

24 April 2026

## **Royal Australian Navy Delegation Welcomed to Alice Springs Ahead of ANZAC Day Alice Springs, Northern Territory**

Alice Springs Airport today hosted a special ceremonial arrival, welcoming a delegation from the Royal Australian Navy to Alice Springs in support of ANZAC Day commemorations.

A contingent of six personnel from HMAS *Arunta* were formally welcomed by Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, alongside community representatives including Mayor Asta Hill.

The visit marks a significant reconnection between HMAS *Arunta* and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation, organisations that share a longstanding relationship. Members of Lhere Artepe have participated in ship tours over many years, with the last recorded visit by HMAS *Arunta* personnel to Alice Springs occurring in 2004.

During their stay, the delegation will meet with local leaders, engage with NORFORCE personnel, and participate in community activities leading into ANZAC Day commemorations.

### **Quote: Tony Schulz, Airport Development Group**

“It is incredibly important to see these enduring connections between Defence and community continue to grow. Alice Springs Airport is proud to be recognised as the place where this welcome ceremony could occur, and we were honoured to host the arrival alongside Mayor Hill and community leaders for such a meaningful occasion.

Moments like this reflect the role regional airports play, not only as transport gateways, but as places where community, history and national service come together.”

### **Quote: Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation**

“Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation is proud to formally welcome the Royal Australian Navy delegation to Alice Springs. Our longstanding relationship with HMAS *Arunta* reflects mutual respect, shared learning and connection between cultures.

This visit represents an important reconnection and an opportunity to strengthen relationships through community engagement and shared remembrance in the lead-up to ANZAC Day.”

Alice Springs Airport and Airport Development Group extend a warm welcome to the visiting Navy personnel and acknowledge the importance of partnerships that honour service, community and Country.

**-ENDS-**