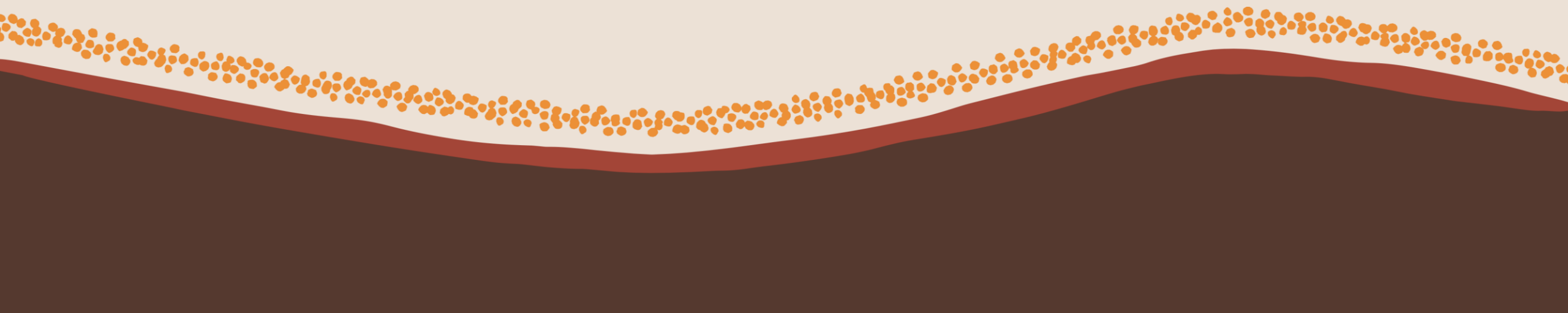




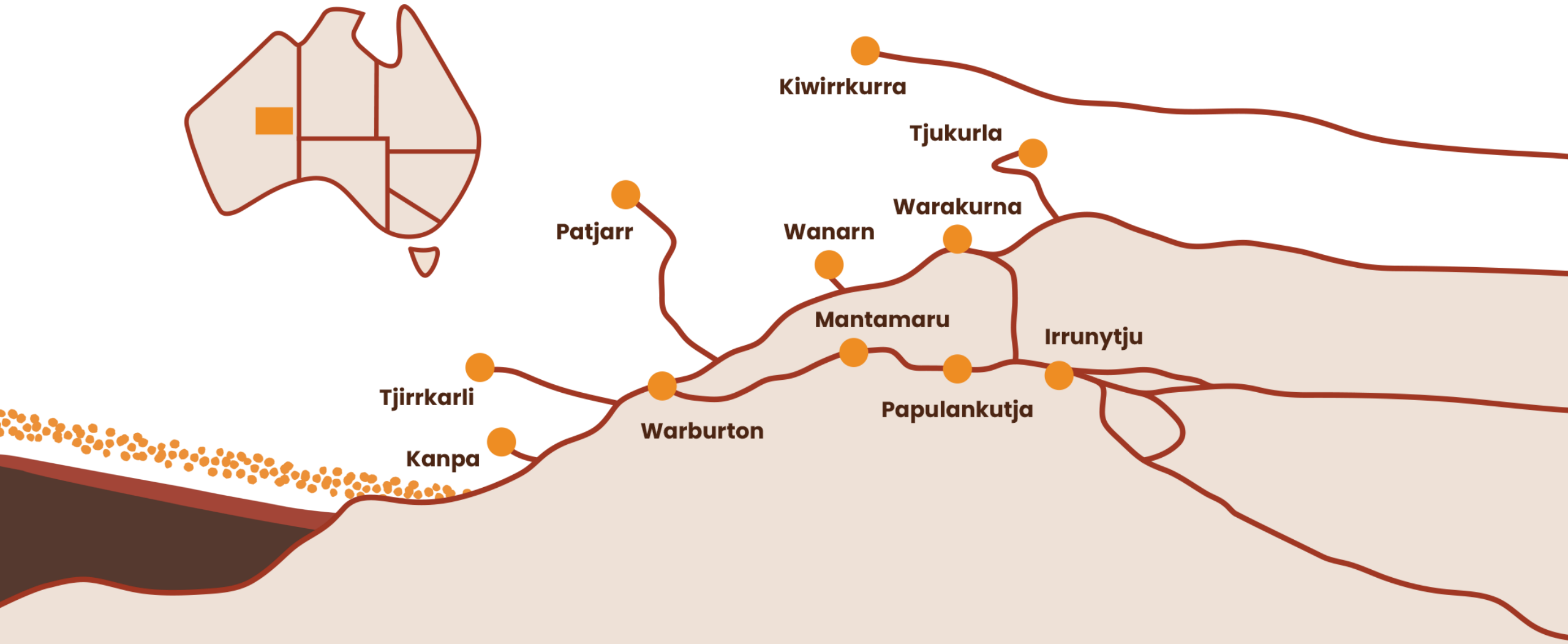
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On Country, In Partnership: Improving Ear Health with Ngaanyatjarra Communities

Presenter: Mary Percy – Manager, Medical Specialist Outreach Program, Ngaanyatjarra Health Service



Introduction to Ngaanyatjarra Health Service



Challenges of Remote Care

- Remote geography, long distance, extreme weather, and limited infrastructure make healthcare delivery challenging.
- Access to specialist care requires innovative, culturally informed approaches.



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Audiology Services – Hearing Australia Partnership

Hearing Australia conducts:

- 4 x Annual Adult Audiology Trips
- 4 x Joint Paediatric ENT Trips

They maintain records, communicate with NHS teams, and integrate care with local providers.



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General Practitioner and Remote Area Nurse Screening

Ongoing screening by:

- Touring GPs
- Trained Remote Area Nurses

Clinics use video otoscopes to capture and send images for review or escalation.



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Use of Telehealth

- Supports remote consultations and specialist input.
- Allows patients to stay on Country and be supported by trusted local clinicians.



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Ear Surgery Blitz – Kalgoorlie Model

Twice yearly charter trips for 6 x children and their caregivers to Kalgoorlie. ENT surgery by Dr Francis Lannigan. Includes hospital stay and a positive town experience.



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Why this Model Works



- ✓ Culturally Safe
 - ✓ Flexible
- ✓ Collaborative
- ✓ Empowers Staff
- ✓ Patient-Centred



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Outcomes and Impact

- ✓ Early Diagnosis
- ✓ Increased screening
- ✓ Reduced ENT waitlists
- ✓ Better school and speech outcomes
- ✓ Empowered families



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Challenges and Opportunities



Challenges:

- Funding
- Staff Retention
- Connectivity

Opportunities:

- Ear Health Promotion
- Aboriginal Health Worker Training



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Final Thoughts and Thank you.



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