



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

May - June 2023



(L-R) Michelle Haseldine, Katharine Micka and Shona Reid, Guardian for Children and Young People.



Shona Reid and Advocate Georgia Murdock arriving in Ceduna.

Shona Reid (Guardian for Children and Young People) visits AFSS Ceduna

The Guardian for Children and Young People, Shona Reid has just kicked off her regional visits, touching down in Ceduna on Thursday June 8. Growing up in the mid-north of South Australia, Shona is very keen to connect with, and hear, from children and young people in regional areas.

Joined by an advocate, Shona will travel around the state over the coming months, meeting with children and young people and listening to what is important to them and their experiences in care, as well as talking to local organisations, case workers and carers.

Regional visits are a great opportunity to share the work of the Guardian, her office and promote our advocacy role, the Charter of Rights and our newly created Nunga Oog – just to name a few! Shona will also visit residential care houses as part of the new Child and Young Person's Visitor program to hear from the young people and what matters most to them.

"I am so excited to be out on the road. Hearing directly from children and young people who are living and growing up

within the child protection system. Having grown up in country towns most of my childhood, the community played a big role in creating my safe place and sense of belonging. I look forward to seeing how regional towns, small and large, do this for children and young people in care," Shona said.

"For me to show up for children and young people, particularly in the state's more remote and rural locations, hopefully sends a strong message that we are here for them, and that I am here for them. That no matter where you are, my job is the same - to advocate for children and young people in care and hold to account those responsible for that care."

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A message from the Chief Executive

Plans are taking place for AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day 2023. This year's event will be once held again at Parafield Gardens Recreation Centre, on Friday 4 August.

We hope to see you all there on the day!



This year marks my 25th anniversary since starting work with AFSS, and it has been an absolute pleasure thus far working alongside our dedicated staff members, Management team, and Board, as well as the various funding bodies and partners that have provided support to AFSS over this time. Being a part of, and witnessing AFSS growth over this length of time is truly rewarding.

I would also like to farewell our long-standing Senior Manager Corporate Services, Peter Shattock who has been with AFSS for the past 15 years. We have made significant changes over this period of time and Peter has always been a strong voice of support, reason and wisdom, his knowledge of finance, program development and growth and his passion for the work we do is highly valued, and I wish him a fantastic retirement.

AFSS are also about to commence a new service called Tika Tirka, which is an accommodation service for Aboriginal Youth wishing to study here in Adelaide, who are from remote and regional South Australia. We look forward to seeing this unfold and eager to assist young people in making the best start with their education.

*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*



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Visits to local police cells that temporarily hold children and young people will also be on the agenda as Shona puts her Training Centre Visitor hat on and meets with local police officers and youth justice case managers to better understand their interactions with children in their region. Shona will be available to speak at forums, meetings, or other events within the regions during her visits. If you are interested in organising a time for Shona to meet with your organisation, speak at an event, or meet with the children and young people in your care, then please get in touch with us at gcyp@gcyp.sa.gov.au.

Remaining upcoming roadshow dates:

Port Lincoln – 1-2 August Murray Bridge – 22 August



“GROW WITH US” Indigenous Plants a Big Hit @ Positive Futures Expo!

AFSS NDIS Team had fun handing out Native Indigenous seedlings at this year's Positive Futures Expo held at Playford Civic Centre on Wednesday 24 May. The seedlings were a symbol to “grow with us” and saw AFSS awarded 'Most Engaging Stall' at the annual event hosted by City of Playford! Our amazing NDIS Navigators and staff did an awesome job promoting our NDIS Navigation services and 'Be With Me' Program to our local and wider community on the day – well done to all involved!





AFSS invites all children, young people and their parents, carers and families to

Connection to Culture Children's Day

“Little Voices.....Loud Futures”



Friday 4 August 2023
From 10am - 3pm
Parafield Gardens Recreation Centre
Corner of Martins Road & Kings Road
Parafield Gardens



Featuring entertainment for kids and adults alike:
Petting Zoo | Weaving | Painting | Craft | Boomerang making
Playdough making | Dreamcatcher making | Face painting
Balloon twisting | Henna tattoos | Seated massage
Jumping castle | lunch and afternoon tea and more!



COMMISSIONER FOR
ABORIGINAL CHILDREN
& YOUNG PEOPLE

For more info contact AFSS - Barbara Falla 8205 1521 - 0423 050 886 - barbara.falla@afss.com.au

If you are interested in holding a stall/activity/performance for AFSS Children's Day, please follow this link
<https://www.afss.com.au/connection-to-culture>



Reconciliation Week in Port Lincoln

Reconciliation week started with a delicious morning tea for AFSS staff and young people, provided by the Port Lincoln Bakery. We were then invited to the Port Lincoln Hospital, where AFSS Manger Angela Backman, Family Based Care Officer Chloe Warren, Carer-Liaison Officer Toni-Lee and Gambling Officer Simon Noack, attended Port Lincoln Hospital and the Reconciliation Week Morning Tea and Tour, organised by Renee Coluburg, Project Officer/Commissioning Aboriginal Health for the Eyre & Far North Local Health Network.

Toni-Lee stated "We went on a tour and during that tour they spoke about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples not having a good experience and how they can make it more culturally, emotionally and physically safe"; not just for clients but for community members who are interested in a career pathway. They have training rooms to help with Nursing degrees and a Uni hub to help with anyone wanting to study health."

For any information about employment and career opportunities, please contact James Blewit, Aboriginal Workforce Project Officer on (08) 7669 1015.



As a part of Reconciliation week, Gambling Officer Simon Noack, Family Based Care worker Chloe Warren and Community Safety & Wellbeing Facilitator Mel Mcnab, on behalf of AFSS Port Lincoln office, attended a Community Breakfast and a Cook Out hosted by Lincoln Gardens Primary School. At the Cook out, we had a feed of Kangaroo Tail, as prepared by the year 5,6 & 7 boys and traditional damper, prepared by the year 5,6 & 7 girls. Community came together, sharing a feed and yarn around the fire. Students were spoiled and offered a big cook up of bacon, eggs and pancakes, they could bring their family to the Community Breakfast. A big thank you goes out to Principal Sandra Spencer and her incredible team who worked tirelessly at ensuring everyone felt welcome and all had full bellies, with plenty of leftovers taken home.

Footy Training with Fr. Paul Crotty @ the Coober Pedy **YOUTH SHED**

The start of the footy season has begun and so every Tuesdays and Thursdays we go to the oval and learn footy skills and have a few kicks.

The kids love the cooler weather and the footy has a lot of the locals coming to learn from one of the best, Fr. Paul Crotty, our local Catholic Priest. (Who fyi played in the VFL back in the day).





June 3 - Mabo Day



Mabo Day - June 1 - 2023 - Mount Gambier

Aboriginal Family Support Services celebrated Mabo Day on 1 June 2023 and Torres Strait Islander Elder, Uncle Jack Sailor was honoured for his continuous contribution to the Mount Gambier Community.

The event was attended by local community, services and agencies. Everyone enjoyed learning about the Torres Strait Islands and the journey of Eddie Koiki Mabo.

The community was given a taste of Torres Strait Island foods cooked by AFSS staff member Dawn Cardona, from the recipes taught by her Grandmother, who is from the Badu and Maguiag Islands of the Torres Strait. The community was treated to Fried Island Scones, Simur Chicken and Sop Sop.



For Our Elders

NAIDOC Week

2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

@naidocweek @naidocweek facebook.com/NAIDOC

For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.



naidoc.org.au

Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.



AFSS NDIS + SILS Represent @ Reconciliation in the West 2023!

The AFSS NDIS + SILS team had fun hosting an interactive stall at this year's 'Reconciliation in the West' event held at Taoundi College on June 1.

It was a deadly day to engage in our local and wider community, and with more than 900 school students in attendance, our AFSS Show Bags were snapped up quickly!

We had talented henna artist Vanessa from Velvet Henna creating beautiful designs on the hands of visitors to our stall, and two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag-inspired 'Lolly Jar' Competitions with 'Guess the Number of Lollies' and 'Best Joke' which proved very popular. Congratulations to Dusty (correct lolly guess) and Cash (best joke entry) from Ngutu College for winning our Lolly Jar competitions!

It was wonderful to catch up with friends and family and celebrate National Reconciliation Week 2023 in our community.





Staff Updates



*Peter Shattock, Senior Manager,
Corporate Services.*

Farewell to AFSS Senior Manager Corporate Services after 15 years

Peter Shattock joined AFSS 15 years ago and has been an integral part in AFSS development and growth over that time.

In 2008 AFSS had about 10 worksites and 100 staff; we now have over 40 worksites and over 450 staff.

As the Senior Manager Corporate Services, Peter's contribution to this extraordinary growth has been unprecedented in regard to his commitment and dedication.

One of the first to arrive and almost always the last to leave; Peter has also spent many weekends viewing and buying houses to accommodate the children that come into AFSS care.

Peter is held in high esteem not only by the Board, the Chief Executive, his peers and staff, but also by the many stakeholders and external parties that he has worked with over many years.

The relationships he has developed with external stakeholders, be they with funding

bodies or contractors and suppliers, has ensured that AFSS is well placed in regard to its stability and future growth.

Peter's wise counsel, support and good humour have been sought and appreciated by many at AFSS and the few words on this page do not do justice to an irreplaceable asset that Peter has been to AFSS and he will be sorely missed.

Peter is a man of great integrity and empathy and his work with AFSS leaves a legacy of which he can be truly proud.



*Simon Noack, Gambling Support
Worker, Port Lincoln.*

Hi, my name is Simon Noack.

I have lived in Port Lincoln for the last 30 years. I previously worked in the fishing and security industries. I have 3 wonderful children and a beautiful partner of 25 years whom I am also a carer for. I previously worked for AFSS as a Support Worker in both of the youth residential houses in Port Lincoln for 5 and a half years. In my new role as Gambling Support Worker I get to work closely with clients and other NGO's as well as volunteering for organisations such as Foodbank. My new position also allows me more time to spend with family.



*Kate Rice, Management Support
Officer, Adelaide.*

Hi, My name is Kate Rice and I have started as a Management Support Officer. For the last 15 years I had been working for Maxima, a not-for-profit company that supported people in gaining employment through programs of training, recruitment support, DES and NDIS. I worked in the Corporate Services team and was responsible for Fleet, Insurance, Quality Compliance, WHS and Injury Management and Wellbeing. I am looking forward to being part of a community based company that is working to support families and learning something new.

I live in the Rostrevor area with my husband Ashley, son Ethan and daughter Isabelle. My husband works in IT support at Pact IT Solutions. My 18 year old son is my accident prone child, keeping me on my toes with new challenges. While luckily my 14 year daughter has better balance and coordination, it must be from all of her dance lessons. In my spare time I enjoy walking the trails around Morialta Falls with my dog, a mini dachshund called Kaiser. I also spend a lot of time in the kitchen with my daughter, where we enjoy baking together, anything from biscuits to elaborately decorated cakes.



Khiara Gibson, NDIS 'Be With Me' Navigator.

My name is Khiara Gibson I am a proud Wirangu, Arabana, Kuyani women, I was born and raised in Adelaide, South Australia.

I live with my partner Jake who I have been with for 8 years now. I also live with my three fur babies called Ninja, Orleana and Avery. My partner, fur babies and family are the most important thing in my life, especially my nieces who I adore so much. I have been working for AFSS for 8 years, coming up to 9 years now, and I started off as a permanent part-time Youth Support worker in Residential Services.

I am now one of the new NDIS Navigators Holding the full-time position within the "Be With Me" program and I'm working along side Ricache and Eileen.

Coming into the NDIS Navigator role, I'm looking forward to furthering my skills and growing more and making a difference within the community.



Congratulations to AFSS Senior Manager, Cultural Clinician Kerry Rogers who on Tuesday 10 May attended her graduation ceremony to celebrate the completion of a Bachelor of Psychological Science. What a great achievement!

25 years of Service from AFSS CE Sharron Williams

We would like to take this opportunity to celebrate and congratulate AFSS CE – Sharron Williams on her 25 years of Service.

We appreciate your strong commitment to the Aboriginal Children, Families and wider community. Being a CE, we are sure is very rewarding and challenging at times.

Seeing AFSS direction over the past 25 years change to ensure that the children, families and community are the primary focus, has been a credit to you and your dedication in this space - along with the dedicated staff who work tirelessly alongside you to make it all happen.

So from the AFSS Board, we would like to take this time to say thank you and we appreciate your dedication to the Aboriginal Community.

On behalf of the AFSS Board
Donna Henry - AFSS Chairperson



A bouquet for Sharron chosen by AFSS Board members



Term 2 - Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up Healthy - Port Lincoln High School

AFSS Community Safety & Wellbeing facilitator Mel shared the Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up Healthy workshop with the WEENA program at the Port Lincoln High School. WEENA is a program - which stands for "Wellbeing, Engage, Educate, Network and Achieve" - focuses on building self-esteem and confidence in cultural identity, engaging with community, building relationships based on mutual respect, encouraging active self-development and yarning about women's health, safety and nutrition. "WEENA" aims to support girls to build constructive relationships with each other, their school, families and community members.

The Year 7 girls kicked off this year's schedule with a day centred on health, nutrition and wellbeing. Mel from Aboriginal Family Support Services connected with the girls, talking about respect for themselves and each other, with a focus on health, budgeting and nutrition. Students cooked a nutritious meal, learning valuable life skills and trying

new foods. If you wish to enquire about entry into the WEENA program or the program model, please contact either Shantelle Pickett, Nicole Carter or Nicole Cunningham at the Port Lincoln High School on (08) 8683 6000.



Where to find us

Adelaide
134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
☎ 8205 1500

Berri
23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
☎ 8582 3192

Ceduna
28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
☎ 8625 3466

Coober Pedy
Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
☎ 8672 3066

Cross Road
503 Cross Road
South Plympton SA 5038
☎ 8297 5708

Mount Gambier
20 Elizabeth Street
Mount Gambier SA 5290
☎ 8723 6110

Morphett Vale
Unit 1-365 Main South Road
Morphett Vale SA 5162
☎ 8186 4000

Murray Bridge
67 Adelaide Road
Murray Bridge SA 5253
☎ 8532 1790

Paralowie
254 Kings Road
Paralowie SA 5108
☎ 8281 5440

Port Augusta
8-10 Victoria Parade
Port Augusta SA 5700
☎ 8641 0907

Port Lincoln
21 Washington Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
☎ 8683 1909

Port Pirie
23 Norman Street
Port Pirie SA 5540
☎ 8632 2227

Salisbury
4 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 8182 6567

Salisbury
20 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 8281 3440

Whyalla
19B Darling Terrace
Whyalla SA 5600
☎ 8644 0116



Participants cooking up a storm in Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing Up Healthy.

Term 2 - Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up Healthy & Rules and Routines - Metro

Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up

Healthy participants say they enjoyed the 5

week program and said they learned a lot about understanding good health, nutrition, food safety, healthy lifestyle choices, menu and budget planning.

They learned practical ways to manage money and learned how to cook healthy food choices.

Participants say they encourage other families and friends to take part in the program.



Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Rules and Routines participants enjoyed participating in the program and recommend it to everyone they know.

One participant stated she will use the role modelling in the home and how to be consistent for her children by using the household daily routines and family house rules which was created during the Rules and Routines program. This program has given her more structure in creating consistency and effective structure in her house.

Contact: CS&W Facilitators for the next workshop times

☎ 8281 5440 🌐 csw@afss.com.au 📍 254 Kings Road, Paralowie SA 5108