

2023 IMPACT REPORT



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MISSION

ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES
STRAIT ISLANDER
COMMUNITIES
THAT ARE HEALTHY
AND SAFE FOR
PEOPLE AND
THEIR COMPANION
ANIMALS.

VISION

**HEALTHY ANIMALS.
HEALTHY PROUD
COMMUNITIES.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

AMRRIC CHAIR | JOANNE ABRAHAM

Every year is both exciting and challenging in the life of AMRRIC, with the dual privilege and responsibility to provide community directed companion animal health services to rural and remote Indigenous communities; this period has been no exception.

As Chair of the Board I acknowledge the ongoing dedication of our CEO, Dr Brooke Rankmore and AMRRIC's highly committed staff. In particular, Brooke's sustained efforts to meet the growing demand for AMRRIC's services across rural and remote Australia is to be commended. This is whilst ensuring all services are delivered to our recognised industry leading standard for quality and with free, prior, informed consent of the community.

Commendations to our dedicated volunteers, the many devoted vets, nurses, animal management workers, environmental health workers, teachers, rangers, local government and Aboriginal Corporation staff who have partnered with us. These broad and diverse relationships into and around Indigenous communities are vital to achieve the respectful and high quality service levels AMRRIC

aspires to reach. AMRRIC continues to benefit from strong support from State/Territory governments, regional councils, community organisations, media, education and research entities, and animal health industry suppliers. We also deeply appreciate the direct funding we receive from a growing base of generous donors and sponsors.

Sincere thanks is given to the AMRRIC Board and Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee, who fulfill diligently the responsibilities of providing effective governance and guidance to the organisation. My hope for the future is that as an organisation we continue to deeply listen to and implement the agenda of the Advisory Committee.

I write this noting this will be my last year as Chairperson with AMRRIC, and as I leave I am proud to acknowledge the highly skilled, sensible and complimentary team remaining in place to oversee future growth and application of this organisation's resources to greater health impacts for rural and remote Indigenous communities. It has been a privilege and honour to contribute to a small part of AMRRIC's journey.



CEO'S MESSAGE

Quietly, this year AMRRIC reached a significant milestone. For 20 years, we have been working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural and remote Indigenous communities and their companion animals. While we will take time to celebrate this milestone in later months, I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of all our former Board and Advisory Committee members, staff and volunteers that have helped to shape AMRRIC into the nationally recognised organisation we are today.

This year we excitedly launched our new education brand 'Dog Mob Cat Crew' which is redefining our engagement and education programs with young people in communities. It is due to our committed team of AMRRIC Allies monthly givers that we are able to continue to develop our education programs in this way. The logo, branding illustrations, theme song and music video were created in partnership with the crew at Grand Trine Creative, Indigenous graphic artists and the talented children of Finke Desert community.

A key priority for AMRRIC in 2023 has been working towards increasing local capacity in companion animal management in communities. Through our Biosecurity Surveillance program we have trained 53 people in basic animal health and data capture, with the use of the AMRRIC App. Our accredited training resources have been progressing and are expected to be launched in early 2024.

We acknowledge that 2023 has worn heavy on many with the challenge of cost of living pressures, but despite this our supporters have continued to stick by us. We continue to be humbled by the generosity of AMRRIC's supporters. This impact report highlights 12 months of incredible achievements, by dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters, all committed to our shared Vision of healthy animals, healthy proud communities. Thank you for making this all possible.

**AMRRIC CEO
DR BROOKE RANKMORE**



PAW PRINTS

OUR IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

67 PROGRAMS
DELIVERED

\$295 K VALUE OF DONATED
ANTIPARASITICS

4.8 K ANIMALS
TREATED

880 ANIMALS
DESEXED

33 K DOSES OF DONATED
STOCK SUPPLIED

14 BIOSECURITY
TRAINING SESSIONS

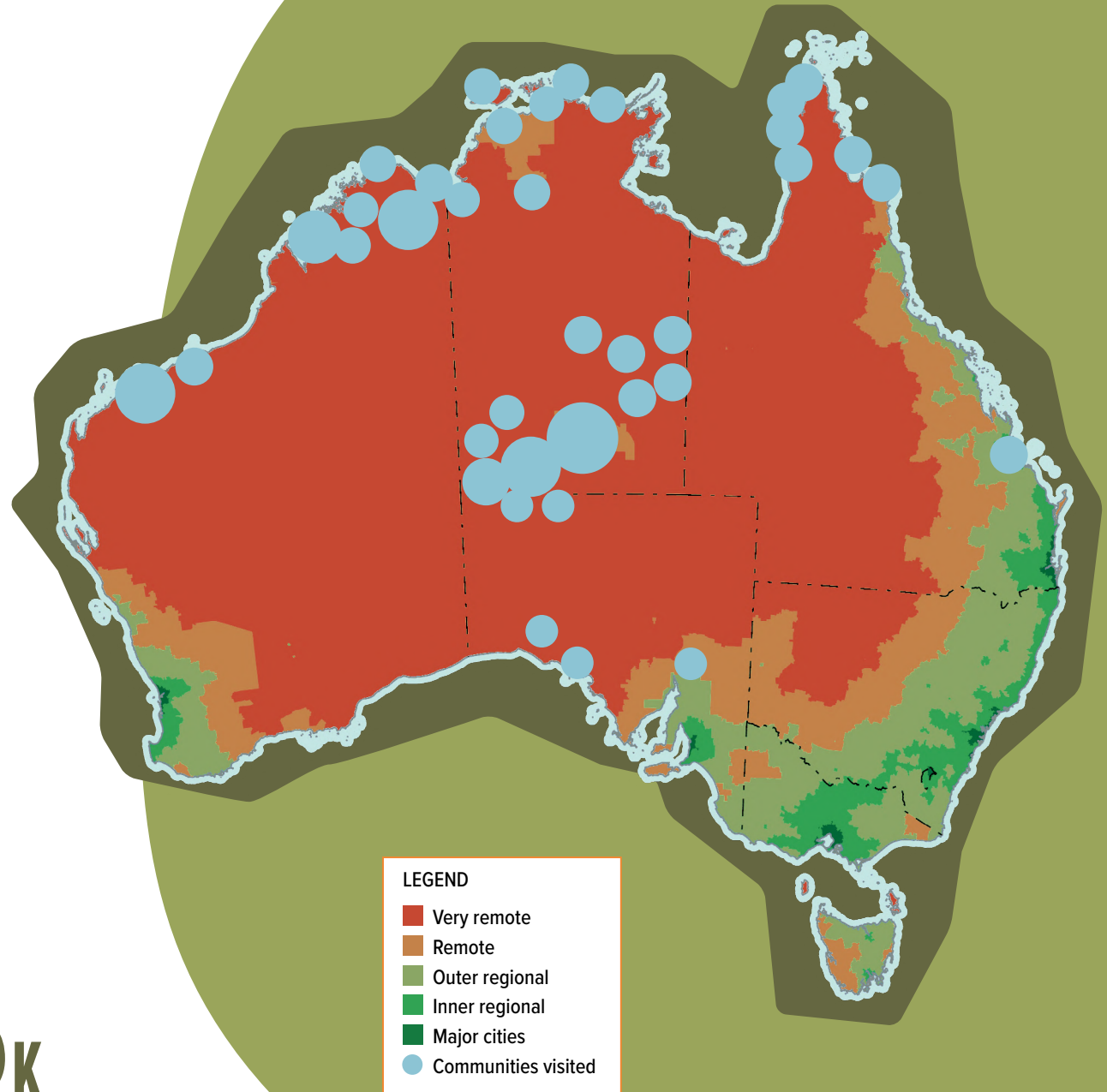
14 NEW EDUCATION
RESOURCES

22 EDUCATION
PROGRAMS

REACH

In rural and remote locations, just as for anywhere else, companion animal populations require regular access to veterinary services to maintain adequate health and welfare. However, geographic, socio-economic, cultural and historic factors impact the accessibility of animal health services for many rural and remote Indigenous communities.

Over the past 12 months AMRRIC have delivered 67 on-ground programs to 145 communities, travelling over 59K kilometers, delivering services and support to the most remote and most disadvantaged people in our country.



145

**COMMUNITIES
REACHED**

59.5k

**KILOMETRES
TRAVELLED**

IMPACT



I first heard about AMRRIC by speaking to a veterinary colleague who had volunteered with a dog program in Central Australia. My husband, Andrew, and I loved visiting remote places, so the prospect of offering veterinary services in remote Indigenous communities was an exciting opportunity.

I joined two other volunteers on a program to Kakadu Outstations in 2011 and loved it! That led to [ongoing volunteer support](#) with AMRRIC whenever we could. Andrew and I also support this important work financially when we can, as well as being a part of the AMRRIC Allies monthly giving team.

The veterinary practice, where we worked for 40 years, also became strong supporters. And we continue to promote the importance of this work as often as possible.

It is a great privilege to be invited to these communities to deliver veterinary services. The dogs are clearly valued members of their communities and AMRRIC offers much needed veterinary care. The dogs often slept with their owners, so poor health and overpopulation affected their families' health also. I saw from the outset that some of the dogs were in great need of basic healthcare, often suffering with preventable conditions.

VOLUNTEER

The animal health and management space in remote areas is one that is seldom prioritised by authorities. Indigenous communities and their dogs deserve the same access to veterinary health services as the rest of Australia.

I feel a great sense of being part of something worthwhile. I love the aspect of working with likeminded people giving of their time and skills to support this great work. Volunteers pay their own way, so it is a big commitment. If AMRRIC didn't exist, preventable conditions and overpopulation of dogs and cats in these communities would be a bigger problem than it is now. There would be continued suffering, not only for these animals but also for the community members, with increased instances of zoonoses, poor hygiene, potential dog bite injury and emotional impact from watching their animals in distress.

I feel very fortunate to have seen first hand the positive difference this work makes.

Veterinary services in remote communities are essential. I encourage you to support AMRRIC any way you can so that this wonderful organisation can continue its important work.

HELEN PURDAM'S STORY



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AMRRIC ALLIES

AMRRIC's regular giving program directly provides funds to support educational school programs and resources translated into local dialects allowing local learning in first languages.

97
REGULAR
GIVERS

PRO BONO & BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

- MSD
- Elanco
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Big Dog Pet Foods
- Royal NSW Canine Council Health
- Petbarn Foundation
- MicroChips Australia
- Central Animal Records
- AVET (Wagg n Purr)
- The Leading Partnership
- Scratch
- PetStock

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of [these generous people and organisations](#), as well as the many other anonymous givers who supported our collaboration and work with rural and remote First Nations communities in the 2022-23 financial year.

AMRRIC also acknowledges the governance role and support of its 157 national [members](#) who contribute to the organisation annually.

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GREATER THAN 100K

- Australian Government's Remote Australia Strategies
- Australian Government's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy

GREATER THAN 10K

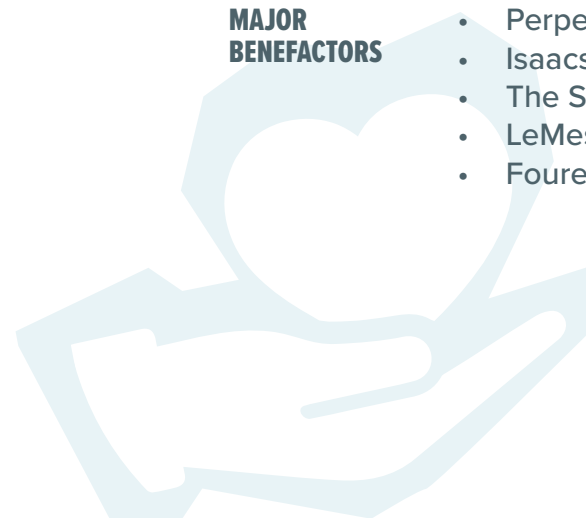
- Northern Territory Government's Animal Welfare Grants
- Northern Territory Government's Risk Reduction Program

UNDER 10K

- Charles Darwin Universities National Science Week Program
- Roper Gulf Regional Council's Community Benefit Fund

MAJOR BENEFACTORS

- Perpetual Trustees
- Isaacson Davis Foundation
- The Sheehan-Birrell Foundation
- LeMessurier Charitable Trust
- Fouress Foundation



PILLARS

COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

AMRRIC works to mitigate geographic and socio-economic barriers, and assist remote communities to access vital veterinary services. Our companion animal management centres around veterinary programs that provide desexing, antiparasitic medications and animal welfare focused treatments, aiming to improve dog and cat population health and control and in turn, improve community health, safety and wellbeing.

BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY

Local engagement, knowledge and skills are critical to the sustainability and effectiveness of remote community companion animal health and management programs. To enhance animal health and management outcomes, AMRRIC has developed a variety of animal-related educational resources, activities and programs.

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

AMRRIC works collaboratively with researchers and communities to support research projects that promote advocacy for One Health principles, address existing knowledge gaps and support appropriate outcomes in public health and safety for people and animals in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The outputs of AMRRIC's work and research collaborations help to facilitate evidence-based practice, inform public policy and direct resources to areas of most need, resulting in tangible benefits for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, their people, and their companion animals.

INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

Community dog and cat population management impacts upon a large variety of realms including biosecurity and public health. Through multi-disciplinary collaboration, AMRRIC designs innovative projects that work to evidence the need, as well as the impacts that AMRRIC and our partners are achieving. By monitoring our progress over time, we're able to reflect upon challenges and opportunities, and adapt our programs to ensure sustained community benefit.

COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

26

**VETERINARY
PROGRAMS**

639

**DOGS
DESEXED**

5.5^K

**ANIMALS SEEN
ON CENSUS**

241

**CATS
DESEXED**



STRATEGIC SUPPORT

Our allocation of teams on ground can be guided by our Requests for Assistance (RFAs), which allow residents and people with a connection to communities to raise concerns with animal welfare, over population, or request services or the advice of our team related to animal health or education. Over the past twelve months we have received 157 requests, an increase of 27% from last year.

Having oversight in this way allows us to navigate emerging issues and ensure we can mobilise assistance to address critical and strategic management of companion animals in remote Indigenous communities.

CENSUS PROGRAMS

AMRRIC undertakes companion animal census through door-to-door visits to each household. These opportunities allow a great opportunity to engage in one-on-one education with pet owners, addressing individual needs, while providing immediate health impact through delivery of antiparasitics to each household animal.

“ Working again as an AMRRIC veterinarian in Minmarama, Darwin City, in April 2023 in collaboration with Gwala Daraniki Association and Darwin City Council. The services were in high demand and we were able to desex 15 animals on that day, including a few breeding cats and many young tom cats. In particular, we were inundated by curious school children as the bus dropped them off home from school and so ended our day with the aid of lots of little helping hands. ”

DR. CHELSEA SMART
AMRRIC STAFF HIGHLIGHT



BUILDING KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY

6

**GPS-TRACKED
DOGS IN ED
PROGRAMS**

49

**SCHOOLS
VISITED**

6

**STEM
PROGRAMS**



AMRRIC EDUCATION

In the past year, we have reached 1,217 students, marking the greatest number of students to ever participate in [AMRRIC's education program](#). We are particularly proud of the contribution of the AMRRIC Allies and major donors to our education programs, allowing AMRRIC to engage in education across SA, WA, NT, and QLD. We have brought One Health into remote classrooms, introducing young learners to topics such as parasite identification, zoonotic disease awareness, hygiene importance, companion animal safety, and the importance of responsible pet ownership for the health of people, animals, and communities. Highlights have included the prevalence of our STEM programs in schools, particularly our participation in [National Science Week](#), with a focus on animal science and its role in keeping communities happy and healthy.

“ The talent of everyone involved in the Dog Mob Cat Crew music video out at Yiyili was astounding, from the kids to the community members right down to the team that produced and filmed the music video, it's a real privilege to be able to get out there and be part of showcasing the incredible talent that is out in remote communities. ”

MICHELLE HAYES
AMRRIC STAFF HIGHLIGHT



DOG MOB CAT CREW

BRAND LAUNCH

ABOUT THE BRAND

Dog Mob Cat Crew is AMRRIC's newly branded education program, building engagement with young people and promoting responsible pet ownership in remote communities.

The brand is fun, playful, recognisable, and was developed by an Indigenous artist; alongside some children's artwork from one of our education programs.

Dog Mob Cat Crew symbolises the growth of AMRRIC's education program and our ongoing commitment to providing engaging, relevant, relatable, and culturally safe education resources for communities.

Our library of resources continues to grow and utilises many methods and mediums, including animations, music, play-based activities, and story-telling.



EDUCATION RESOURCES

Our music programs have been a tremendously successful partnership with Grand Trine Creative headed up by award-winning music video producer Dion Brownfield. The music videos use a rap and hip-hop rhyme to share stories of what their pets mean to them and the importance of looking after your pets for the health of the animals, the people and the community.

We first launched Dog Mob Cat Crew with [a music video created with the community of Finke](#), NT in 2022. Most recently, we filmed with the [community of Yiyili](#), in far north Western Australia. Both music videos are developed using a community centered creative practice fusing collaboration, innovation, community and culture.

Another of the key tools we utilise in education for young and adult learners alike is [animations](#). These have become a really engaging way to share information on key topics, such as health concerns like [Ehrlichia](#), or in presenting content for [empathy](#) discussions. Animations are short, visually engaging, highly accessible, and provide the opportunity to create resources that can reflect the life, and often the language, of a remote community.

Our animations are approached collaboratively, starting with our staff storyboarding ideas, and engaging our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee for review and feedback. We have formed great relationships with our animators, including Indigenous creative designers, such as Nani Creative.



1,217
STUDENTS ENGAGED

2

NEW LANGUAGES
FOR ED RESOURCES

2

MUSIC VIDEOS
PRODUCED



RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

31

**PRESENTATIONS
BY AMRRIC STAFF
AT CONFERENCES**

18

**AMRRIC MEDIA
MENTIONS**

15

**POSITIONS ON INDUSTRY
COMMITTEES, FORUMS
AND WORKING GROUPS**



ONE HEALTH RESEARCH

AMRRIC's One Health research activities are focused on coordinating efforts to build the [One Health](#) evidence base. Despite increasing global awareness of One Health linkages, the published evidence base for One Health related impacts within remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities remains extremely limited. Over the last two decades, through grass-roots conversation and observation, AMRRIC and its community and veterinary partners have amassed a wealth of anecdotal experience of the impacts of companion animal health on community and ecosystem health.

AMRRIC supports research projects and facilitate community engagement and leadership, address community-identified priorities, help to improve local capacity and utilising culturally and contextually appropriate research practice. To facilitate this, AMRRIC secured funding from a philanthropic sponsor to employ a One Health Research Coordinator to help facilitate collaborative One Health research in partnership with researchers and rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.



“ Being able to share AMRRIC’s amazing One Health work with people and organisations in the conservation sector has been a highlight of my work this year. This included sharing AMRRIC’s work at several conservation sector events: the Australasian Conservation Dog Network conference, Ecological Society of Australia conference, WA Feral Cat Symposium (and informally through Women in Environmental Leadership Australia). ”

TIDA NOU
AMRRIC STAFF HIGHLIGHT

INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY



53

PEOPLE TRAINED
IN BIOSECURITY

2.1k

HOUSEHOLDS
ENGAGED

48

CENSUSES
CONDUCTED

18

COMMUNITIES
VISITED



BIOSECURITY

AMRRIC's Biosecurity Pilot Project is focused on providing training and data capture technology to detect, record, and report animal health abnormalities in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Northern Australia.

The project directly employed 23 Indigenous people. These staff received classroom and on-ground based training through the project in how to identify and report exotic diseases. Training included using the AMRRIC App to conduct a full census of companion animals. Staff from community organisations and local councils worked alongside AMRRIC staff to complete censuses in 15 communities across Northern Australia, from Derby in WA to the Torres Strait in QLD.



FNQ NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Thanks to support from the Australian Government, we have been able to offer Far North Queensland Indigenous Local Government Authorities pro bono Animal Management Needs Assessments. This service is helping to identify and document some of the deficits that challenge Local Government Associations (LGAs) when planning animal management programs.

During the community visits, a community animal census is conducted house-to-house, sharing knowledge with residents whilst administering free anti-parasitic medications to all animals. The needs assessments highlight the requirements of not only the LGA's involved in maintaining services, but also the needs of community residents and their animals.









Animal Management in Rural and
Remote Indigenous Communities