



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

July - August 2019



The weather didn't dampen the spirits of the crowd who took part in this year's Adelaide NAIDOC March.

Community celebrates NAIDOC Week

AFSS was once again pleased and honoured to host the Elders' Tent at the NAIDOC 2019 Family Fun Day held in Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square) on Friday 12 July.

It is a privilege to be invited back each year to show our support for NAIDOC and our appreciation of Aboriginal Elders from across South Australia. AFSS staff from our In-Care Foster Care Services and Community Safety and Wellbeing teams, along with other AFSS team members, assisted throughout the day. This included setting up the Elders' Tent and the AFSS stall which were in two different locations. Once set up was complete, a number of staff took part in the

NAIDOC March to Parliament House before rushing back to Tarntanyangga to help out with the AFSS Stall and the Elders' Tent. It was a busy day!

On offer for the day were tea, coffee and water along with delicious scones with jam and cream, hot pies, sausage rolls and pasties.

The cold and wet weather did little to keep people away and during several downpours, the Elders' Tent was bursting at the seams, keeping people fed, dry and warm.

The Elders' Tent provided an opportunity for everyone, young and old, to sit down, have a yarn

and enjoy a nice cuppa with scones and some hot food.

Many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations provided information about their services at a number of stalls set up around the Square and there were giveaways and information sharing with Aboriginal community members and others who came along to enjoy the NAIDOC celebrations. AFSS also provided a free Winter Warmer raffle with four great prizes. Pictured (page 3) is the AFSS Raffle 1st prize winner Marianne with a large basket of goodies!

See page 3 for more NAIDOC pictures.

A message from the Chief Executive

We have had a very exciting past few months here at AFSS. NAIDOC Week has once again proven to be a very busy time, with a great range of events and activities held throughout South Australia.

AFSS metro staff participated in the NAIDOC Family Fun Day, which was held at Tarntanyangga, Victoria Square following the NAIDOC March. Our regional offices also ensured that they took part in local celebrations for Aboriginal community members, young and old alike.

AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day is continuing to grow, with over 500 participants attending this year. The day saw a wide variety of entertainment and arts and craft activities for the children, including the Tal-Kin-Jeri Dancers, Dusty Feet Mob, face painting and much more. A great time was had by all. We keep raising the bar with Children's Day and we look forward to an even bigger and better event next year.

The 2019 SNAICC Conference will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre this year, from 2-5 September. Speakers from around the country will discuss strategies and share ideas on how best to support and strengthen the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. AFSS will be undertaking four separate presentations during the Conference to showcase our work and the programs that we have been running throughout the year.

AFSS is also thrilled to introduce the New Dreams program, which is one of six programs run by the Community Safety and Wellbeing team, based in Smithfield. It is designed to provide Aboriginal women and children with the opportunity to escape from family violence and give them a chance to establish safe and stable housing. You can find out more about this exciting new program on page 16 of this newsletter or by contacting Peter Frankcom, Coordinator, at our Smithfield office on 8254 1077.



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*



www.afss.com.au

NAIDOC Week Celebrations



1st prize raffle winner Marianne Verigan.



Rachael Dodd, Assessment Officer and Robyn Bizilis, Assessment Officer.



Bridie Valentine Carer Liaison Officer, Metro, and Nicholas Haines.



Finn Hazelton-Hammond, Program Facilitator, Smithfield and Nartiea Morgan, Program Facilitator, Smithfield.



Lynette Crocker, Warren Guppy, Merle Simpson and Marty Reeve.





Bronte Warneke, Gambling Support Worker, Murray Bridge, and Stacey Jamieson, CSW Program Facilitator.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations - Murray Bridge

Ngarrindjeri Country celebration this year included the traditional Elder's lunch, football match, netball matches with a community BBQ on Sunday 7 July in Murray Bridge.

The weather was very kind and brought out at least 300 people to celebrate NAIDOC Week on Monday 8 July, when we walked across the main car bridge, up the main street to the local council offices where the Ngarrindjeri NAIDOC Awards and morning tea were held.

After arriving at the council offices, the Deadly Nannas sang, flags were raised and a minute's silence was observed before 10 awards were handed out.

Uncle Fran Lovegrove was recognised as Male Elder of the Year for his involvement on numerous committees which work to benefit the community, for his mentorship and his tireless work for community causes.

Lena Rigney was named Female Elder of the Year for her volunteer

storytelling and arts and craft work, both in schools and elsewhere, and for writing a book which will be published by Scholastic next year.

She briefly thanked the crowd for the honour. "Gee, this is unexpected!" she said

For contributing to his school community through classes and extra-curricular activities, including didgeridoo lessons and a Nunga choir, Rayne Smith was recognised as Male Youth of the Year.

Another classroom leader, Tarsha Humphrey, was named Female Youth of the Year for having overcome challenges, recorded consistent attendance and being a fine role model.

The driving force behind a National Reconciliation Week event in Murray Bridge, Headspace's Anthony Wilson, was named Worker of the Year. Anthony had won a Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal grant for the event, gained support from local service providers and welcomed children

from almost every local school to Sturt Reserve on May 31.

Carer of the Year was Mark Elliott, for his advocacy for the development and enhancement of Aboriginal services, and for aiding collaboration between those services, local government and health services.

Young rugby and football player Lachlan Miller received the Sportsman of the Year award for including and encouraging those around him in school and, more recently, South Australian representative sides. MC Steve Sumner described him as a superstar in the making.

A Junior Encouragement award went to Dommy Colmer for helping younger students at school and including them in games, for welcoming teachers and classmates in language every day, for respecting himself and others, and for always having a smile on his face.

Deadly Nanna Sandy Wilson accepted an Artist of the Year award given to the women's singing group. "We do what we do because we want to do it, not because there's an award at the end of it, so this has come as a nice surprise," she said.

Chair Vicki Hartman accepted an Organisation of the Year award for the Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service. "I've only been there a couple of years and I've just seen the place grow. It's a really nice environment to visit if you want to get involved in the programs they have running," she said.

Mayor Brenton Lewis said it was important to recognise both Elders and young people at times such as NAIDOC Week, recognising the truths of the past and the potential of the future.

"The true story of colonisation must be told, but I don't think we should dwell too long on things that happened in the past that were very regretful. What we can do is influence the future. Going forward, working together, building on respect (for each other), is what is going to make this community better," he said.

After the awards and morning tea, everyone was encouraged to spend time at the Family Fun Day at Ninkowar on the river between the two bridges, where there was a petting zoo, community BBQ cooked by Mobilong Rotary, display and information stalls by local support agencies with loads of giveaways for everyone.

The Deadly Nannas singing group and the Rjaruki dance group from Meningie/Raukkan entertained the crowd and even encouraged people to have a try at dancing with them.

Once again NAIDOC on Ngarrindjeri Country was a time of fun and celebration.



NAIDOC in Port Lincoln

On Friday 5 July, Port Lincoln opened NAIDOC with the community march and opening ceremony. Along with the community, schools also participated, with numbers swelling into the hundreds, walking from the Post Office to the Yacht Club along Tasman Terrace. Local Bangarla woman, Renee Richards, officially welcomed everyone to the event with a Welcome to Country and Mayor Brad Flaherty followed with some words about NAIDOC and what it means for the wider community to be involved in such events.

Tuesday 9 July, the kids' disco was held at Mallee Park clubrooms. The dress-up theme was a hit; there were many fairies and super heroes dancing amongst the crowd, with MTC Dance Studio coming along to show the kids their hip hop moves.

As the week progressed the weather started to turn cold and wet, which saw reduced numbers at the much anticipated community cookout on 10 July, held at the Mallee Park Wombat Pit. Needless to say the food was as amazing as ever, with kangaroo stew, kangaroo tails, wombat, damper and a community BBQ served to those who were brave enough to venture out in the cold.



On 11 July the youth took orders and served at the Elders' Lunch which was held at the Grand Tasman Hotel, followed by the popular Quiz/Trivia night on 12 July. To end the week's celebrations, old and young attended the NAIDOC ball on 13 July, held at the Mallee Park Football Club clubrooms.

The Port Lincoln NAIDOC celebrations were the result of a combined effort from the following agencies; Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council, Australian Red Cross, Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, CentaCare, Mallee Park Football Club, Housing SA, Save the Children, Baptist Care SA, SAPOL, West Coast Youth and Community Support

Service, Eyre Futures, Community House, Community Hub, Bunnings, Port Lincoln High School, National Resource Management, Rotary, AFSS, Department for Prime Minister and Cabinet and Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Services. Their efforts resulted in a great week of activities and celebration.

The NAIDOC Committee would also like to thank the following business for their generous donations; McDonalds, Wendy's, Subway, Lincoln Camera Centre, Woolworths, Spot on Fishing and Tackle, Priceline, Lincoln Surf and Scallywags.



NAIDOC Week in Ceduna



Congratulations to the NAIDOC Committee, of which AFSS is a member, for making the week even bigger and better than last year. The week's celebrations commenced with the Ball on the evening of Saturday 6 July. This was followed on Sunday by a Church Service and Gospel Night. Monday saw the NAIDOC March, followed by a Family Day where the NAIDOC Awards were presented. Here a young person in AFSS foster care received an award for Young Male Sports Person of the Year. Congratulations!

That evening AFSS, in partnership with the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council, held a family friendly movie night. We gave out bags with goodies to all attending. The night included popcorn, juices and hot dogs. We prepared and handed out 300 kids size hot dogs. AFSS also had an information stall at the entrance. It was a great evening. On Tuesday evening a Quiz Night was held. Wednesday was the Elders' Brunch. Thursday morning began with an arts event followed by the Fancy Dress

Disco, which is always a hit with the children and young people in Ceduna. Before this, the committee held a Silent Disco for children and young people with a disability. This included tables with sensory experiences, a large dome tent decorated with an underwater theme and a relaxation corner with huge cushions.

Friday was Golf Day with the Youth Ball held in the evening. On the final day of NAIDOC week a language event was held, followed by a concert of Electric Fields to finish off the very successful week of celebrations.

Mount Gambier NAIDOC Celebrations at Pangula

Mannamurna

Term 2 has been a busy time in Mount Gambier, finishing up with NAIDOC Week. AFSS was pleased to be invited to join in with the celebrations. Damien Ralphs, Program Facilitator for Community Safety and Wellbeing attended the NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony and NAIDOC March concluding at the NAIDOC Family Fun Day. Due to inclement weather the event was moved indoors to Pangula Mannamurna, which was packed with community members attending. AFSS hosted a come and try tasting of water infusion recipes and promoted the Healthy Homes, Resilient Families programs. A large number of community members engaged in conversation and wanted to know more about AFSS and our programs, and the children loved sampling the nine flavours on offer of water infusion recipes. Everyone loved the AFSS giveaways, ensuring that there

wasn't much to pack away at the close of the event!

Great entertainment was provided by the band The MERRG and local Radio 5GTR broadcast live throughout the day making sure that those who could not attend were included in the celebrations.

Congratulations to the NAIDOC Award winners who were announced on the day.

The team at Pangula did a fantastic job and thanks go to all who assisted both on the day and leading up to the event.



NAIDOC Week in Port Augusta

Port Augusta staff joined in different activities throughout NAIDOC week including the march, Family Fun Day and the quiz night. Staff provided a stall at the Family Fun Day hosted by Pika Wiya Health Service where we were able to provide information about AFSS and giveaways to those who attended as well as network with other agencies.





From left: Brigitte Geopfert, Ivan Copley, Helen Laxton, Warren Guppy, Becky Matthews and Susie Crisa.

NAIDOC SA 2019 Award Winners announced at Lord Mayor's Morning Tea

Well what a week NAIDOC 2019 was!

AFSS acknowledges the amazing work done by the NAIDOC SA Committee for presenting another great year of NAIDOC events and activities. Our thanks to the NAIDOC SA Committee and of course Scharlene Lamont, the NAIDOC Chairperson. On Monday 8 July the NAIDOC SA 2019 Award winners were announced at the Lord Mayor's Morning Tea at the Adelaide Town Hall and the Aboriginal Flag Raising Ceremony took place.

Below is the list of the Award Winners for 2019. Congratulations to them all!

Apprentice Trainee of the year 2019 - **Chaelyn Sumner** - Sponsored by Maxima

Artist of the year 2019 - **Taree Sansbury** - Sponsored by the Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement

Male Elder of the year 2019 - **Uncle Roy Coulthard** - Sponsored by Community Housing

Female Elder of the year 2019 - **Aunty Yvonne Agius** - Sponsored by Community Housing

Caring for Country Award of the year 2019 - **Merle Simpson** - Sponsored by Department Environment and Water

Business of the Year 2019 - **Yellaka** - Sponsored by Indigenous Business of the Year

Male Sports Person of the year 2019 - **Robbie Young** - Sponsored by Office for Recreation Sport and Racing

Female Sports Person of the year 2019 - **Rikki Milera Wilson** - Sponsored by Office for Recreation Sport and Racing

Scholar of the year 2019 is **Sharon Sulton** - Sponsored by the University of South Australia

The first NAIDOC SA LGBTIQ Person of the year 2019 - **Charlotte Dare** - Sponsored by Andrew Birtwistle-Smith

Young Person of the year 2019 - **Courtney Hammond** - Sponsored by NAIDOC SA

Lifetime achievement Award 2019 - **Aunty Raylene Champion** - Sponsored by NAIDOC SA

The NAIDOC SA Person of the year 2019 - **Sarah Betts** - Sponsored by AnglicareSA



Raylene Champion, Lois O'Donoghue, Ivan Copley.



Mount Gambier Prison Healthy Homes, Resilient Families Program



Pictured from left: Damien Ralphs, Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitator and Angela Sloan, Prison Aboriginal Liaison Officer Mount Gambier Prison.

Mount Gambier Prison Aboriginal Liaison Officer, Angela Sloan and prison staff have worked closely with AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing Program Facilitator Damien Ralphs to ensure AFSS programs are welcomed and delivered to clients.

The prison has been accommodating and extended additional invitations for AFSS staff to attend Reconciliation and NAIDOC events. The painting above was showcased at their Reconciliation event and painted by a client of AFSS who is in Mount Gambier Prison.

Mount Gambier Prison awarded additional in-house NAIDOC awards to participants who had graduated from AFSS programs as well as putting on a fantastic spread of kangaroo and crocodile. A live band with some talented

musicians from the prison played Aboriginal music and launched their Healing Circle on site.

There were five graduates from the Growing Up Healthy program and six completed the Routines and Rules program. Feedback included comments such as "Keep all the different courses coming as we can learn from Aboriginal courses" and "Yes I found it interesting and it has definitely changed my way of thinking and routines."

Congratulations to the men who completed the two programs.

Healthy Homes, Resilient Families in Mount Gambier

Grant High School hosted AFSS' Community Safety and Wellbeing for the Healthy Homes program in their Home Economics classroom.

Five parents and one student completed the Growing Up Healthy and Routines & Rules programs.

The participants enjoyed cooking as a group and spending time out of the house with the kids and other adults. Some comments from participants about what they found interesting in the program included "All the ways I can cut out so much sugar intake for myself and my kids", "Nice recipes, helpful knowledge about food safety and nutrition" and "Cooking together as a team. Having fun and learning."

Clients also had great things to

say about the Routines and Rules program including: "The nicer ways I can word my rules so my kids will better understand them" and "I enjoyed the course. It was exciting. It was good to get the family involved."

Congratulations to Brittany, Brydie, Cherelle, Kile, Salina and Taylor.



Just for KIDS



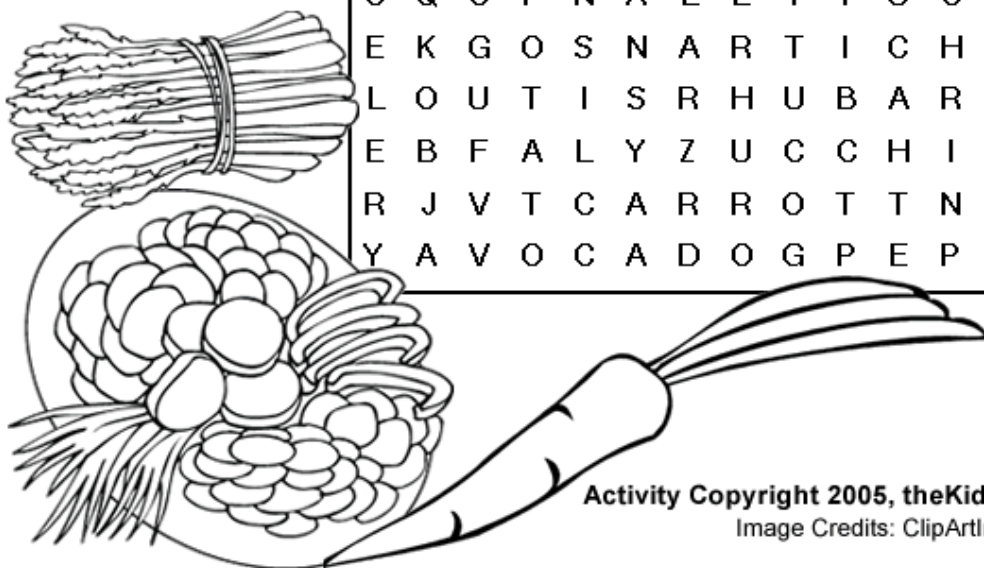
Vegetables Word Search

Search the puzzle for the words shown in the word list.
Circle each word that you find until you find all of the 24
vegetable-related words.

Word List

brussels sprouts	
potato	cucumber
pumpkin	lettuce
alfalfa	parsley
artichoke	pepper
asparagus	rhubarb
avocado	carrot
broccoli	radish
cabbage	beans
cauliflower	spinach
celery	zucchini
corn	yam
	pea

Y	A	M	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	R	B	A	G
C	A	U	L	I	F	L	O	W	E	R	D	Q	L	P
C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R	N	Z	T	T	C	F	A
Y	Y	N	S	P	I	N	A	C	H	S	J	O	A	R
Z	R	O	A	E	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	R	L	S
M	Z	O	R	A	D	I	S	H	M	V	B	N	F	L
K	A	A	S	P	A	R	A	G	U	S	G	X	A	E
R	F	A	Q	M	B	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	Y	Y
B	R	U	S	S	E	L	S	S	P	R	O	U	T	S
C	Q	O	P	N	A	L	E	T	T	U	C	E	L	M
E	K	G	O	S	N	A	R	T	I	C	H	O	K	E
L	O	U	T	I	S	R	H	U	B	A	R	B	D	T
E	B	F	A	L	Y	Z	U	C	H	I	N	I	H	
R	J	V	T	C	A	R	R	O	T	T	N	E	F	F
Y	A	V	O	C	A	D	O	G	P	E	P	P	E	R



Activity Copyright 2005, theKidzpage.com

Image Credits: ClipArtInc



New and Current Staff Updates



Amber Shannon, Case Worker, Stronger Families, Ceduna.

Amber Shannon celebrates 10 years with AFSS

Amber Shannon started work with AFSS on 10 June 2009. She was the first employee when AFSS opened the office in Ceduna.

She has seen AFSS grow from having one program with four staff in the Stronger Families program. Then Out of Home Care - Family Based Care was added, making a total of six staff in the office.

In 2011 the Ceduna Residential Services program was added.

Now AFSS employs a total of 25 staff in Ceduna. Congratulations on your 10 years of service Amber from all of the team at AFSS!



Peter Frankcom, Coordinator, New Dreams, Smithfield.

Peter joins the New Dreams program Smithfield

Peter Frankcom has recently started his new role as Coordinator of the New Dreams program based at Smithfield.

Most of us know Peter as the Recruitment/Assessment Officer in the Out of Home Based Family Care team based in Head Office, Adelaide.

He comes to his new role with a wealth of experience in the social welfare sector and we look forward to seeing the program thrive under his leadership.



Jo Millard, Case Worker, Stronger Families, Metropolitan team.

Hi my name is Jo and I have recently joined the Stronger Families Team - Metro. My passion is working with Aboriginal families

and I have been privileged to have had a long-standing history of 14 years working at AFSS.

After having a small break exploring the child protection sector with other agencies I am absolutely humbled to be given the opportunity to return to AFSS, working with families in the Family Preservation and Reunification space.

I am looking forward to working alongside families in building their capacity around understanding and navigating the child protection system in a culturally safe way and ensuring that children are always connected to culture and reunified with their family when safe to do so. I am very excited and honoured to be working with Aboriginal families and looking forward to meeting and connecting with everyone from AFSS.



Rangarirai Mazivofa, Youth Support Worker, Metropolitan team.

My name is Ranga and I am currently with AFSS Residential Services (Metropolitan) working as a Youth Support Worker. I am a recent Social Work graduate from Flinders University with a Masters in Social Work Graduate Entry. Over the course of my studies I gained a genuine passion to work with Aboriginal families, children and young people, in particular those at risk or already involved with DCP. I

am enjoying my current role as it is providing me with an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Aboriginal children and young people in care whilst engaging some basic social work principles and theories.

I look forward to a long and rewarding career with AFSS.



Kirsten Lucev, Case Worker, Community Safety and Wellbeing, Smithfield.

Hi my name is Kirsten Lucev. I have recently joined the Community Safety & Wellbeing team at Smithfield as a Case Worker and I am excited to join the team.

I have recently moved back to my home town from Darwin where I lived for the past 19 years.

I have been working in the community sector for about 20 years holding a wide variety of roles within this field, Alcohol and Other Drugs counsellor and case worker in the Therapeutic Rehabilitation Centre, rural and remote mental health case worker, youth worker and for the last eight years I worked as a case worker/facilitator/parent educator at Catholiccare NT within the Family and Wellbeing team.

I hope to continue to give back to the community with my knowledge

and easy going attitude to support families in making good choices for them and their children, to keep families strong and together.

Outside of work, I love spending quality family time with my three daughters and granddaughter.

I love the beach, so I'm looking forward to enjoying summertime in Adelaide where I will be able to swim in the ocean. I also love to travel anywhere and experience new cultures and food.

I look forward to working with everyone and I am so happy to have been given this opportunity to work at AFSS.



Isaya McKenzie, Cultural Officer.

Isaya makes a move from AFSS Support Worker, to Cultural Officer

Hi, my name is Isaya McKenzie and I have been working for AFSS for over two years now. I have spent most of those two years as a Residential Youth Support Worker in the northern suburbs.

In that time I have been working with the children to build rapport,

supporting and connecting as well as educating them about their culture.

Outside work, I play football for Central District Football Club. I use this connection to get the young people involved in footy clinics to improve their physical health. I have played senior footy for Centrals for over 6 years now and in that time I have been involved in the under 16s Boomerangs team, where I was lucky enough to travel to South Africa for a cultural exchange tour and to also play some footy as well! I have been a part of the Port Adelaide Aboriginal Football Academy, where I received my Certificate 3 in Sports and Recreation, and represented my state in the under 18s championship - all while completing year 12.

Being a proud Ngarrindjeri and Adnyamathanha man, I have always been interested in mentoring Aboriginal youth. I did some mentoring for the Port Adelaide Aboriginal Academy and this is where the passion started for working with Aboriginal youth.

I have only just recently filled the position as Cultural Officer (Metro) and I am very happy to be sharing my knowledge of Aboriginal culture with the children.

I look forward to helping them maintain their connection to community, family and culture.



What is Children's Day?

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day is the largest national day to celebrate Aboriginal children. This event is celebrated across Australia each year on 4 August.

Children's Day is a time for Aboriginal families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children. It is a day for all Australians to show their support as well as learn about the crucial role that culture, family and community play in the life of every child.

How did it start?

In 1988, the first National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day was held on 4 August and was set against the backdrop of protests led by Aboriginal people and their supporters during the bicentennial year.

"A day was needed to celebrate our children, to give them confidence and make them feel special and included".

This Children's Day theme this year was *We Play, We Learn, We Belong*, promoting the critical importance of early years education for Aboriginal children.

Since 2016 AFSS has been driving the yearly Children's Day event in Adelaide. AFSS' commitment to this special event is evident in all the hard work and organisation behind the scenes which make this day a great and memorable event for children.

This year AFSS' Connection to

Culture day was held at the Parafield Gardens Recreation Centre with well over 500 children and adults coming through the doors. This was a great day for all, with morning tea, lunch and coffee provided.

Karl Tamaru Smith opened the day with Welcome to Country and Garry Goldsmith was an entertaining MC, providing the day with structure and humour.

In the centre of the recreation centre were craft activities set up for the kids, which included macaroni picture making, bead making, pebble painting, play dough, slime making, face painting, henna tattoos, badge making and canvas painting to name a



few. Lucky for the Centre builders' plastic had been laid underneath as the kids' artistic flares were set free! Some creative masterpieces were certainly made by the kids and also adults letting their inner child loose.

A jumping castle, petting animal farm and basketball workshops were also provided for kids' entertainment. The baby calf and squealing pig were a great hit with families.

A special visit from the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People mascot Oog was memorable. His short yellow stature was a big hit with the kids – and some of the grown-ups – who lined

up to get photos and hugs.

The day was filled with live entertainment and was once again graced with the gorgeous children from Kalaya and Kura Yerlo Children's Centres, whose voices and presence highlighted why AFSS supports and drives Children's Day. The Twang Bangers provided some boot scootin' music to the delight of several AFSS staff whose back up dancing was well received.

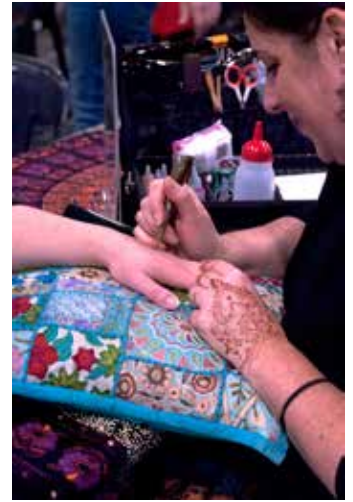
Another highlight was the Dusty Feet Mob, who came all the way from Port Augusta for the day and the ever popular Tal-Kin-Jeri Dancers. The young people involved in these groups are truly inspiring with their passion to keep culture alive through dance.

A special mention needs to be made to Aunty Stephanie with her bead making table and Aunty Janice and Aunty Lynette with their weaving table. Their kindness and enthusiasm to share and talk with everyone about culture was much appreciated.

This year Children's Day featured over 23 information stalls and AFSS acknowledges their contribution, as without them the day would not have been as successful as it was.

Each year AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day gets bigger and better. A big thank you to the AFSS staff who arrived early to help set up and to the DCP staff, Ben, Jade and Amy, who also arrived early to help.

And well done Helen and of course, to Barb, AFSS Cultural Officer, for her relentless organisation of AFSS Children's Day celebrations.



AFSS staff achieve through Gladys Elphick program



In February this year, two of our Aboriginal female staff were invited to participate in the inaugural *Gladys Elphick Sisterhood Foundation Leadership and Personal Development program*.

Funded by the Department for the Prime Minister and Cabinet, it is designed to assist Aboriginal women enhance their leadership and personal skills.

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Wright (Reception/Administration) and Kim Appelby (Payroll Coordinator) were offered the chance to participate in the program, which consisted of guest speakers and activities, helping to build self-confidence and empowerment, public speaking skills, leadership, networks and personal strengths.

The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on 5 August, where participants were tasked with speaking for 2-5 minutes to the audience – a very daunting task – before being presented with their certificates.

Peter Shattock (Senior Manager, Corporate Services) and Rebecca Braithwaite (Manager, Finance & Administration), who are Lizzie's and Kim's line managers, were very excited to be in the audience.

Kim and Lizzie both did a fantastic job with their presentations, echoing the sentiments being expressed by all the participants about how much they had learned, grown personally and enjoyed making strong connections with their new sisters.

With this new-found confidence, we asked each to tell everyone a little about what they enjoyed most and discuss some of the main things they learned.

Lizzie: I enjoyed all workshops. They have been engaging, informative and confidence-building. The facilitators made you feel comfortable so you were able to speak freely.

Being participants we have become more open to change, have a more positive attitude, increased confidence, are better at dealing with change and better problem solving skills.

The Stepping Stones address by Danielle James stood out the most. I really enjoyed hearing stories from the ladies who participated, hearing their journeys, and what their aims are for the future. This was a part of the workshop by Vicki Hartman.

Getting to meet other Aboriginal ladies of all ages has been really good.

I don't get opportunities like this. I always hear others talk about what programs and studies they are doing and think, 'I would have loved to have done that.'

When I was asked to participate in this program I was, like, 'Yes finally – yeah!'

So doing this I was making sure that I was going to get as much out of the sessions as possible. I will take what we have learned from this program with me at work and in my community.

Kim: I feel privileged to have been given the opportunity from Sharron and my managers to attend the first *Leadership and Personal Development Program* for the Gladys Elphick Sisterhood Foundation. Our group was made up of around 16 women of all ages, communities, backgrounds, and work/study areas.

The program has provided me with the knowledge and tools for my own personal development, presentation and confidence in my ability to be a strong leader both in the workplace and the community. Being able to implement changes through persuasion and influence is just one of the many skills I can take away from this program.

As part of our graduation from the program we were required to give a two-minute presentation to an audience of community leaders, funding bodies, and our respective workplace managers and colleagues. All the sisters did an amazing job and it was a testament to how far we have come in gaining the self-confidence to stand up and be heard.



Lizzie (above) and Kim (below) proudly receiving their Graduation Certificates from Danielle James, Chairperson of the Gladys Elphick Sisterhood Foundation.

Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project

AFSS Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project, is coming to the completion of its first year (a two-year project with funding from the Sidney Myer Foundation). It has been an eventful year and during this time the project has implemented several key actions.

Firstly, the establishment of a steering committee. The committee was established to facilitate discussion, knowledge exchange and to provide advice in the implementation and ongoing running of the project. To date the committee has met four times. The committee comprises of two AFSS board members, AFSS CE, myself as the project officer and AFSS Senior Manager Metropolitan Services.

In addition, the project has been given the opportunity to work in partnership with some key players and is grateful to have the Director from Aboriginal Practice at the Department for Child Protection (DCP), Family Matters, the Guardian from the Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People, the Australian Centre for Child Protection and two Aboriginal community members sitting on the steering committee. Their input has been invaluable as the project continues to strive in making a difference in the lives of Aboriginal families and communities involved in the child protection system.

Secondly, the creation and distribution of the five Fact Sheets regarding the child protection legislation changes that would be of interest to the public. These Fact Sheets have been designed in an attempt to simplify the complicated legal terminology into a more user friendly style. The Fact Sheets are readily available at AFSS offices and on the AFSS website,

www.afss.com.au under the Child Protection program.

An integral part of the project's goal is to engage Aboriginal communities and families involved in the child protection system. To date the project has held nine community forums, both in the Adelaide Metro and country locations. In total 111 people have attended. Whilst the community forums have not had the desired outcomes of large mobs of community members and families attending, those who have attended have found the sessions informative.

Upon seeking feedback and reflection from community and services that attended there have been a number of key learnings. Foremost is that still, despite all the good intentions from welfare, the entrenched mistrust Aboriginal communities hold for child protection authorities is still as raw as it was a decade ago. As the project officer and previously working in welfare I found this ongoing fear and mistrust quite concerning.

Another key learning is that participants, whilst interested in the changes around the legislations, were more interested in knowing how they can get help and support to navigate their involvement with the child protection system.

Families involved in child protection are isolated, judged and feel shamed. As a society we quickly look and blame parents and communities rather than stepping back and looking at the external factors that contribute to a circumstance. In a day and age where funding for early intervention programs is minimal and the expectation is for agencies to do more with less there is the ever-



increasing reality of how our families are meant to get the help they need and want.

As the project officer I have been privileged that several families have asked for support when navigating the child protection system. It has given me the opportunity to see interactions from the other side of the table.

I am aware that often the best intention by welfare to engage with Aboriginal families and communities does not translate through to the front line where most of the engagement takes place between Aboriginal people and the Department.

It poses the question "Why is this still such an issue in this day and age?" and "What in actual fact needs to be done in order to rectify this?"

The project has another year and looks forward to continuing to work for Aboriginal families and communities to get the best results possible. At AFSS we understand that coming to public information sessions can be intimidating and in order to reach a broader audience contact via email or phone is more than welcome.

A suggestion and feedback sheet will be available on the AFSS website shortly.



Exciting news for community!

AFSS launches New Dreams program

On July 1, AFSS introduced a new addition to the suite of programs currently operating from the Smithfield site. It is a program funded by the Department for Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The New Dreams program provides Aboriginal women and children with the opportunity to escape from family violence and to experience safe, stable housing.

Support will be provided to allow participants to undertake further education and to become employment ready. A requirement of New Dreams is that children are attending school on a regular basis and support will be in place to ensure this occurs. After a period of engagement negotiations with housing providers will be undertaken; housing may be available in a safe area and six-month leases will be allocated. All families engaged in New Dreams will be encouraged and assisted to form positive connections with the community and to learn about their cultural identity.

There are guidelines that participants will need to follow after acceptance into the program. Entry to New Dreams is via a referral that can be initiated by the future client or by any agency.

Those accepted will work hand-in-hand with their caseworker to ensure successful completion

of their involvement with the program, which can be for a maximum of two years.

At the completion it is intended that participants will be self-sufficient, gainfully employed, children are being educated and the family is safe. New Dreams is staffed by three case workers, Jayne Fejo, Sachina Maharjan and Guy Yardley. The program is

coordinated by Peter Frankcom and overseeing the initiative is the Smithfield Manager Charmayne Stenhouse.

For referral to the program please contact Peter by emailing csw@afss.com.au or by calling him at the Smithfield office on 8254 1077.



AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing team is pleased to offer

New Dreams

What is New Dreams?

AFSS New Dreams works in partnership with the South Australian Housing Authority (SAHA) to advocate for access to safe and stable housing for Aboriginal women and children who experience family violence.

The Program also supports women and children in other areas of life such as children and schooling, training, education and employment pathways, family safety, cultural identity, and positive connections to community.

How long is housing available?

Housing is available while you are participating in education, training or employment and require support to maintain family safety. If you are not currently participating in any work or education, you need to be ready and wanting to do so.

You will be asked to sign a six-month lease. Your lease will be extended every six months, after you and your case worker determine your ability to keep participating in the program.

Am I eligible for the program?

To be eligible you need to:

- be an Aboriginal woman with at least one school-aged child in your care
- be engaged in education, training or employment, or wanting to do so
- have experience of family violence.

How do I apply for the program?

Please contact AFSS at csw@afss.com.au or the CS&W team below to complete a nomination form.

If you are eligible, we will contact you to invite you and your nominating organisation to attend a meeting to talk about you joining the program.

The New Dreams Program is funded by the Australian Government and supported by the SA Housing Authority.

For more information contact AFSS Smithfield
39A Anderson Walk Smithfield ☎ (08) 8254 1077 🌐 www.afss.com.au



National Aboriginal Islanders' Children Day event 1 August 2019 - Port Augusta

AFSS Port Augusta held an event in celebration of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day by hosting a disco for children aged between five and 13 years.

Staff were expecting around 50 children to attend but were ecstatic to have over 110 children come to the disco.

There was a dress-up photo booth as well as face painting and games throughout the night.

AFSS staff ensured that no child left without a prize, Children's Day bag or lolly bag. Carers and parents also attended and joined in the fun, which was great, and children enjoyed it so much that they were asking at the end of the evening when the next disco will be held!

Local Port Augusta businesses were extremely generous in making donations for the event. We would like to thank the following businesses; Gills Seafood and Chicken, Ians Chicken Hut, Saltbush Surf and Leisure, Kismet's Hair and Beauty Salon, Sportspower, Willsden Deli, Intersport, JM Deli, South Augusta Football Club, Mamma Lou's, Woolworths, Subway, McDonalds, Falcons Basketball Club, Coles, Big W, KFC and Cinema Augusta.



Aboriginal Family Support Services Together with the community

Aboriginal Family Support Services Ltd (AFSS) is South Australia's lead Aboriginal child protection, family safety and wellbeing Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO), providing services with Aboriginal communities for over 40 years.

Our services include:

Aboriginal Gambling Help Service
Community Safety and Wellbeing
Connection to Culture
Family Preservation and Reunification
Gazetted Organisation
NDIA - Community Engagement
OOHC - Family Based Care
OOHC - Residential Services
Service to Aboriginal Youth (STAY)
Youth Homelessness Services



(08) 8205 1500
follow us on Facebook
<https://www.afss.com.au/>



Dr Ross Greene - Helping behaviourally challenged Students do well

On 29 June, four of our carers from Port Lincoln had the opportunity to attend *Helping behaviourally challenged students do well* with Dr Ross Greene.

Dr Greene is the New York Times bestselling author of the influential books, "The Explosive Child", "Lost at School" and "Found and Raising Human Beings" (pictured below).

Dr Greene's collaborative and proactive solutions model is recognised as an evidence-based treatment.

It is based on the premise that challenging behaviours occur when the demands and expectations being placed on children exceeds the child's capacity to respond adaptively, with some children lacking the skills to handle certain demands and expectations.

The emphasis of the model is not on the children's behaviour or their diagnosis; it is on identifying the skills a child is lacking and the expectations they are having difficulty meeting.

The goal of the model is to solve the problems, rather than modify the behaviour through the application of rewards and consequences.

The model is non-punitive and non-adversarial; it is designed to improve relationships, communication and help children and adults learn new skills to solve the unresolved problems that

are causing the behaviours.

Adults and children learn empathy, to appreciate how their behaviour impacts others, to resolve disagreements in ways that do not involve conflict and to take on others' perspectives and to be honest.



Best selling author Dr Ross Greene.

This is what our carers thought

Helen Kerley - Dr Ross Greene was spot on – no reason why children should not have a say and get left behind.

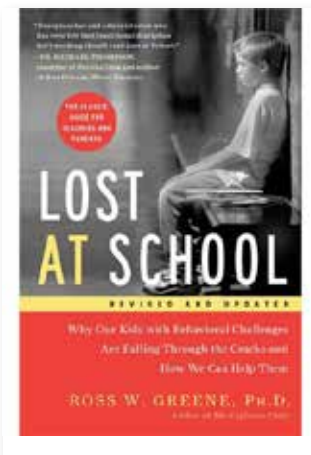
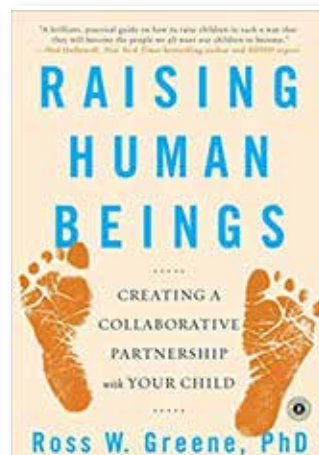
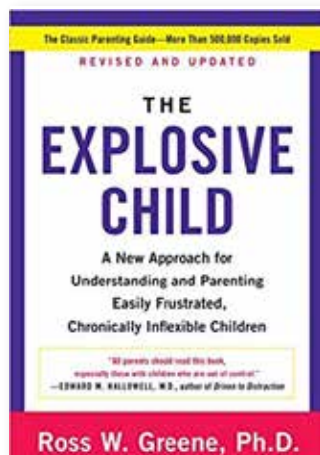
Lisa Carr - How refreshing to hear what I've instinctively believed! After attending an introductory information session I now feel empowered with tools which I can use and will actually work. Thank you!

"We are only as good as our teachers" (someone really clever once said this...) Imagine the possible changes if we are educated/raised with empathy, genuine care and unconditional love. WOW!

Lea Eling - Thank you AFSS for the opportunity to share Dr Ross Greene's inspirational methodology. A single day's training with the potential to affect a lifetime of change. Now to put it into practice!

Marlene Wilson - It was great! I would love to do more training with him. I came away feeling very inspired.

For more information please visit <http://www.socialmind.com.au>



Karing For Kulture Karing For Kids



During the April School holidays, AFSS ran the first of our cultural workshops for young people – Karing for Kulture Karing for Kids.

This was held on the grounds at the beautiful Brocas located at Woodville.

Led by Youth Support Workers, Patricia Wilson and Charlotte Sumner, the children and staff who participated in the workshop thoroughly enjoyed the days.

Charlotte and Patricia said “They wanted to tap into ‘culture’ and introduce it to young people in AFSS care.”

“The benefits of connecting our kids to culture through song, dance and storytelling was to educate them about who they are, where they come from, where their country is, what their totem is, what their language is and more importantly

what it means to be Aboriginal and a First Nations person of Australia.”

Everyone who attended took part in the traditional dance session led by Major (Moogy) Sumner and the Tal-Kin-Jeri Dance group. Even those who are normally shy participated!

The other activities included storytelling with Moogy Sumner, basket weaving, carving, boomerang and spear throwing and the catering was provided by Tal-Kin-Jeri Catering. Jessica Sumner and Brenton Attenborough cooked up a storm!

Everyone enjoyed fettuccine with kangaroo meatballs in sauce and burgers with kangaroo patties and traditional relish followed by freshly baked damper with jam and cream. Yum!

We are looking forward to more workshops to ensure that the young people we care for are connected to their culture.

AFSS would like to thank Patricia and Charlotte for their commitment and energy facilitating this session and their commitment to ensuring all children in AFSS Residential Care are connected to culture.





Where to find us

Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Phone (08) 8205 1500

Berri

23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
Phone (08) 8582 3192

Smithfield

39a Anderson Walk
Smithfield SA 5114
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Ceduna

28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
Phone: (08) 8625 3466

Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
Phone (08) 8672 3066

Mount Gambier

Pangula Mannamurna
191 Commercial Street West
Mt Gambier SA 5290
Phone: 0499 889 729

Murray Bridge

4a, 17-19 Adelaide Rd
Murray Bridge, SA 5253
Phone: 0418 499 649

Port Augusta

8-10 Victoria Parade
Port Augusta SA 5700
Phone (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln

21 Washington Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Phone (08) 8683 1909

Aboriginal Gambling Help Service Young People and Gambling

Did you know that over two-thirds of children aged eight to 16 can recall the name of at least one sports betting ad, up to a quarter of young people bet on sport and that one in 10 young people gamble online?

Our children are the first generation to be exposed to saturation marketing of online betting products. When they watch live sport the betting company logos dominate stadium signage and players shirts. On TV the commentators refer to the odds and gambling ads depict gambling as fun.

Social media sites such as Facebook offer social casino games that don't involve money, however the inflated payout rates make winning seem easy and may normalise gambling as a socially acceptable, enjoyable and risk-free activity.

On Youtube and Twitter, they see gambling ads from betting companies that promote gambling as a natural part of the sport. Mobile apps mean that young people can bet on sports anywhere and any time. Mobile gambling has made it much easier for young people to gamble.

Despite the fact that these apps are illegal for youth under 18, research shows that 60% of teens had gambled online. Although the effect of gambling marketing on young people may likely increase their participation in gambling, the most influential exposure to gambling occurs when young people see family and friends doing it. Family attitudes may mean young people receive no negative feedback about gambling. Children in families that approve of gambling are more likely to gamble themselves. Some parents encourage their children to gamble by buying them lottery tickets or scratch cards.

Gambling is often seen as a social activity for young people. Six in 10 young people who gamble say they gamble with at least one other person. This social aspect means that the attitudes and behaviour of friends are an important influence on young people's gambling.

What to look out for:

There are signs to look for if you think someone has a gambling problem. They may:

- seem down or moody
- spend less time doing family things and stop going out
- stop doing things they usually do or disappear from home for long periods
- spend lots of time talking about betting
- obsess over the odds when watching sport
- argue for no reason
- miss work or school
- borrow or take money from family and friends
- owe money.

If you are concerned about a young person's gambling, you can contact the AFSS Gambling Support Worker in your region or visit

<https://gamblershelp.com.au/get-help/under-25s/> for more information.

