## **Context: Tennant Creek**

#### The Community

52% Indigenous Australian, 28% non-Indigenous Australian, 10.3% born overseas.<sup>1</sup>

Many people speak an Indigenous language or contact language at home, however there are concerns that children are not learning some of the 'traditional languages' (particularly Warumungu and Warlmanpa).



want to work together, old people, middle-aged people, young people and pass it [the language and culture] on to [the] next generation" — Sandra Nangali Morrison

The community is also very concerned with issues such as truancy, unemployment, and drug and alcohol abuse.



Is it possible to address both types of concerns at

#### once?

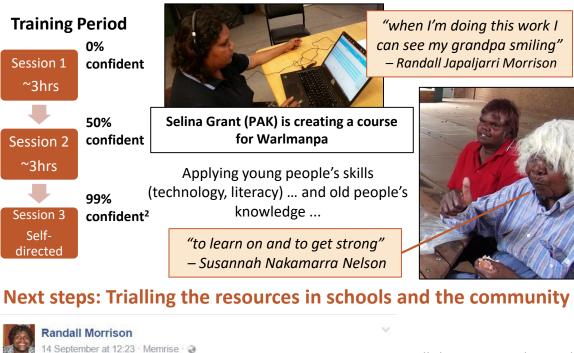


*Memrise* An engaging, Duolingo-style application for learning vocabulary and phrases. Freely available and can be used on a range of platforms including IOS and Android phones, computers, and tablets.

# Language, Technology and Young People

Memrise as a tool for Engaging Young Indigenous Australians with their Traditional Languages

## Stage 1: Training young Indigenous people to develop *Memrise* courses for their languages – Preliminary results



Will the resources be used by the community?

How does incorporating local languages and traditional knowledge into classroom activities impact Indigenous children's attitudes to schooling? 2016-09-17, Bonnie McLean

### **Advantages**

- Teaches new vocabulary and literacy in a person's native, heritage, or second language.
- Powerful use of sound, images and videos means it is also appropriate for users with low literacy levels.
- Course creation quick and easy for people with basic computer literacy. Users retain ownership of content

### Limitations

uploaded to site.

- Requires an internet connection often not viable in remote communities. Downloading courses for offline use only available to paying users (A\$12/month).
- Format for audio recorded on *Memrise* limited to mp3.
- No guarantee content will remain on the *Memrise* site.
- Uploading content gives *Memrise Ltd* (UK) the licence to copy and redistribute it.

#### Recommendations

- App developers working for Indigenous communities should consider other means of distribution (e.g. Bluetooth) over wifi.
- In the meantime, community language spaces with free wifi access are a worthy investment.



<sup>1</sup>Yuhun, Pawinee, and Andrew Taylor. "The demography of the Territory's' <sup>2</sup>Randall Morrison, midtowns': Tennant Creek." *Northern Institute Research Brief Series* 5 (2013): 1-18. participant feedback.

memory!

MEMRISE.COM

Share

Warumungu on Memrise

Memrise is a fun and easy way to learn and improve your

this is what I've been working on - check it out!



