

AMRRIC ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



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Cover image:
Nyirripi resident Robert,
with puppy Rocky

Above:
Engawala dogs

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About Us

AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) is a national not for profit organisation that uses a One Health approach to co-ordinate veterinary and education programs in Indigenous communities.

Our One Health approach recognises the inextricable links between human, animal and environmental health and wellbeing. By working with remote Indigenous communities to improve the health of their companion animals we are helping to create healthier, safer and happier communities.

AMRRIC variously delivers, facilitates, coordinates and supports culturally sensitive programs in Indigenous communities across Australia, collaborating with the communities to develop programs that meet their needs.

The immediate objective of our approach is to provide education and veterinary services in an effort to close the gap regarding the health, wellbeing and behaviour of companion animals in Indigenous communities. The longer term

objectives of our model are sustainability and capacity building, so that ultimately communities can confidently and effectively manage their own companion animal populations.

AMRRIC seeks to base its policies and strategies on factual information, and recognises that ethical, culturally sensitive research can result in tangible benefits for both Indigenous communities and their companion animals. Additionally, AMRRIC recognises the capacity building benefits of the involvement of Indigenous people as full partners in research projects and strongly supports such collaborations.

Advocacy is an integral part of AMRRIC's work in seeking to promote and facilitate the health and wellbeing of companion animals and the associated interests of Indigenous communities. AMRRIC constantly and consistently advocates for the legitimate needs and interests of community animals and their human companions at all levels of society, but particularly with national, state and local governments with regard to resource allocation.

Strategic Objectives

01 MORE PROGRAMS

To increase the number of effective, sustainable One Health programs in rural and remote Indigenous communities across the country in partnership with communities, partners and stakeholders.

02 EDUCATION

To collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop and deliver culturally relevant and sustainable education programs that will ultimately enable these communities to manage the health and wellbeing of their companion animals.

03 CAPACITY BUILDING

To work with Indigenous communities to build capacity so that over time, effective animal health and management is sustained with a lessening reliance on external providers. AMRRIC will work to further build the capacity of relevant stakeholders (including government departments, regional councils, Aboriginal corporations, veterinarians and AMRRIC itself) to achieve a One Health approach to animal health and management.

04 ADVOCACY & POLICY

To work with stakeholders, advocating on behalf of Indigenous communities to develop animal management policies that are community driven and culturally appropriate and that bring about sustainable improvements in animal, human and environmental health and wellbeing.

05 RESEARCH & EVALUATION

To support relevant research and continually evaluate all aspects of our work to ensure evidence-based approaches and maximum efficiency, leading to sustained improvements in animal, human and environmental health.

06 ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

AMRRIC's unique approach is maintained and strengthened by continued good governance, financial sustainability and sound management systems that support innovation, quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

Our Purpose

To collaborate with rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to improve the health and wellbeing of their companion animals and the health, wellbeing and safety of communities.

Our Vision

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that are healthy and safe for people and their companion animals

Our Values

RESPECT

- For the communities with whom we work, our supporters and our colleagues
- For Indigenous culture and traditional knowledge
- For the diversity and individuality of all people

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We work to clearly articulated objectives in a transparent manner
- We seek to achieve the best use of resources

INTEGRITY

- We are honest, open and transparent
- We avoid real, or apparent, conflicts of interest

OUTCOMES FOCUS

- All our decisions are framed around the question “How will this help the communities with whom we work?”

COLLABORATION

- We work *with* communities

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

- We integrate our programs and work with others

“Dogs are looking a lot healthier in Bagot now”

Yilli Rreung Housing
Aboriginal Corporation
Employee, Darwin Town
Communities Program

Below:

AMRRIC Program Manager Dr Jan Allen
visiting households after Cyclone Trevor



Above right:
On the road to Kintore, NT

Right:
Urapunga cyclone dogs



President's Reports

I am pleased to render this President's Report as part of the AMRRIC 2018/19 Annual Report.

Every year in the life of AMRRIC is exciting and challenging. This 2018-2019 year is no exception –from both a governance and operational perspective.

As Chair of the Board I acknowledge the efforts of our CEO, Dr Brooke Rankmore and AMRRIC's highly committed staff, our dedicated volunteers and the many devoted vets, nurses, animal management workers, environmental health workers, teachers, rangers, local government and Aboriginal Corporation staff who partnered with us over the past 12 months to deliver animal health and wellbeing programs in remote communities across Australia. Once again, AMRRIC has enjoyed strong support from some highly valued champions in State/Territory governments, regional councils, community organisations, education and research entities, and animal health/medical/pet-food suppliers. We deeply appreciate the many forms of assistance we received from this broad stakeholder group as well as the direct funding we received from a growing base of generous donors and sponsors.

The year saw AMRRIC transition from an incorporated association under the Associations Act to a company limited by guarantee under the Corporations Act 2001. A review of the structures and terms of reference of our Board committees followed. The Board is now supported by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, a Finance and Risk Committee, a Business Development Committee, a Board Governance and Nominations Committee and a newly established Veterinary Practitioner Committee. Each contributes significantly to the strategic and operational goals of the organisation and I thank all committee members for their valued work and advice.

This year we consulted on and drafted our next stage Strategic Plan (2019-2023). Our new Strategic Plan 2019-2023 is charged with a dynamic future. It presents a more outcome-oriented format than previous plans and increases the accountability of the organisation for greater collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is an ambitious plan, designed to generate funding beyond cyclical public funding and to trigger transformational change.

As is the case every year, there was some Board Director movement, including the appointment of Alison Taylor and Alex Blackman and the resignation of Adrian Miller and Ted Donelan. 'Dr Ted's' departure in particular was greatly felt given his commitment to animal health in remote



Aboriginal communities and to AMRRIC programs and governance commenced in the late 1990's. Ted helped establish AMRRIC in 2002 and became a founding Board member in 2004. He was either Vice President or President of the Board for ten of his sixteen years as a Board director. It was fitting that Dr Ted Donelan, along another founding Board member, Dr Stephen Cutter, was awarded life membership of AMRRIC during the year.

This year we also pay special tribute to the outgoing Northern Territory Senator and federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Nigel Scullion. The Minister's vision for, and commitment to, improving animal health and welfare through regular and relevant veterinary programs, alongside community and school based education programs, has been unwavering. Indeed, his interest and influence in this field pre-dates and helped initiate the formal establishment of AMRRIC in 2002. We sincerely thank him for backing AMRRIC to deliver on his vision throughout his 18 years in office.

Lastly, I thank all the Board of Management for supporting my third and final term as Chairperson and for their individual and collective contributions to the strategic direction and governance of the organisation.

As a Board, we look forward to another productive twelve months and to sharing news of our program achievements across the year ahead.

Peter Stephenson CHAIRPERSON/PRESIDENT

Who is the AMRRIC Board?

01 DR PETER STEPHENSON PRESIDENT

Dr Stephenson's background is as an environmental health practitioner and tertiary educator with research and professional interests in environmental health policy and practice, including Indigenous communities' capacity building, professional education and curriculum development. Peter is currently the Deputy CEO of Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.



02 DR KATE BLASZAK VICE PRESIDENT

Kate is a global Head of Research and Animal Welfare at World Animal Protection. She has a base in Melbourne and travels frequently in Asia where she previously managed the regional companion and working animal programmes, with a focus on dog welfare, rabies and population management. Kate brings a broad range of animal welfare and one health project, policy, training and management experience. She is committed to serving local communities and their animals.

03 DR ANN-MARGRET WITHERS TREASURER

Ann-Margret Withers is the Community Programs Veterinarian for RSPCA NSW, where she has worked since 2002. As well as being a general practice vet and supporting Inspectorate work for the RSPCA, she has been significantly involved in the development and delivery of their social support and outreach programs to disadvantaged, rural and Aboriginal communities in NSW since the mid-2000s. These programs provide access to important basic veterinary services and education, and are aimed at supporting the human-animal bond and recognising its importance in the health, welfare and safety of people and their pets. She has been on the AMRRIC board since 2007.

Who is the AMRRIC Board?
AMRRIC's elected Board is made up of a wide range of people, with an array of professional expertise from veterinary and environmental health, to education, business and corporates.



Opposite page:
Raymond and his recently desexed cat, at the Wadeye vet visit, May 2018

Right:
Ti Tree puppy

Far right:
Some sticky friends during the Central Desert Regional Council census



Board (cont.)

04 SABINA SHUGG AM SECRETARY

Sabina Shugg AM is the Director of the Curtin Kalgoorlie Campus and is excited to be driving real change in regional and mining education. She is also a Non-Executive Director of Resolute Mining Ltd. Originally from the Goldfields region she has extensive experience in senior roles with mining and consulting organisations in Australia covering both underground and open pit environments. Sabina's work has a strong people focus together with a solid project management background.

Sabina has a MBA from UWA and a degree in Mining Engineering from WA School of Mines. She founded and runs the very active Women in Mining and Resources WA group which has grown to 3000 members state-wide since its inception in 2003.



04

05 DR ROSALIE SCHULTZ

Rosalie grew up in Perth, and has worked as a medical doctor and researcher in Aboriginal communities in remote regions of NT and WA since 1997. She has also ventured to work in rural Solomon Islands, East Timor and during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. She has specialised training in public health and general practice. Rosalie believes that health arises from how people live. She would like to see promotion of children's well-being, quality education, employment, housing and transport. She sees animal and human well-being as interconnected, and believes in the fundamental importance of ecosystems and the environment.



05



06

06 CHRISTINE ROSS

Christine Ross is an Arrernte/Kaytetye desert woman who was born in Alice Springs and grew up in Darwin. She moved to Perth in 2002. Her career began as a teacher and she was employed by the NT Department of Education for 14 Years, which included four years as the Manager of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Educators Support Unit. Since this time Christine has held many positions across education, media and resource sectors and is also the Managing Director of her own Consultancy specialising in Indigenous Employment Programs, Training, Mentoring and Facilitating Indigenous Conferences and Forums.

Christine has served on several Boards and along with AMRRIC, is currently the Director WA of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance and a member of the CHC Heli RAP Group.



Left:

Kintore resident Richie Goodwin using the AMRRIC App to collect census data

Board (cont.)

07 DR ALISON TAYLOR

Dr Alison Taylor has been a practicing veterinarian for 20 years and has been a partner in a small animal practice in Canberra since 2004. Alison has been involved in delivering animal (mainly dog) health programs in the Northern Territory since 2008. Since 2010, she and the organisation that she co-founded have been providing the service consistently to the same 25 communities in the Barkly and Central Desert regions. During this time, there has been much collaboration with AMRRIC.

08 DR STEVE ROGERS

Dr Steve Rogers is the CEO of The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd (CfAT Ltd), an Aboriginal controlled not for profit company based in Alice Springs. An experienced company director currently holding Directorships with Ekistica Pty Ltd, CfAT Satellite Enterprises Pty Ltd, CfATMP Pty Ltd and Territory NRM. He has led the transition of CfAT Ltd from a government grant, block funded NGO to a sustainable commercial company, with a remit to deliver technology innovation required to stimulate economic development across remote Indigenous Australia.

09 ALEX BLACKMAN

Alex has a background in conservation biology and has worked in a regulatory and educational role with Aboriginal communities across Western Australia for the past seven years. He is currently a dangerous goods officer, travelling to communities and ensuring their fuels and chemicals are safe and the community members know how to keep safe around them. Alex has seen the effect of looking after all aspects of Aboriginal people's well-being, including their animals, and believes this has a major role in overall community health.

Top:

A tender moment during the Groote Eylandt Parvovirus Education Campaign



AMRRIC also acknowledges the valuable contributions of Dr Adrian Miller and Dr Ted Donelan who held positions on the AMRRIC Board until August and October 2018 respectively.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group (ATSIAG)

As Chair of the AMRRIC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, it has been great to reflect on the increased participation the Advisory Group has had with the Board and staff of AMRRIC over the 2018/19 period.

This was instigated largely with the opportunity to meet face to face in Alice Springs in April. Within the three-day program, we were involved in strategic objectives planning including updating the AMRRIC Strategic Plan, and working with consultants, the Xfactor Collective, who were engaged to drive our future funding directions, particularly from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective, and linking it to key health priorities that align to AMRRIC. We enjoyed a presentation with staff and Canadian vets on their experiences working in the remote Central Desert region having just returned from a veterinary program at the same time. A highlight of the program, as an Arrernte Woman, was being able to undertake the Welcome to Country in Alice Springs at the AMRRIC function, which was an event well attended with diverse stakeholders and supporters of AMRRIC. Where possible when

holding our ATSIAG meetings we like to ensure we are connecting with the local Aboriginal community. On this occasion, the AMRRIC Board and ATSIAG members attended and supported the local Parrtjima Aboriginal Light Festival held annually in Alice Springs and is a celebration of Arrernte Culture.

Maintaining our momentum, a follow-up workshop was organised a few weeks later in Perth with the consultants Xfactor and some of the ATSIAG members based in WA to expand upon the initial work undertaken in Alice Springs. This workshop was very successful as Xfactor greatly valued the insights of the ATSIAG into AMRRIC, particularly for informing future progress.

Ongoing consultative work with staff on updating internal documents which value ATSIAG involvement and input include the Reconciliation Action Plan and the Cultural Orientation Handbook.

On behalf of the AMRRIC ATSIAG, we look forward to continued engagement in the coming years.

Christine Ross ATSIAG CHAIRPERSON



Above:

Members of the ATSIAG and Board meeting together in Alice Springs for collaborative strategic planning meetings in April 2019. (L-R) Scott Spurling, Alison Taylor, Kate Blaszak, Julie Owen, Peter Stephenson, Christine Ross, Ann-Margret Withers, Rosalie Schultz, Sabina Shugg, Wayne Bynder, Steve Rogers



*Kintore residents,
Shania and Russel
with their puppies*

CEO's Report



I am happy to provide this CEO report in what has been an extremely busy and rewarding twelve months for AMRRIC. After starting in February 2018, I have

now had time to settle into the CEO role. I am happy to report at the time of writing, that I have been able to lead the organisation and staff towards a well-funded position with another three year commitment from the Australian Federal Government to support AMRRIC's work. This will allow us to steadily grow the organisation as we continue assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities with managing their companion animals and increase our impact across Australia.

I must start by acknowledging the overwhelming amount of support we receive from our members, donors, volunteers and collaborators. Your efforts and contributions are pivotal to us achieving AMRRIC's vision and make our small team feel like such a big family!

At the end of last year, we had recognised the emerging issue of increased cat populations in remote communities. We were successful in funding two targeted cat desexing and education programs across WA and NT, dedicating development of education resources looking at the reproductive cycle of cats and their interaction and impact on native flora and fauna. Our reach and impact has increased over the last twelve months,

with an extremely busy dry season, visiting remote communities across the Northern Territory SA, WA and continued work in QLD.

We have had a few staff changes over this twelve-month period. In December 2018 we said goodbye to Marissa Patty, who relocated interstate with her husband. Whilst Marissa was only with the team for a short time, we appreciated her contribution. Secondly, we welcomed Lauren Shaw to the team in January 2019 in the role of Business Operations Manager. It has been a busy introduction as Lauren assists the organisation in ongoing development of our policies and processes. Both the team and I have been grateful for her assistance during our busy dry-season workload. Finally, I must acknowledge Jan Allen who reached her 10-year milestone with AMRRIC during this year, which was a celebration of her commitment to and love of her role with the organisation. Alas, Jan has indicated she will be retiring at the end of the year and we are committed to working with her during her final six months, to ensure a smooth transition and recognition and retention of her many years of knowledge and relationships!

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the AMRRIC team, Dr Jan Allen, Dr Bonny Cumming, Courtney Falls and Lauren Shaw, the AMRRIC Board of Directors, and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group. Together we continue to work towards achieving AMRRIC's vision with commitment, energy and enthusiasm and I look forward to a further successful twelve months with you all.

We hope you enjoy reading our Annual Report for 2018/19!

Dr Brooke Rankmore, CEO

AMRRIC staff highlights

01

DR JAN ALLEN ONE HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER

This year has again been wonderful working with amazing communities and continuing to develop strong working relationships. Even after 11 years and many community visits with AMRRIC, several of the communities that I visited this year were new to me.

My highlights were many but included working with Courtney on two successful, comprehensive visits to Koonibba community near Ceduna, SA, and a two-week program where we visited eight communities or outstations within Central Desert Regional Council in NT. We spent time there talking with local people and undertaking a dog and cat census while also treating the animals with an anti-parasitic; it was a huge privilege and great enjoyment.

I was also involved in the emergency response team efforts post Cyclone Trevor in the gulf country of Ngukurr and Borroloola – being my second post-cyclone experience it has fuelled my forever impression that camp dogs are real survivors!

Increasingly AMRRIC is working cooperatively with, and mentoring, individual vets and corporate vet groups to provide services remotely – it is an honour and privilege to meet and work with so many wonderful fellow veterinarians.

I have to add that over my time with AMRRIC, I have seen a real increase in awareness in responsibility for animal management in NT Regional Councils and feel there has been a great improvement in the health and population management of dogs, and increasingly cats, across remote communities.



01

02

AMRRIC's staff reflect on their highlights from this year

02

DR BONNY CUMMING PROGRAM MANAGER – STRATEGIC DELIVERY

Our work takes us to extraordinary locations and in July 2018, I was especially privileged to visit Vancouver, Canada, as a guest of Veterinarians Without Borders (VWB). VWB were keen to learn from AMRRIC's experience in brokering relationships and coordinating veterinary services in remote Australia, and I was honoured to represent the team and share our gained knowledge with our Canadian counterparts.

Following on from this trip, I was thrilled to later host two of the VWB affiliated veterinarians, alongside one of our University of Queensland collaborators, on the long-running Yuendumu, Yuelamu and Nyirripi program, NT. Many of AMRRIC's volunteers will have fond memories of these communities – memories which I am fortunate to now share too, thanks to our dedicated partner vet Dr Stephen Cutter from The Ark Animal Hospital, and program collaborators Gloria Morales from Warlukurlangu Arts, and Central Desert Regional Council. Having heard about these communities since I first joined AMRRIC, it was wonderful to finally get to experience them first-hand. The program was perfectly timed so that as it ended, our team were able to return to Alice Springs, meet with the AMRRIC Board and ATSIAG, and attend the phenomenal Parrtjima Festival in Light – a truly spectacular experience.

Knowledge exchange is a constant aspect of AMRRIC's work, and in 2018-2019, it was wonderful to be able to share knowledge internationally, alongside our Australian work.

Left:

Cat population management is a burgeoning challenge for AMRRIC, as cats are becoming increasingly popular pets in many remote Indigenous communities

AMRRIC staff highlights (cont.)



03 COURTNEY FALLS EDUCATION OFFICER

I feel incredibly blessed in this job with the opportunity to work alongside incredible individuals, and share and learn knowledge from beautiful smiling faces! I have so many highlights to reflect on from the past year, as each program is special and unique.

In 2018, I worked with the Djelk Rangers from Maningrida, to deliver training in the use of the AMRRIC app for an animal population census. It was a week of two-way learning working as a team as we visited remote homelands to collect and record data. This enabled my colleague Jan and I to engage with residents door-to-door, learning more about culture, life and their pets.

My recent trip to the Central Desert to conduct an animal population census and deliver education within nine communities was a highlight for 2019. Working with children never fails to brighten your day or put a smile on your face, for they truly are incredible, joyous individuals and make every program special. Over two weeks, we travelled thousands of kilometres, and enjoyed lots of walking and conversations with happy animals and community residents; a program I will always be proud of and feel privileged to have been a part.

I look forward to another year of more adventures, places and incredible individuals who make this job so rewarding.

Left:

Djelk Rangers Rickisha Redford Bohme and Dioni Bohme using the AMRRIC App to collect companion animal population data at Maningrida, NT



04 LAUREN SHAW BUSINESS OPERATIONS MANAGER

Starting with AMRRIC in January this year, I have had many wonderful experiences meeting all of the dedicated staff, Board, Advisory Group and many stakeholders that we work with. I have spent many hours listening, learning, and understanding the role AMRRIC plays in assisting local Indigenous communities with their companion animal health and wellbeing. I look forward in the next year to adding value to our programs and processes, and getting the opportunity to get out on-ground with the team once or twice!



Right:

The team were ticked pink to come across this little demonstration of love during the Yuendumu vet program in April 2019

Volunteers

AMRRIC is incredibly grateful to have so many wonderful volunteers who assist our work enormously, both out on programs, and behind the scenes.

- ▶ total **supporters registered** to receive notice of upcoming volunteer opportunities as of EOFY

415

- ▶ **programs** that took volunteers during 18/19FY

20

- ▶ **volunteer opportunities** during 18/19 FY

38

“In order to volunteer, I spent approximately \$1,450.00 for travel and \$3,000.00 in “lost” consultancy fees, but every penny was worth it!”

- ▶ **individual volunteers**



33

- ▶ **volunteer days in the field**



217

- ▶ **communities** visited

55

22 in WA,
32 in NT
1 in SA



- ▶ **repeat volunteers**

(i.e. volunteers who had previously volunteered with AMRRIC)



5

- ▶ **volunteer hours contributed on the ground**



2184

- ▶ **states** where programs occurred

3



Volunteers (cont.)



One of the patients on the Kintore program

▶ volunteer's average expenditure on flights



\$1,261

▶ average kms travelled to volunteer
3,175



▶ maximum kms travelled to volunteer
~8,000

▶ estimated financial value of volunteer hours contributed



\$103,845

▶ % of volunteers that sacrificed regular income in order to volunteer

62%

Veterinary Programs



▶ **communities** visited

136



▶ **states** where programs occurred

4



▶ **cats** desexed



203

▶ **total parasite treatments** delivered



9,118

▶ **dogs** desexed



2,840

▶ **other treatments** provided



186

▶ **samples** collected during veterinary programs to contribute to broader One Health research



20

Veterinary Programs (cont.)

Below left:
Team members on the Lajamanu vet program, November 2018

KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Being invited to join emergency response working groups to address the support of companion animals remaining in communities after emergency situations. To achieve positive outcomes, AMRRIC collaborated with **Barkly Regional Council** and **Top End Rehoming Group** in Ali Curung, and with the **Northern Territory Government, East Arnhem Regional Council** and **Roper Gulf Regional Council** following Cyclone Trevor in the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- Following an invitation to Vancouver, Canada, to present to the **Veterinarian Without Borders** Board Meeting about AMRRIC's work in remote Australian communities, the opportunity for cross-continental knowledge exchange continued. AMRRIC was pleased to host two VWB-affiliated Canadian veterinarians, Drs Susan Kutz and Audrey Remedios, on the **Warlukurlangu Artists'** and **Central Desert Regional Council** supported veterinary program in Yuendumu, Nyirripi and Yuelamu, NT, along with Dr Stephen Cutter, **The Ark Animal Hospital**, and Dr Dan Schull, from **The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science**.
- Providing ongoing support to Regional Councils and Aboriginal Corporations in NT, SA, WA and QLD to support and encourage sustainable and effective animal health and management programs. Highlights include:
 - AMRRIC's continued involvement with the annual **Cherbourg Animal Health Program** – a collaboration between Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Darling Downs Public Health Unit, The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science and AMRRIC.
 - close liaison with **MacDonnell Regional Council** to organise Kintore's 4 PAWS-funded veterinary and education program.
 - hosting an inaugural workshop with the four veterinarians employed full time by **East Arnhem Regional Council** and **Roper Gulf Regional Council**, to further support their outstanding work in the regions they service.
 - undertaking a region-wide companion animal census with the communities in **Central Desert Regional Council**.
 - through regular visits to Koonibba, SA, building relationships including with **Dog and Cat Management Board SA, Eyre Peninsula NRM, District Council of Ceduna, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), and Koonibba Community Aboriginal Corporation**.
 - working with **Nganampa Health Council** to continue valued veterinary program service delivery in the **APY Lands** with **Dr Robert Irving**.
 - ongoing collaboration with the **Thamurrurr Rangers** who, having been trained by AMRRIC, deliver regular anti-parasitic treatments to the companion animals in Wadeye, and undertake a community-wide annual companion animal census to assist in evaluating the impacts and outcomes of the Animal Health Program in the region.



“The AMRRIC team all do a great job each and every time they visit. There has been a clear reduction/stabilisation in the dog population in communities in our Fitzroy Valley Services area since desexing commenced in 2013, just like it should.”

Patrick Davies, Coordinator Nindilingarri Cultural Health Service EH Team

Education Programs



▶ students engaged within schools

667



▶ community members engaged in education

4,299



▶ Darwin Town Communities parasite treatments administered

336



▶ education resources developed



22

“The students have had a great time, thanks again.”

Hiep Do, Cathy Freeman Foundation

“I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your great work last week as part of the Parvovirus Education week. We had wonderful feedback from community and the children were very engaged with the program. Thank you also for all of the great education resources – I am looking forward to taking these resources into our other communities.”

Madeleine Kelso, EARC, Veterinarian

Education Programs (cont.)

Below:
Cherbourg residents, Nakia and Kellica at the Community Animal Health BBQ



KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Emphasis on creating school and community education resources to promote **responsible cat ownership**, resulting in **12 new resources and activities** to increase awareness of cat reproductive cycles and their impacts on native biodiversity.
- Continuing to build local capacity by training **Djelk Rangers** and staff members of the **West Arnhem Regional Council** in Maningrida on use of the **AMRRIC App** to collect companion animal population census data within their community, supported by the **Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy**
- Developing and coordinating a collaborative program focused on cat education within the very remote communities in the **Shire of Derby West Kimberley**, providing school and community-based education to **74 students and 486 residents** and resulting in **38 cats** being surgically desexed.
- Collaborating with **East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC)** vets to deliver a program focused on spreading awareness of **Parvovirus**, including a week-long education campaign at Angurugu and Umbakumba on **Groote Eylandt**, supported by the **Northern Territory Government**.
- Working with the **Cathy Freeman Foundation** and **The Ark Animal Hospital** to collaborate on another two education and awareness sessions addressing responsible pet ownership and care for the **Horizons** school program, with an invitation to continue in 2020.
- Increased participation by residents in **Darwin Town Communities** in vet and education days, a program running since **2012** with the assistance of **Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation, The Ark Animal Hospital** and the **City of Darwin**.

For more information about AMRRIC's Education Programs please visit: <http://www.amrric.org/our-work/education-program>

Our Supporters

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION DONORS

AMRRIC has generously received philanthropic donations from **Isaacson Davis Foundation, PetSure, Katrina Campbell & Rob Jones, Lynne Boladeras** and an anonymous Family Philanthropic Fund. In addition, one-off and regular donations from numerous supporters provided over \$41,000.

SPONSORS AND PRODUCT DONORS

Boehringer Ingelheim – product donations to Cherbourg community vet program worth over \$20,000 retail

Boehringer Ingelheim – discounted wholesale price of Nexgard for AMRRIC's use

MSD Animal Health – donation of Bravecto products to support remote community veterinary programs

FUNDERS – MAJOR GRANTS

up to \$30k

- ▶ **Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal – Responsible Pet Ownership**
- ▶ **Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal – Improving Remote Veterinary Surgery Safety**
- ▶ **Dog and Cat Management Board, SA – Vet and Education Programs SA**
- ▶ **Four Paws Australia – Kintore Vet Program**
- ▶ **Northern Territory Environment Project Grants – Gapuwiyak and Homelands Cat Management**

up to \$60k

- ▶ **Northern Territory Environmental Health Program – Central Australian Companion Animal Census**
- ▶ **National Landcare Program Environment Small Grants – Cat Education and Vet Program, Kimberley WA**
- ▶ **Northern Territory Animal Welfare Fund – Environmental Health Practitioner Guide**
- ▶ **National Landcare Program Smart Farms Small Grants – Vet and Education Programs, Koonibba SA**

over \$100k

- ▶ **Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – One Health Project**

Pro Bono Services

- ▶ **The Leading Partnership – Philip Pogson, Sydney**
- ▶ **Screen and New Media, Dr Aurora Scheelings, Mr Greg Docwra – Charles Darwin University Casuarina Campus**
- ▶ **McLaren Concepts and Piening Indigenous Services**

AMRRIC would also like to acknowledge the ongoing valued professional assistance and mentoring of program participants and volunteers, of **Dr Robert Irving, Dr Stephen Cutter, Dr Samantha Phelan and Dr Rebecca Burrie.**

Our Members and Requests for Assistance

KEY:
Members
of AMRRIC

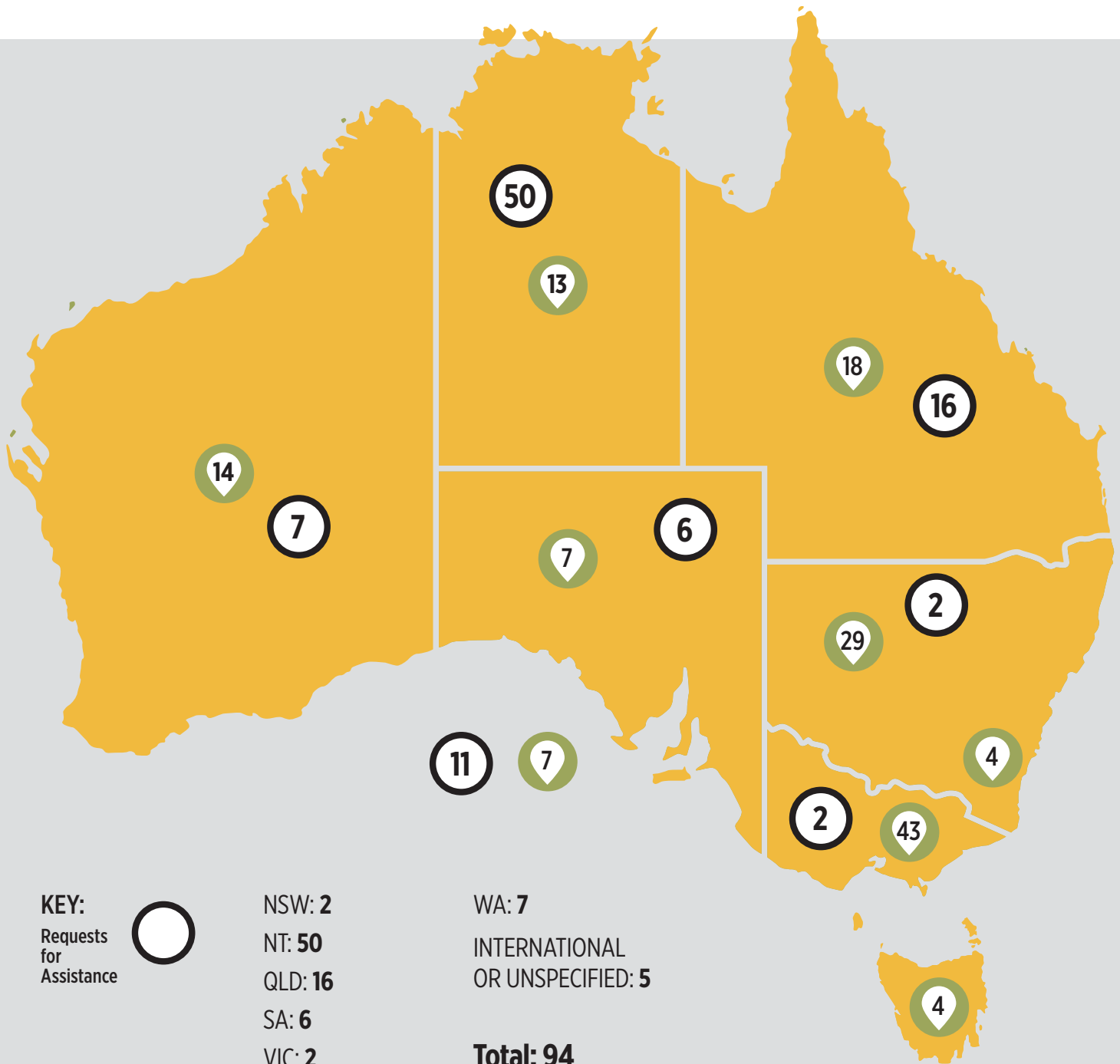


ACT: 4
NSW: 29
NT: 13

QLD: 18
SA: 7
TAS: 4

VIC: 43
WA: 14
UNSPECIFIED/
INTERNATIONAL: 7

Total: 139



KEY:
Requests
for
Assistance



NSW: 2
NT: 50
QLD: 16
SA: 6
VIC: 2

WA: 7
INTERNATIONAL
OR UNSPECIFIED: 5

Total: 94

Advocacy

We are proud to have contributed to the following events by presenting AMRRIC's work

MONTH	LOCATION	CONFERENCE/VENUE	PRESENTATION TITLE	PRESENTER
Jul-18	Vancouver, Canada	Veterinarians Without Borders	AMRRIC and its work in Australian remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities	Bonny Cumming
Jul-18	Sydney	International Society for Anthrozoology (27th Annual Conference)	Cultural connections: Understanding the relationship between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and animals, and the implications for delivery of dog health and community wellbeing programs in these communities	Ted Donelan and Christine Ross
Sep-18	Webinar, Melbourne	13th National Workshop on Strongyloidiasis	Camp Dogs, Communities and Collaboration in One Health	Jan Allen
Oct-18	Newcastle	Australian Institute of Animal Management Workshop Evolutionary Animal Management	Tackling Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities	Brooke Rankmore
Feb-19	Darwin	Hill's Nutritional Nurse Consultation Course Study Tour 2018	AMRRIC awareness presentation	Courtney Falls
Feb-19	Gatton	UQ School of Veterinary Science	Them Cheeky Dogs Cultural considerations when working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Bonny Cumming
May-19	Darwin	Australasian Society for Infectious Disease Scientific Meeting	Roles of animal health programs in remote Indigenous communities	Rosalie Schultz
Jun-19	Gold Coast	Biosecurity Symposium	One-health focused companion animal veterinary services assist in mitigating biosecurity threats in remote Indigenous communities	Bonny Cumming
Jun-19	Darwin	Lowitja Indigenous Health & Wellbeing Conference	One Health Approach to Animal Health and Management	Tamara Riley and Bonny Cumming

AMRRIC has contributed commentary to the following document development by invitation

MONTH	LOCATION	ORGANISATION / DEPARTMENT	DOCUMENT TITLE
Dec-18	WA	Western Australia Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (WA DLGSCI)	WA DLGSCI Stop Puppy Farming proposed legislation
Mar-19	WA	Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (WA DPIRD), Animal Welfare Regulation, Sustainability and Biosecurity	WA DPIRD Dog Welfare & Standards proposed legislation

“I enjoyed every minute of the trip – the landscape, the company, the animals and getting to witness firsthand the amazing work that AMRRIC performs.”

AMRRIC Volunteer Dr Tessa Mackie,
reflection from Wadeye and Peppimenarti
communities program, October 2018