



**Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara  
Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)**

MAIN OFFICE: Gate 2, 3 Wilkinson Street, PO Box 8921 Alice Springs NT 0871 Tel:  
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**Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council (Aboriginal Corporation)**

ICN 2043

**History and overview**

The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council (NPYWC) began in 1980 and was separately incorporated some years later, in 1994. NPYWC now comes under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth.)*

The push for a separate women's forum came about during the South Australian Pitjantjatjara Land Rights struggle of the late 1970s. During consultations over land rights, many women felt that their views were ignored, so they established their own organisation. Its region covers 350,000 square kilometres of the remote tri-State cross-border area of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Anangu and Yarnangu (Aboriginal people) living on the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara lands (Western Desert language region) share strong cultural and family affiliations. What began as an advocacy organisation is now also a major provider of human services in the region, in essence working to address the needs that clinical health services cannot, and that government agencies do not directly provide in this remote area. NPYWC has taken this direction because of the glaring needs that exist in member communities.

NPYWC represents women in the region, which has an over-all population of around 6000. The members' determination to improve the quality of life for families in the region drives the organisation. Its existence gives members an avenue for participation in the decision-making processes that affect them and their families. It is a permanent forum where they are able to raise issues and make their opinions and decisions known. It also provides opportunities for Anangu to learn, share knowledge and keep informed about relevant issues. NPYWC's success is largely due to its capacity to provide a decision-making process steered by the members. One of the major advantages of its existence is the development over time of members' ability to consider and analyse policy issues, deal with government agencies and advocate on their own behalf.

**NPYWC's Constitutional objectives**

The central objective of the corporation is to relieve the poverty, sickness, destitution, distress, suffering, misfortune or helplessness among the Aboriginals of the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara communities and, for the purpose of advancing this central object, to:



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- a) provide a forum for Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women to discuss their concerns;
- b) assist and encourage the representation and participation of women from the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara region on local, regional and other relevant bodies;
- c) help individual women and girls to achieve further training, education and employment;
- d) establish, provide and or promote services to improve the health and safety, education and general well-being of people in the Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara region;
- e) establish, provide and promote the artistic and cultural interests of Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women;
- f) promote and support the achievements and authority of Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women;
- g) gather and provide information about issues of importance to Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women and to the broader community;
- h) promote and encourage the law and culture of Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara women;
- i) support and encourage other women and organisations who work towards similar aims.

NPYWC has its administrative office in the main regional town of Alice Springs. Regional offices are located at Umuwa in SA, Wingellina, Warakurna, Warburton and Kiwirrkurra in WA.

**ii Governance**

NPYWC is an incorporated Indigenous corporation registered with the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations. Our Board of Management has up to 12 elected Directors, including a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. All these positions are occupied by women from the NPY region. The Board meets at least quarterly to discuss programs and priorities and other issues of interest to members. All members are invited to attend an AGM and other general meetings that we hold in the bush each year.



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### NPYWC Services

NPYWC currently operates a grants budget of just over \$7.8m per annum from a wide variety of agencies. It employs at present approximately 100 staff, the majority full-time, several part-time, a couple on a casual basis and occasional short-term contract staff for specific research or other projects. Programs operate where at all possible, funding and recruiting permitting, with a team consisting of a (usually non-Aboriginal) staff member with formal professional qualifications and an Anangu project worker who is in most, but not all instances employed for their language skills, community knowledge and contacts and cultural knowledge.

NPY Women's Council has a holistic approach to service delivery and combines funds from various agencies to fund services according to the needs identified by their members and according to funding guidelines. Currently, the NPY Women's Council delivers services in 5 main streams; Domestic and Family Violence Service (including sexual assault), Child Nutrition and Wellbeing Program, Youth Services, Aged and Disability Advocacy and case management, Emotional and Social Wellbeing and Ngangkari (traditional healers). Around 300 women make baskets and other products including bush medicine and beanies to sell in our Tjanpi (grass) Desert Weavers, our women's fibre art enterprise.

### Publications

"*NPY Women's Council 10-Year Book, NPYWC,*" 1990.

"*Looking After Children Grandmothers' Way,*" NPYWC, 1991.

"*They Might Have to Drag Me Like a Bullock,*" on the care needs of the aged, NPYWC, 1995.

"*Nganana Rawangka Alatji Warkaripai; We Have Been Doing This Work for a Long Time,*" Women's Centres Book, NPYWC, 1999.

"*Tjungu Nyinapai/Being Together: Our work with the frail aged and disabled people and their families.*" NPY Women's Council video, internal production, 2000.

"*Minymaku Way*" SBS Film Production documenting the work of NPY, 2001.

"*I Want to be Free*" Domestic Violence music video, NPYWC DV Service with young women from the Ngaanyatjarra lands, WA, 2002.

"*Ngangkari Work – Anangu Way: traditional healers of Central Australia,*" NPYWC publication documenting the work and life stories of various ngangkari (traditional healers), 2003.

"*Maiku Kulintjaku: Food for Thought*" Parts 1-4 Child Nutrition DVD: NPYWC and Ngaanyatjarra Health, 2003.

"*Framework for the Protection of Aboriginal Children in the Cross-border Region,*" Dr. Pauline Meemaduma, commissioned by NPY and Ngaanyatjarra Health Service, launched December 2005.

"*Mai Wiru Mirrka Walykumunu: The Best Start to Life,*" Nutrition Manual for Mothers and Children, 2006.

"*Speak Up Against Child Sexual Abuse*" campaign television and radio ads., 2008.

CD - *Speaking up about Mental Health* – Rupert Peter and Andy Tjilari. Ngangkari, 2009



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**Awards**

“National Drug and Alcohol Award for Excellence in Prevention” from the National Council on Drugs to the ‘Opal Alliance’: NPY Women’s Council, General Property Trust (GPT) and Central Australian Youth Link Up Service (CAYLUS) for successful lobbying to have Opal ‘unsniffable’ low octane fuel subsidised by the Australian Government in commercial retail outlets in the Central region; June 2007;

The Australian Council for Children and Parenting (ACCAP) National Award for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Regional and Remote Areas, Melbourne, Nov. 2001, jointly to NPY Domestic Violence Service and Child Nutrition Project;

“Women in Community Policing” Award, Australasian Policewomen’s conference, Darwin, August 2005;

“National Violence Prevention Award”, NPYWC Domestic Violence Service 1994 & 1995;

“Excellence in Health Promotion” for the Child Nutrition Project, 1997. Awarded by Living Health SA;

“Best Practice Award” for the Child Nutrition Project, 1997. Awarded by OATSIH;

“Finalist 2010 Excellence in Indigenous Health Awards; Outstanding Delivery in Child and Maternal” Health, NPYWC Child Nutrition Program, April 2010;

“An Outstanding Contribution to Australian Culture” for the Kungka Career Conference, 1999. Awarded by the Centre for Australian Cultural Studies Canberra;

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Award to NPY Women’s Council in the Community Sector, 2000;

Special Mention for the Women’s Centres Book – “Nganana Rawangka Alatji Warkaripai; We Have Been Doing This Work for a Long Time”, 2000. Awarded by the Centre for Australian Cultural Studies Canberra;

Special Mention for “Ngangkari Work – Anangu Way: traditional healers of Central Australia,” Centre for Australian Cultural Studies, Canberra, 2004 Awards; February 2005.

Telstra National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Award, Tjanpi Aboriginal Baskets weavers for the *Tjanpi (grass) Toyota*, Darwin, August 2005.

Andy Tjilari and Rupert Peter, two Ngangkari were awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatry (RANZCP) Mark Sheldon Prize 2009 and the Dr Margaret Tobin Award for excellence in mental health service **delivery**.

The Child Nutrition Program received the 2011 Deadly Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health for its ‘No Safe Amount’ Foetal Alcohol Awareness Campaign

The Ngangkari project was awarded the International Sigmund Freud Award for Psychotherapy 2011

**Comment [AM1]:** Angela please include info on SF Award this year. Andrea