



Government
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Mimili, Amata & Pipalyatjara Swimming Pools

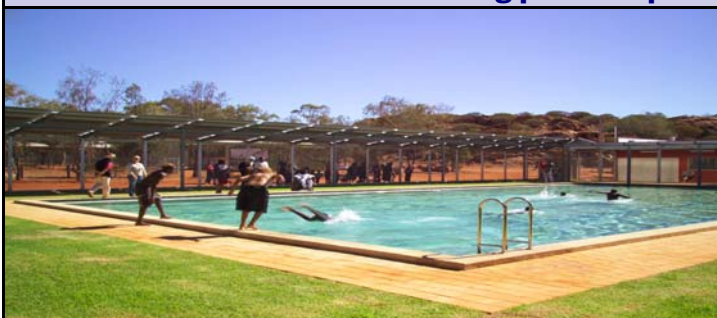
Purpose of this publication: State & Australian governments, Community Councils, local businesses and service providers with information on current South Australian Government/Australian Government initiatives.



During the construction of the Mimili swimming pool

Two swimming pools have been constructed in the APY Lands. The swimming pools were jointly funded by the State and Australian governments. Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Hon Jay Weatherill and Hon Mal Brough, Australian government Minister for Indigenous Affairs officially opened the Mimili swimming pool on Saturday 28 October 2006. The communities have entered into a shared responsibility agreement together with the State and Australian governments. The agreement sets out clearly what the community and the State and Australian government is responsible for contributing to the program. The communities use a 'no school, no pool' policy. This policy has led to sustained improvements in school attendance in other Aboriginal communities with pools. The pools are intended to improve school attendance and health outcomes for the children in the APY Lands.

Mimili swimming pool completed and open to the community



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See next page for more details →

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Amata Swimming Pool

Construction of the Amata swimming pool



Construction phase

Construction of the Amata swimming pool commenced in 2006 and is now complete. Dan Grieve has been appointed Pool Manager and has successfully completed the required training. The pool initially opened for use in February 2007 but has been emptied to address some construction problems. It is hoped these problems will be quickly fixed and the pool re-opened soon.

Health Benefits

There is clear evidence that the provision of swimming pools in remote communities has a significant impact on the health of the community, especially the children, by reducing the incidence and prevalence of infectious diseases. This includes ear diseases such as chronic supportive otitis media which is very common in remote Aboriginal communities and which can lead to severe hearing problems and related education difficulties.

Pipalyatjara Swimming Pool

Construction of the Pipalyatjara swimming pool is planned to commence in March 2007. It is anticipated that the swimming pool will be ready for use for the summer of 2007. The Pipalyatjara swimming pool will follow the same project schedule that the Mimili swimming pool and Amata swimming pool used and will be the same size as the other pools. A 'no pool, no school' policy will be implemented at the Pipalyatjara swimming pool.

A committee will be established with representatives from the Pipalyatjara community and Pipalyatjara school.

In the future there will be opportunities for Anangu to be employed with the construction of the pool. During construction of the swimming pool, recruitment will commence for swimming pool management and for lifeguards.



Further Training

Amata Swimming Pool

Swimming Pool Instructor—Barry Hutchinson will run a swimming pool operator's course at Amata mid year 2007.

A Life Saving course will also be held later in 2007.