

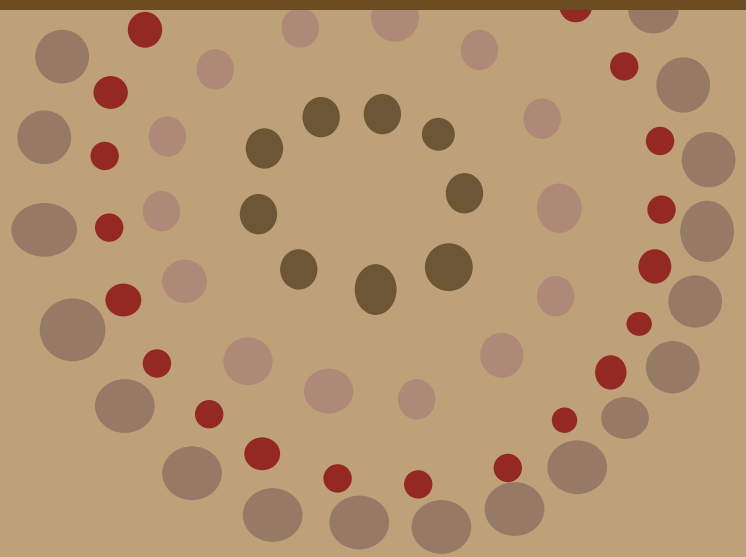


Australian Government

Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations

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# Working in remote communities —a guide for job seekers



HELP FOR  
JOB SEEKERS

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Produced by ORIC November 2010

First edition

ISBN 978-1-921542-41-1

# Working in remote communities —a guide for job seekers

If you are considering applying for a position in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander corporation but have not lived in remote areas of Australia before, the following information may be useful.

## Benefits of working in remote communities

Working in a remote community is both challenging and rewarding. You will have the chance to acquire new skills, build new networks and gain new insights into remote community life. Remote community settings offer a network-rich work experience.

## Climate

Australia has very distinctive climate zones.

The northern region has a wet season from November to February. Heavy rain can limit road access to and out of communities during this period. For the rest of the year, however, humidity levels drop, days are warm and nights are cool.

The central and southern regions in Australia are semi-arid and typically experience four seasons. Tropical rains do not generally affect these areas, and nights can be cold during winter. Communities are often hot and dusty and the roads are usually of poor quality.



## Communication

Many remote areas in Australia are without mobile coverage. You may want to check if the corporation is able to supply you with a satellite phone, or you may want to purchase one yourself. Yet, as even satellite phone coverage can be erratic, it's best not to rely on a phone as your only method of communication. It's likely you will have access to internet and can use emails in your position, but it is always best to confirm this with the corporation before submitting your application or do so at your interview.

## Transport

You will need a 4WD to reach most remote communities as most are only serviced by unsealed roads. Further, during the wet season, these roads can be cut off by flood water. It will be to your advantage if you have 4WD experience.



## Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in their communities

When you begin working in a remote community, you will need to recognise that cultural practices underpin community activities. It is important to accept that English is not the only language spoken, and many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages are likely to be used in everyday communication. Further, individual identity is often strongly aligned with family and clan identities, and is frequently linked to a specific homeland area. The long-term wellbeing of families and communities will often be a key focus of family groups and communities.



## Accommodation options

Accommodation in remote communities is usually basic. It's a good idea to clarify living arrangements with the corporation at your interview or even before you submit your application.

