Health Council Clinic in Mimili

Nganampa Health Council (NHC) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation operating on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the far north west of South Australia. Across this area, NHC operates seven clinics, the Tjilpi Pampaku Ngura Aged Care facility and assorted health related programs including aged care, sexual health, environmental health, health worker training, dental, women's health, male health, children's health, immunisation, eye health and mental health.

NHC is a well utilised service; there are in excess of 60,000 patient contacts per annum. The main clinics are located at Iwantja (Indulkana), Mimili, Fregon, Pukatja (Ernabella), Amata, and Pipalyatjara while a smaller clinic is located at Nyapari. The Tjilpi Pampaku Ngura Aged Care facility is located at Pukatja. The organisation has administration offices at Umuwa and Alice Springs.

All consultations are at the clinic. NHC clinics do not make house calls nor operate an appointments system. All clients must see a health worker or nurse at the clinic to be assessed and triaged.

Some of the services offered by NHC are emergency services, management of chronic illness, antenatal care, immunisations and the patient assisted transport scheme (PATS).

Doctors visit the Lands for two weeks every four weeks. In Mimili this amounts to having a Doctor in the clinic 4 days a month. As a result, the clinic prioritises care for the elderly, the very young, pregnant and those with chronic disease.

The introduction of infrastructure to support the use of mobile phones has been very valuable to the triage process. It has allowed potential patients to call up and describe their symptoms and concerns rather than showing up at the clinic or at a nurse's home after hours.

Key issues raised:

- **3.2.1. Stretchers on new ambulances**

Funding for new ambulances was pledged by the South Australian Government in 2017, with the roll out of 7 purpose-built ambulances completed in 2018. However, the ambulances have been found to have some major issue with the drop-down legs at the back of the stretchers. This has caused the stretchers to collapse while loading and unloading patients. As a result, clinic staff are not confident of the stability of the stretchers and ask mobile patients to move themselves in and out of the ambulances.

- **3.2.2. Healthy food supply**

Issues with the local shop have resulted in poor eating habits and the lack of availability of healthy options, especially for infants and toddlers. Due to the low population of communities and high cost of freight, shops simply cannot profit from specially ordered foods for individuals or small numbers of people/infants.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are more expensive and perishable, making them a difficult option for large families on low incomes. This has repercussions for the overall health of community populations as well as those suffering chronic disease such as diabetes.

Nganampa Health Council have invested 15 years of work into supporting and working with Mai Wiru and the community stores to improve some of these issues but it remains difficult to overcome.

- **3.2.3. Early intervention**

75% of children are receiving child health checks but this number does not appear to have increased over time. There is a very rigid national program of immunisation etc. for children under 5 and irregular visitation and moving between communities & services means that children in community are not always receiving the full care they need.

- **3.2.4. On-call support staff**

Standard NHC safety protocols, compounded by the forthcoming implementation of Gayle's Law - Health practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) (Remote Area Attendance) Variation Regulations 2019 - has highlighted concerns with the On-call Support Staff. On-going funding is needed for these staff as they are crucial to the clinics' ability to do their job safely and legally. Clinic staff state that nearly every night of the week there is a medical evacuation requiring the on-call support staff to accompany the clinician.

On-call support staff are community members employed to accompany nurses and clinicians on after-hours visits. This is fundamental to the implementation of Gayle's Law and the security of clinic staff. However little has been done to ensure the security of on-call support workers. As community members these workers usually live in community housing, which has very little security.

On-call support workers also receive no Occupational Health and Safety or Manual Handling training despite the hazards of their job. In 2017 the clinic's status as a Registered Training Organisation was pulled and consequently no training can be done on-site. Issues with literacy and numeracy as well as access to computers means that online training is not possible.

- **3.2.5. Retention of staff**

The retention of nurses for clinics has historically be very problematic and there is a very rapid turnover. NHC hires approximately 150 locums each year and of those, 50-80 would be new staff.

As discussed in relation to teacher retention (see 3.1.1.), lack of housing also has implications for hiring and retaining clinic staff. There is a limited workforce and limited housing available for that workforce. This has implications for the quality of care that clinics are able to provide as well as the safety of staff while carrying out their duties, as discussed above (3.2.4).

Signed:

Hon. John Dawkins, MLC (Presiding Member)