carpentaria

Alice Springs

Disability and Therapy Services

CARPENTARIA'S ALICE SPRINGS SERVICES

Version August 2024

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About Carpentaria

Carpentaria provides Disability and Therapy Services for children, adolescents and adults, and has a proud 50 year history of delivering innovative and flexible services to empower Territorians to thrive and live a great life.

As a not-for-profit, for-purpose provider, we are committed to delivering high quality disability and therapy services to Central Australians and ongoing investment in the Alice Springs community.

Our Alice Springs programs include:

- Supported Independent Living
- Short and Medium Term Accommodation
- Specialist Disability Accommodation
- Allied Health Therapy Services

Contact us

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Carpentaria programs

Carpentaria's current Alice Springs programs include:

Independent Living Services – Supported Independent Living, Medium Term Accommodation and Short Term programs enable people with a disability to access and enjoy a safe, comfortable and fulfilling life in their home and in the community. Through a highly individualised approach, participants are supported to reach their goals and maintain control over the way they wish to live their lives.

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) – Designed to suit people with extreme functional impairment or very high support needs, SDA houses are built with a range of accessible and robust design features to help individuals live more independently.

Therapy Services – A highly qualified team of Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Psychologists provide Allied Health therapy for children, young people and adults. Tailored support is provided in urban and remote areas, delivered in therapy rooms, at home, school and in the community. Telehealth appointments are also available.

As we expand our services and our team, we are exploring opportunities to deliver group therapy, community access and Coordination of Support.

We encourage you to talk to us about the services you require.

Meet our Alice Springs team

Carpentaria employs high quality staff in a range of specialist disability support and therapy service roles. Our committed team of professional staff provide evidence-based and person-centred support to participants.

The expansion of our Alice Springs services is being led by Craig Willingham, Director of Regional Services. We are committed to growing our team to support the Central Australian community.

The following staff profiles provide more information and highlight the professionalism and expertise within the team. Our multi-disciplinary structure enables a collaborative and responsive approach to meeting individual requirements.

Craig Willingham

Director of Regional Services

Craig Willingham is an accomplished Executive with extensive experience gained through roles in health, local government, police and banking. He is highly skilled in strategy development, business and technology transformation, portfolio and program governance, and complex operational management, and has a successful history of delivering complex, multi-year, multi-geography portfolios, programs and services.

Craig holds a Masters in Business Administration and has previously held senior positions across several NT Health portfolios in Alice Springs.

Andrew Everingham

Director of Operations

Andrew Everingham has extensive leadership and management proficiency, spanning education, health and government sectors. With over a decade of hands-on experience in frontline emergency healthcare and government service provision, Andrew possesses expertise in leading and managing programs that prioritise accessibility and equity for the most vulnerable. His approach emphasises person-centred support, empowering communities to thrive and individuals to grow.

Andrew has a Bachelor of Social Science, Diploma of Recreation, and Diploma of Paramedical Science, Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD), and is completing an MBA.

Jarod Knowles

Complex Client Services Manager

Jarod Knowles has extensive experience in the disability sector and has held leadership and management roles with both national and NT service providers. He is dedicated to establishing and managing innovative person-centred programs that deliver tangible outcomes for participants, in both urban and remote settings.

Jarod is skilled at building trust and working collaboratively with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes. He is currently studying a Bachelor of Human Services.

Rachel Tulla

Speech Pathologist

Rachel Tulla has 4 years of experience working with children and their families, and previously worked at a paediatric clinic in Mount Barker in South Australia. She is experienced in AAC, early intervention, language, speech, social skills and children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Rachel holds a Bachelor of Speech Pathology and has completed courses in Keyword Sign and LAMP. She is Hanen More than Words certified and is passionate about supporting children and their families through a person-centred approach to reach their goals.

Megan Schuitemaker

Occupational Therapist

Megan Schuitemaker is an Occupational Therapist with over 18 years of clinical experience working with adults in community, acute and rehabilitation settings, in addition to working with children and adolescents. She has additional experience working with adults and children with low vision and is a qualified wellness coach.

Megan enjoys working with people to maximise their participation in everyday activities and to live their best lives.

Our Alice Springs team are supported by our corporate and administration team in Darwin, and additional Allied Health Professionals based in Darwin who fly-in to Alice on a regular basis.

Independent Living programs

Carpentaria's Independent Living programs provides person-centred support and accommodation to enable people with a disability to access and enjoy a safe, comfortable and fulfilling life in their home and in the community. Short, medium and long-term accommodation options are available.

Individualised support

Through a highly individualised approach, participants are supported to reach their goals, make their own choices and maintain control over the way they wish to live their lives.

Our Independent Living programs feature:

- Person-centred active support which enables participants to enjoy the maximum quality of life
- Pro-active connection with community facilities, activities and events
- Tailored support to develop each individual's potential in all aspects of daily living
- Highly qualified Specialist Disability Support Workers with comprehensive training in first aid, epilepsy, diabetes and medication administration and management

We encourage dialogue and build relationships by constantly refining ways of sharing information between staff, service users, families, community organisations and external services and we work collaboratively to facilitate social and economic participation.

Active support and its benefits for people with disability

Carpentaria is proud to provide person-centred, active support to all participants. We strongly believe that every moment has the potential to engage a participant in a meaningful way.

Active support benefits people with disability by:

- providing purpose – empowering participants to have a role and purpose leads to greater levels of life satisfaction
- encouraging engagement in all activities of daily life and engaging individuals in tasks and activities that are meaningful to them
- increasing independence and competence in tasks
- providing opportunities for social connection

"If my participants are happy, that means we are providing quality support to them – that day is a good day to me."

Shreya, Independent Living Coach (Support Worker)

Participant matching for best outcomes

We know compatibility amongst residents is an important factor when moving into a Supported Independent Living home. Participant matching is a collaborative process where we involve the participant, family members, and stakeholders while exploring potential housemates, developing a transition plan, and identifying best fit.

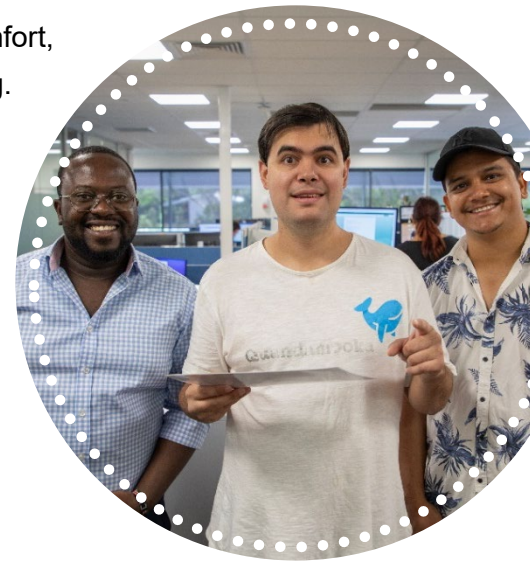
Our Independent Living team are experienced with participant matching and home dynamics, and consider a range of factors when exploring potential matches, including:

- Hobbies and interests
- Age, personality and stage of life
- House location and local facilities
- Mobility, accessibility, and health requirements
- Any behaviours of concern

When a potential match is identified, compatibility is tested before an appropriate match is confirmed. This can be done in a variety of ways, including:

- Meetings between participants in the home or community
- Meetings with friends, family, or other stakeholders
- Overnight or weekend stays in Short Term Accommodation (STA)

Making the time to match participants appropriately ensures safety, comfort, and quality of life for participants entering Supported Independent Living.



SIL Vacancies

View our current Supported Independent Living vacancies on our website or contact us to discuss your individual requirements.

"My son has attended Carpentaria's Short Term Accommodation services for 10 years. The Support Workers are fantastic and he is always happy to spend time with them. It really gives me peace of mind, knowing that he is happy."

Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA)

Carpentaria provides sector leading accommodation options for people requiring disability supports. Innovative and boutique designs are informed by individual needs and evidence and are complemented by the latest assistive technology and construction practices.

We understand that the Northern Territory is a unique and dynamic place to call home, and know the long-term positive impact an appropriate house design can have for people seeking an SDA home.

Our homes exceed SDA design standards and provide ample room for individuals as well as comfortable and large common spaces. Oversized bedrooms feature in all designs, with large ensuite facilities and private courtyard and garden areas which can be personalised to suit individual tastes.

Highly qualified Northern Territory based architects use evidence-based advice and work collaboratively to incorporate individual requirements and the latest assistive technology and construction practices into all designs.

"I travel all around Australia and haven't seen an SDA house any better than what I've seen here today. It's a real tribute to the ingenuity of the Territory."

Bill Shorten MP / Minister for the NDIS

Homes under construction

Carpentaria is currently working with Troppo Architects to design an SDA home in Gillen. Located on a large, centrally located corner block close to amenities, this home will meet multiple SDA categories.

We welcome the opportunity to design future homes in consultation with participants and families, and we encourage you to discuss your requirements with us.

SDA Vacancies

View our current Specialist Disability Accommodation vacancies on our website or contact us to discuss your individual requirements.

"Since moving into his new home, James has increased his independence in the kitchen and enjoys shared mealtimes with his housemates. James has decorated his private courtyard with his favourite plants and enjoys watching the birds each morning.

SIL Coordinator

"We appreciate the design, technology and attention to detail, that go over and above the minimum requirements. We know the sensory spaces will be so beneficial for our daughter."

Parent

Therapy Services

Carpentaria offers Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Psychology services for children, adolescents and adults in Darwin, Alice Springs, and remote Northern Territory communities across the Top End and Central Australia, including Maningrida, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, Katherine, and Tennant Creek.

A multi-disciplinary approach

Our multi-disciplinary approach enables us to focus on individual outcomes and to quickly respond to and resolve issues, something that is of particular importance during times of transition or when providing support to participants with multiple requirements.

Our therapists work with participants to identify their strengths, interests, challenges, routines and goals for the future. Sessions may be held in our therapy rooms, at home, or in the community, to suit an individual's goals and requirements.

Occupational Therapy

Carpentaria Occupational Therapists can support with a wide range of skills and activities, including:

- Daily living skills like getting dressed, toileting, and eating
- Fine and gross motor skills
- Sensory processing
- Skills related to school, work or other activities
- Improved community access
- Understanding behaviours and emotional regulation
- Prescribing assistive technology and specialised equipment
- Home modifications, safe movement and falls prevention
- Cognitive reviews and functional assessments

"With two kids requiring speech, occupational therapy and psychology, I find that the communication between these different therapies is amazing and such a great resource to helping both my boys in achieving their goals. It also gives both my husband and I the resources and skills we need to help them at home."

Speech Pathology

Carpentaria Speech Pathologists can support with a wide range of skills and activities, including:

- Social engagement and communication skills
- Using your voice, listening and sharing stories
- Dysphagia and swallowing
- Oral eating and drinking care plans
- Assessment and prescription of augmentative and alternative communication
- Speech and language assessments
- Communication training programs for people working closely with participants

Group therapy

Carpentaria delivers group therapy programs for children, adolescents, and adults. Small group sizes and a safe, supportive environment allow for direct support from clinicians while encouraging peer interaction. Participation in group therapy has many benefits including improved relationship skills, consolidation of skills learnt in individual therapy, and the development of turn-taking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills

Make a referral

You can access our Request for Service forms or express your interest in our services on our website. We encourage you to request services in the areas you require.

"Your work has and is continuing to make such a huge impact on us."

Our staff

We employ a skilled and professional workforce who use a person-centred approach and work within a continuous quality improvement framework. We work in partnership to ensure supports meet individual requirements.

All staff are guided by our Principles of Good Practice, Values and Human Rights Framework, and must commit to understanding and abiding by Carpentaria's Code of Conduct, as well as the NDIS Code of Conduct.

In addition, as an NDIS service provider, all Carpentaria employees must meet NDIS worker screening obligations and undertake a comprehensive orientation and training program.

Recruitment to positions at Carpentaria is based on values, skills and qualifications. Staff engage in regular training and skill development opportunities in first aid, epilepsy, diabetes and medication administration and management, positive behaviour support, as well as specialised training to meet individual participant requirements.

Our values

Carpentaria is a values-based organisation which focuses on the needs and goals of each individual. We are committed to a person-centred philosophy that respects the rights of everyone to make informed choices about their lives and to receive the necessary support, information and encouragement to participate, and be included, in all aspects of community life.

Honesty
We strive to be honest, open, ethical and fair

Collaboration
We create strong partnerships through open communication, mutual respect and trust

Respect
We embrace the individual's right to be empowered to live the life they choose

Innovation
We commit to continuous improvement and are responsive to individuals through creative solutions

Our Principles of Good Practice

Carpentaria Principles of Good Practice represent best-practice service delivery and are the foundation for how we provide support. They underpin our Code of Conduct and training framework, and are used to assess staff performance.

Person centred

The individual's needs, wants, interests and goals are the focus of all activities and programs.

Active support

Every moment has the potential to engage a participant in a meaningful way.

Behaviours have a purpose

A participant's behaviours and actions have a real purpose which could include communication, choice or taking control.

Being present

It is ethical and respectful to provide support to participants with high quality, attentive interactions at all times.

Communication

Maximising opportunities to communicate using appropriate tools and strategies ensures a participant has authentic choice and control.

Skills and Independence

All activities of life can be adapted to empower participants to be actively engaged and develop new skills and independence.

Purpose

When participants are empowered to have a role and a purpose they experience greater levels of life satisfaction and are viewed by the community with more positive regard.

Rights

A participant has the right to try new things and to be challenged in a safe and supportive environment.

Zero Tolerance

All identified opportunities for improvement must be disclosed to ensure a participant's right to a safe and quality service is upheld and systematically improved.

Least restriction

Participants must be engaged in a way that ensures they are afforded optimal freedoms, whilst meeting their individual support needs.

Our commitment to reconciliation

We have an organisation-wide commitment to a shared understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and work collaboratively to deliver services that are safe, welcoming and inclusive for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Our Reflect Rap was launched in May 2024 and outlines our commitment to developing relationships and partnerships that deliver culturally informed and respectful decision making, demonstrating respect and observing cultural protocols and building the capability of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce.

Read our full Reconciliation Action Plan on our website.

Cultural awareness and supporting connection to culture

Our team complete cultural awareness training relevant to their role and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples they support. We encourage participants to maintain cultural connections and enjoy cultural activities. We are committed to providing the necessary supports to facilitate return to Country opportunities and important cultural connection initiatives. We support the celebration of culture through food, music, art and storytelling.

Make a referral

We are accepting referrals for our Independent Living programs, Specialist Disability Accommodation and Therapy Services. You can access our Request for Service forms or express your interest in our services on our website. We encourage you to request services in the areas you require.

This flowchart highlights what you can expect at each stage of your journey with Carpentaria:

Contact Carpentaria's Director of Regional Services for further details and to discuss your NDIS plan or service requirements.

Contact Craig Willingham, Director of Regional Services

Telephone	0447 799 316
Address	2/9 Parsons Street, Alice Springs NT 0870
Email	craig.willingham@carpentaria.org.au
Website	carpentaria.org.au/referral-forms

Keep up to date with other Carpentaria stories and events on our website, on Facebook and on Instagram.