

**Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi**  
*"Doing Good Work for Families"*

# Working well with Aboriginal people on their communities

Presentation for the Making a Difference  
Conference, Alice Springs June 2006

## About Waltja

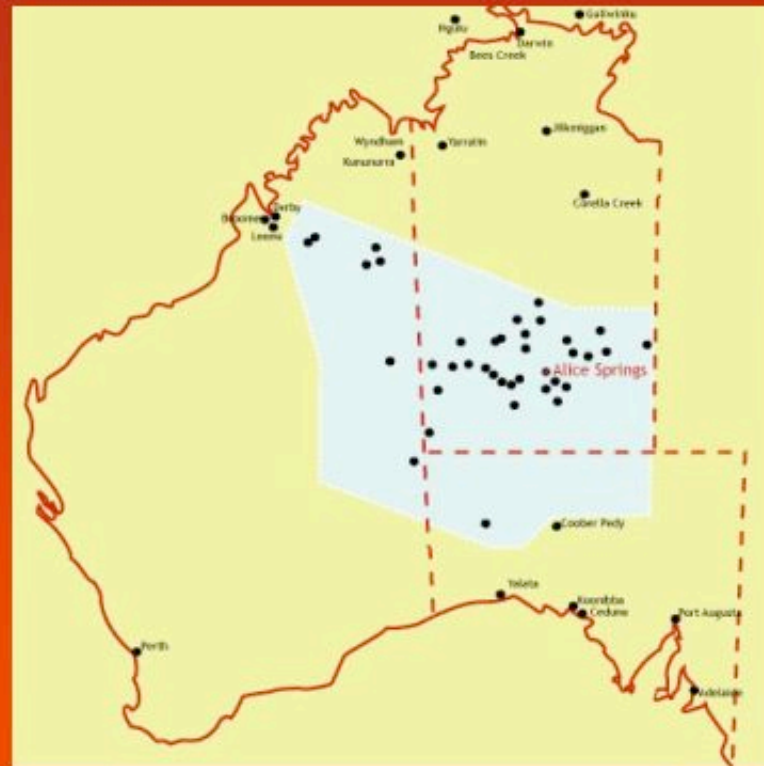


Waltja is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation governed by senior Aboriginal women from remote communities across Central Australia.

Waltja works with these main language groups: Warlpiri, Luritja, Western Arrernte, Eastern Arrernte, Pintupi, Kaytej, Anmatyerre, Alyawarre and Pitjantjatjara.

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## About Waltja: where Waltja works



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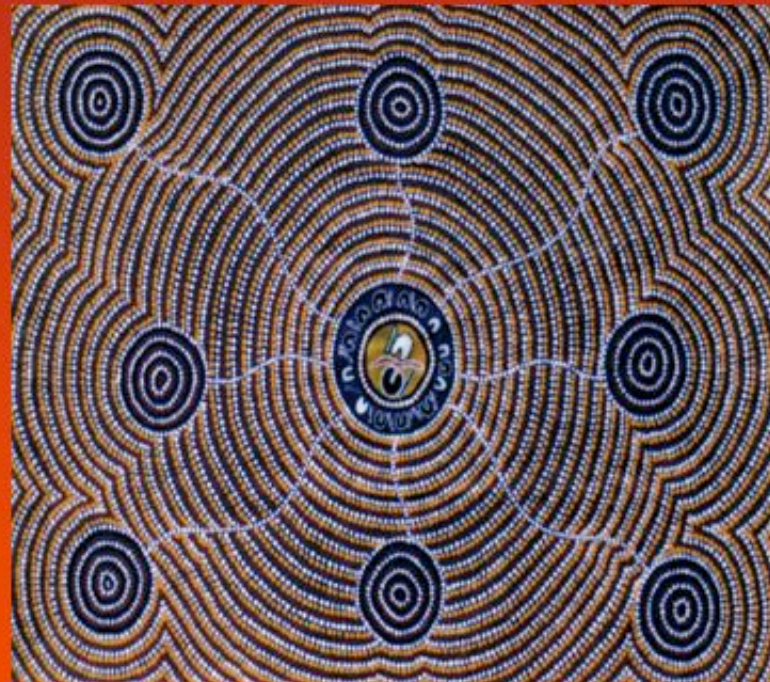
Waltja's core operating principles are:

- The family is the foundation of the Aboriginal community and Indigenous identity
- Services need to be located within local communities, with training and support for local Aboriginal people to manage the services
- Partnership approach to support community development and self-determination



# WALTJA'S DISABILITY and AGED CARE SERVICES

- Disability Brokerage for remote communities
- Disability Steering Committee
- Disability Field Workers
- Disability Coordination Officer
- Commonwealth Carelink 1800 052 222 with Frontier Health



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# TALK WITH COMMUNITY

- Council and Committee members
  - Aboriginal workers
  - Clients and their family
    - Elders

NOT JUST THE WHITEFELLA MANAGERS



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# BEFORE YOU TRAVEL



- Plan ahead and give plenty of notice
- Negotiate a date that suits the community
- Fax to Council and to services (school, clinic)
- Check with contact person before you start driving

# ABORIGINAL PEOPLE TO WORK ALONGSIDE YOU



- Find the right person to help you and interpret
- Check plans with them
- Listen to their advice
- This is paid work
- Support their professional development



# TALKING AND LISTENING

- Give people time to sit, to think, to talk
- Help your interpreter! Don't talk too fast!
- Listen to the quiet words
- Check your own and others' understanding
- Tell people what you will do next, and follow up



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# Waltja can help you to work with communities

- Waltja Management Committee members
- Waltja Field Workers - advice, share travel
- Promotion through Family News
- Community contacts



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# Contact Waltja

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