# Central Desert Profile

Report generated on 06 March 2025.

## Overview

**Total Area:** 281,338 sqkm          **Population:** 4,126          **Major Town:** Yuendumu

## Demographics

| **Median Age** | **Labour Force Median Age** | **Labour Force Population** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 29 | 37 | 1,803 |

## Vulnerability

| **Homelessness Population** | **Unemployment Rate** | **SEIFA - IRSD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 513 | 7.1% | 1 |

## Support Payments LGA and State Comparison

| **Rates** | **Central Desert** | **Northern Territory** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Pension | 140 | 11,080 |
| Commonwealth Rent Assistance | 10 | 8,005 |
| Disability Support Pension | 210 | 8,680 |
| Carer Allowance | 75 | 3,665 |

## Economy

**Median Income:** $22,088          **Gross Regional Product:** $736 Million          **Employed Residents:** 1,040

| **Ranked Industries With Most Value** | **Value ($Million)** | **Ranked Employing Industries** | **No. Employees** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining | 612 | Mining | 1,002 |
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 34 | Public Administration and Safety | 140 |
| Construction | 20 | Education and Training | 138 |
| Education and Training | 10 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 117 |
| Public Administration and Safety | 8 | Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 98 |

## Number of Businesses

| **Small Businesses (<20 employees)** | **Total Businesses** |
| --- | --- |
| 66 | 72 |

## Disaster History

The following Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been declared in since 01 July 2022. For a full list of declarations visit [Disaster Assist](https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/).

| **AGRN** | **Event Name** | **DRFA Category** | **AGDRP** | **DRA** | **Hazard Type(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1116 | AGRN 1116 - Tropical Low 09U Cyclone Megan: (March 2024) | B | N | N | Cyclone, Low/tropical low, Rainfall, Tropical low |
| 1103 | AGRN 1103 - Tropical Low 03U/ Tropical Low 07U - Ex-TC Lincoln (Jan - Feb 2024) | B | N | N | Flood |
| 1068 | AGRN 1068 - Southern Region Bushfire (August 2023 onwards) | AB | N | N | Bushfire |
| 1045 | AGRN 1045 - Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie and Flooding (December 2022) | AB | N | N | Flood |

## Disaster Ready Fund (DRF)

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship initiative for disaster resilience and risk reduction. The Australian Government is providing up to one billion dollars through the DRF. The funding runs over five years from 1 July 2023.

\*Some program costs are shared amongst multiple LGAs

| **Program** | **Number of Programs** | **Total Commonwealth agreed funding\*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Disaster Ready Fund Round Two | 3 | 1,738,514 |

### Data Sources

These profiles utilise data from a number of third-party providers, including:

* Services Australia
* State and Territory Governments
* [Regional population, 2021-22 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [DSS Benefit and Payment Recipient Demographics - quarterly data | Datasets | data.gov.au - beta](https://data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-cff2ae8a-55e4-47db-a66d-e177fe0ac6a0/details)
* [Estimating Homelessness: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Small Area Labour Markets | National Skills Commission](https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/topics/small-area-labour-markets#UpdatedLGAstructure)
* [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [EconomyID](https://economy.id.com.au/)
* [Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, July 2018 - June 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/counts-australian-businesses-including-entries-and-exits/latest-release)
* [Regional population by age and sex, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population-age-and-sex/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, May 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release)
* [Personal Income in Australia, 2015-16 to 2019-20 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/personal-income-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)

The data is maintained by these third-party providers. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, no guarantee is given.