



## Sharing our story

**Western Desert Nganampa Walytja  
Palyantjaku Tjutaku  
Aboriginal Corporation —  
'Making all our families well'**



### Imagine this

You are 45 years of age. You've lived out bush all your life surrounded by family. You know all the stories for your country and how to look after it. You work at the school and are very proud to teach children in their own language. You've got 5 children and 4 grandkids and counting! You care for your husband's mother and your father who are getting old and can't look after themselves anymore.

Recently you've started to feel very tired. Your ankles are swollen and you have a wet cough. It's hard to get to work in the mornings and you've lost a lot of weight. You go to the community clinic and they tell you your kidneys are no good.

You will have to move to town for dialysis or stay in your community and die. You say you cannot go... there is too much to do here. Who will look after everyone? You know that people who go to town with kidney problems never come home, except for their funeral. A few weeks later you get very sick. You wake up in Intensive Care. There is a tube going into your neck and your blood is coming out of you and into a machine. You don't really understand what the doctors and nurses are saying to you.



A few days later you are feeling better than you've felt in years. Surely I can go home to your family now? But no, the doctor says you must stay. You are discharged from hospital. You are worrying about your children and those old people. You go to stay with some family who are camping in the river bed. Now, you have to go to the Renal Unit three times a week and sit in a chair surrounded by other people you don't know for 5 hours a day for your dialysis. You sleep in the chair, because you are too frightened to sleep at night in the creek.

You miss bush tucker, you miss being with your family. You were an important person in the community and now you are living in the creek with one blanket, thinking about home and waiting for your next dialysis day.

But life doesn't have to be like this. . . .

*Anangu like the open space of their land, where they can smell the Spirit, the wildflowers and other plants. They want fire for the smell of wood smoke going through the air. They want to smell flowers after rain. . . .* Committee member

In 2000, people from the Western Desert painted pictures and held an auction at the Art Gallery of NSW and raised over 1 million dollars to support patients in town and to set up dialysis out bush. Their aim was to return people to their country and families where they belong.



Since 2004, all Western Desert dialysis patients have been able to spend time on country in Kintore accessing dialysis run by them in their community.

We are justifiably proud of what we have achieved. We have subsequently helped Warlpiri set up dialysis services in Yuendumu using their royalty money and are auspicing dialysis in Ntaria (Hermannsburg). In 2012 with support from Medicines Australia we launched 'the Purple Truck' adorned with Western Desert art and containing a mobile dialysis clinic which can go to where ever people are from.

We are currently working to help Kiwirrkurra, Warburton and Lajamanu establish dialysis services.

In Alice we have dialysis, primary health care services, social support and social enterprise. The Purple House Is a place of compassion and optimism.

We continue to care for our family members who have kidney disease, seek support for our work and share our story with other remote communities who battle with the same problems.

We are also working to reduce the incidence of kidney disease in the hope that our children and grandchildren will not need this arduous treatment.

**And you can be a part of this story...**

You can support the  
**WESTERN DESERT NGANAMPA WALYTJA PALYANTJAKU TJUTAKU ABORIGINAL CORPORATION.**

We are the non government organisation formed from the Western Desert Dialysis Appeal. Our name means 'keeping all our families well'.

We are a registered charity and all donations are tax deductible.

You can ring us for our bank details to make a direct deposit or to eftpos a donation; send a cheque or mail order to:  
 WDNWPT, PO Box 5060, Alice Springs, NT 0871; you can fill in the donation section below to make a one off or monthly donation.

If you think you can help or just want to talk more about what we are doing and how Anangu with kidney disease and their families are helping themselves, please contact:

Sarah Brown, CEO WDNWPT, P (08) 8953 6444 F (08) 8953 6222 E sarah@wdnwpt.com.au W www.wdnwpt.org.au ABN 94-755 012 884 ICN 4236

Name.....

Address.....

Contact phone number.....

Please debit my credit card:  Mastercard  Visa

for a one-off donation of .....

(or) a monthly donation of .....

Card no.

Expiry   /

Card holders name.....

Card holders signature.....



WDNWPT services an area of over 350,000 sq k

Thank you for your kind support. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



We would like to thank Papunya Tula Artists, NT Dept. of Health, GMAAAC, Kurra, Lajamanu Progress Association, The Commonwealth Government, Central Land Council, Medicines Australia, Ngaanyatjarra Health Service, Fresenius Medical Care, Caritas, and Woden Rotary for their support of our work. A special thanks go to the many kind individuals who have taken an interest in us and help when and how they can!

