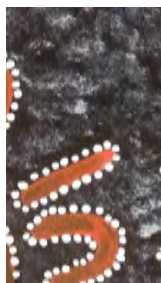




**Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi
Aboriginal Corporation**
Doing good work with families



Photos (from top): sharing story in the Western desert; women from across the Central desert gathered for the Aged and Disability Festival; Waltja Directors' meeting at Kungka Kutjarra.



Our Organisation and Footprint



Waltja has a number of different logos which have been designed by our members. Our logos all include concentric circles representing women coming together. Waltja's logos are always recognised by members as they represent women from different communities working well together.



Waltja Tjutangku Palyapayi Aboriginal Corporation (Waltja) is an Aboriginal controlled, community-based organisation doing good work with families, which is grounded in strong culture and relationships.

We work in remote Central Australian Aboriginal communities, across nine languages and more than one quarter of the Northern Territory. Our members live in over twenty remote communities and in outstations across our service area.

Waltja's foundation is the leadership of strong Aboriginal women, our focus on families, and our support for community self-management and self-determination.

Waltja's work focuses on addressing significant disadvantages and gaps in service delivery for families in remote communities, and in the maintenance of culture and language.

To work effectively with families in communities on priorities determined by our Directors, Waltja collaborates with community organisations, regional councils, schools, NT and Australian Government Departments and philanthropic organisations following a set of operating principles we call the Waltja Way.

The main languages spoken by Waltja members across our service region are: Pintupi-Luritja, Warlpiri, Western Arrarnta, Eastern Arrernte, Katjetje, Anmatjere, Alyawarre, Yankuntjatjara and Pitjantjatjara.

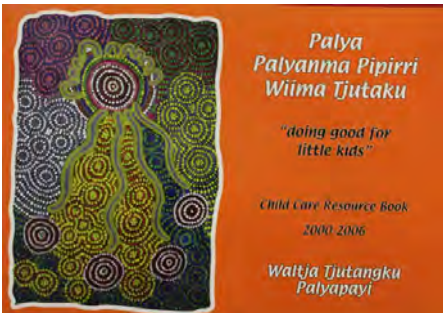




Our History



Family News is one way Waltja share stories across Central Australian remote communities.



One of Waltja's parenting and early childhood resources, 2006.



One of Waltja's founding members, Marilyn Nangala sharing a sand story at Kungka Kutjarra, at a workshop with aged care workers from across Australia, 2015.

Waltja Tjutanku Palyapayi is Luritja for *families for everybody, doing really well together*. Although Waltja members speak many languages, they chose to give their organisation a Luritja name, because Luritja is recognised as a common language between many local languages in the central desert.

Since 1997, Waltja has survived and thrived by successfully generating income through competitive tenders, grants, collaborative partnerships and our own fundraising. From the start, Waltja recognised the importance of documenting and sharing stories and creating resources. Initially print-based, Waltja has steadily incorporated digital, video and audio, and used online tools to help share stories and resources.

In 1998, Pipirri Palya Kids Are Good program started, recognising the importance of traditional parenting practices and combining this with modern non-Aboriginal methods of giving children the best possible start in life. Waltja Directors spoke up about the need for remote early childhood services; led workshops and a conference in 2000 and 2001 and guided the development of important early childhood resources including the Warrki Jarrinjaku Aboriginal Child Rearing Strategy. Waltja went on to run training courses for childcare workers, provided management support for community based childcare centres including Yuendumu, Mount Liebig and Yuelamu, and worked with NPY Women's Council to develop and run a mobile childcare program on the APY Lands in the north of South Australia.

1998 was the year of Waltja's first Aged and Disability Festival. Waltja also began work with Aboriginal people with a disability, supporting them to live in their community with their families, and connecting them with the services they need, through brokerage managed by senior Aboriginal leaders in remote communities. The next year, Elders from the Western Desert met to discuss how old people wanted to be cared for; to stay on country and have culturally appropriate services that reflect the best of the old ways and new ways. A series of paintings were created by Elders from different communities about the old ways of caring for the elderly, and about first contact with whitefellas. This was the start of Waltja's advocacy work for aged care services in community.



Waltja's brightly coloured 4WD cars are easily spotted when they arrive on community.



Waltja's Reconnect team work with local services and councils to support young people on community.

"Waltja is difficult to fault in its governance, it's one of the best organisations I have encountered, the best in Australia."

Prof. Mick Dodson, Chair of the Judging Panel for the Reconciliation Australia National Indigenous Governance Awards, 2014.



Rachel Tilmouth, Kate Lawrence, Prof Mick Dodson, April Martin and Wendy Brown, at the Indigenous Governance Awards, 2014

In 2001, the Western Desert Dialysis (WDD) Appeal Committee held its first meeting. Waltja worked with WDD for a long time, providing auspicing services, and assisted with lobbying and advocacy. Waltja was very proud to help set up this important organisation. Waltja has supported a number of services to develop from idea to established organisation, across the central desert, helping with auspicing services, training, governance and management support.

In the same year, Waltja began providing services for young people at risk through Reconnect, supporting young people with education, life skills, employment pathways and with cultural and recreational activities to help them reconnect with family and community.

In 2003, Waltja Directors took out a loan to buy land in Alice Springs and manage the development of a permanent base, gradually developing the site over the next 11 years, as Waltja could afford it. Members view 3 Ghan Road as their home in Alice Springs, and say, *"It makes us feel happy, feel good to come to Waltja ... it is our place."* Families are welcome, there is friendship and caring, and practical support when they need it. Also it is seen as a hub connecting communities, members, Directors and workers.

In 2005, Waltja started to actively support families around money issues through community education about financial literacy, money scams and problem gambling and support for individuals and families to solve money problems and to plan for the future. From 2010 to 2016 Waltja provided training, family and individual support in nine communities through our money management program.

In 2011, Waltja and Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre were recognised for excellence in innovation for developing the Community Guide for Aboriginal Knowledge and Intellectual Property Protocols.

In 2012, through Waltja's Healthy Community, Healthy Life project two community walks took place on country from Kintore and from Mount Liebig.

In 2014, Waltja was awarded the Reconciliation Australia Indigenous Governance Award for the best governed Indigenous organisation in Australia.

In 2015, Waltja purchased a property near Alice Springs to develop into a safe, welcoming place to share culture, stories and knowledge with people from across Central Australia and beyond. This place is called Kungka Kutjarra (two women).



Irene Nangala talks about the Waltja Way

"Waltja learns what is happening in the community from the Directors. Directors talk to Exec. Exec talks with workers. Waltja workers are invited by the Directors to come to the community. They stay; they meet the Directors and their families. They make friends. They become family.

"Waltja workers listen to all people in the community with the Directors, young and old, men and women. We work together Anangu* with Kardiya,* workers with Directors, Waltja with community. It gives Waltja a better understanding of what people need, and gives us a strong voice with communities and with government. We make family from far and near. That's why we called it Waltja – family."

* Anangu is Luritja for Aboriginal people and Kardiya is Luritja for Non-Aboriginal people.



The Waltja Way

Waltja's Directors are the foundation of how we work, how Waltja connects with community and how we evaluate our processes and programs and their impact. All our policies, programs, projects and activities follow the values and priorities of these senior women. Local Aboriginal ways of doing business are incorporated into Waltja's values, processes and organisational structure which is known as the Waltja Way. The Waltja Way gives Waltja an overall approach which is unique.

The Waltja Way is recognised and appreciated by members, families and other organisations we work with.

Principles

- Family is the foundation of Aboriginal community and identity.
- Service delivery is most effective when it occurs in the context of family as understood by Aboriginal people.
- Waltja promotes self-reliance and dignity.
- Waltja works with everyone in the community.
- Direct service delivery is most effective when provided by local people who have access to training and support to ensure quality outcomes.
- Building and sustaining partnerships with Aboriginal communities is the most effective way of providing services to families.
- Direct services need to be located in, and supported by, local communities.

