



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

Feb-Aug - 2024

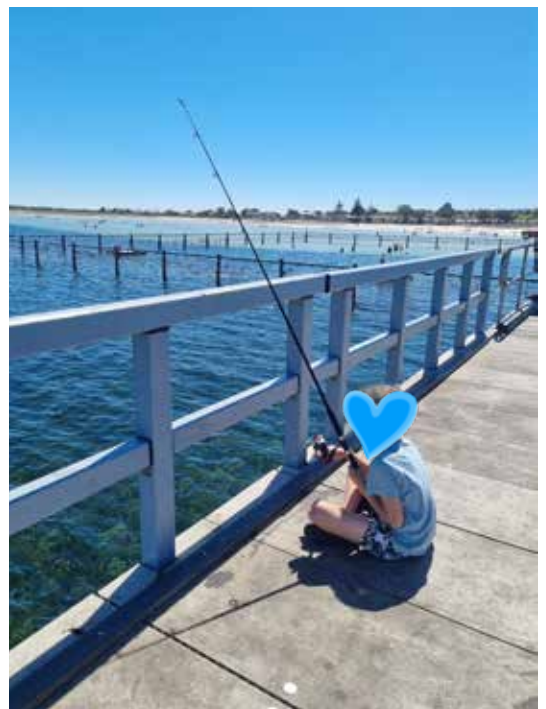
"Connection to country trip" Narungga Country

Earlier this year, we took three of our young people - Malakai, Gilbert, and Jack - over to Narungga country. The boys wanted to go fishing and snorkeling, so that's exactly what we did. The road trip over provided the perfect opportunity for discussions about culture and what the kids know and don't know. Young Jack opened up and disclosed that he doesn't know who his mob is yet. We discussed that while we are looking into this for him, we can still learn about other mobs' countries. We talked about Gilbert being Ngarindjeri and Narungga, and that today we were hanging out on his country. We also discussed where the Coorong is and how we can visit there one day.

The boys were all keen to get straight into squidding. The conditions were perfect, but almost too flat and quiet, as the squid were not there. The boys switched over to bait fishing. Jack quickly caught his first fish of the day, and he had a smile from ear to ear. This got the boys excited and kept them going for another hour. Unfortunately, Jack's was the only fish of the day, but it was totally worth that smile.

We headed back down the jetty to grab the snorkeling gear. On the way back, the boys spotted a crab and took off after it. Jack was initially keen to pick it up; however, it was a bit more aggressive than he anticipated. Gilbert stepped in and got the job done, picking it up to show the staff and feeling proud of his accomplishment.

We headed into the safe swim area that's netted off, and the boys got straight to snorkeling. After a very quick overview of snorkeling, the boys took to the water. Jack got stung by a stinger jellyfish after someone said he would be fine. My bad. But this did not deter him. Jack called out to the older boys to swim back to him so he could swim out to the pontoon with them. Malakai, being the positive role model he is, jumped in and swam back to Jack, then swam out with him to make him feel a little safer. This was great to see.



A message from the A/Chief Executive

Over the past 12 months, it has been both an honour and a privilege to serve as the Acting Chief Executive at AFSS. This period has been marked by numerous challenges and notable achievements. Despite these hurdles, our unwavering priority has been to uphold best practices and provide exceptional support to our young people.



I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Senior Managers, whose dedication and commitment have been instrumental in overcoming obstacles. Their self-determination and proactive attitude have been crucial in helping us achieve our goals.

Children's Day remains a cornerstone of our community events. This year, it provided an opportunity to build upon the strong foundation established by Barbara Falla. Her dedication over the past seven years has significantly enhanced our community celebrations. In honour of her memory, we will be creating two cultural art pieces—one as a tribute to Ngarrpadla Barbara and another to be displayed in our Foster Care office.

It has been truly inspiring to see so many AFSS staff actively participating in and volunteering at community events. Their presence, enthusiasm, and commitment to being Loud & Proud have greatly strengthened our connection with the community. Witnessing the growth and dedication of our staff as they support and engage with the children and families in our care has been a profoundly humbling experience.

I would also like to extend my deepest thanks to our incredible staff, peers, and the community for your support and encouragement. The achievements we've made would not have been possible without each of you. Let's continue this positive momentum and work together to grow AFSS into the ACCO it is destined to be.

*Dan Mitchell
A/Chief Executive*



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The boys all looked out for each other, each calling out when they saw fish under the water. We finished the day with a sausage sizzle. Staff cooked while the boys played at the splash park. While eating lunch, we discussed visiting other mobs' countries. With the boys really enjoying the snorkeling, we talked about visiting Boandik country in Mt Gambier and snorkeling at the Ewen and Piccaninnie Ponds, as they are safe from sharks! Also, Noarlunga Reef. The boys seemed pretty keen to head down to Gambier for snorkeling and then some adventure caving in Naracoorte sometime.

After a good feed, the boys were exhausted and ready to head back to Adelaide. We jumped in the cars and headed off. It was such a positive day, and great discussions about culture were had. Alex was able to share her knowledge as a Narungga woman with the boys and discuss options to connect with country and community in the future. Although we didn't have much luck off the jetty, all three boys were keen to return and try their luck again soon. Jack was super keen to catch a squid!



AFSS Connecting young people to Culture, Country, and Community.

NAIDOC Week Art Comp

The AFSS NAIDOC Art Competition was run across all of AFSS Residential Care. It was designed for the Young People to express what this year's NAIDOC theme meant to them: "Keep the fire Burning" "Blak, Loud n Proud".

The idea behind the competition was to evoke conversations between staff and the Young People to get them talking about NAIDOC and the meanings behind it. This provided learning opportunities for both staff and Young People.



**1st
Victoria**



**2nd
Shanea**



**3rd
Gilbert**

Stronger Families Team Celebrate Reconciliation Week (27 May to 3 June)

This year, the AFSS Stronger Families team located at Salisbury (Reunification, Intensive Family Support, Family Group Conference, & Child Advocates) came together to celebrate Reconciliation Week.

We explored the meaning of Reconciliation, acknowledging our Aboriginal staff and our non-Indigenous allies.

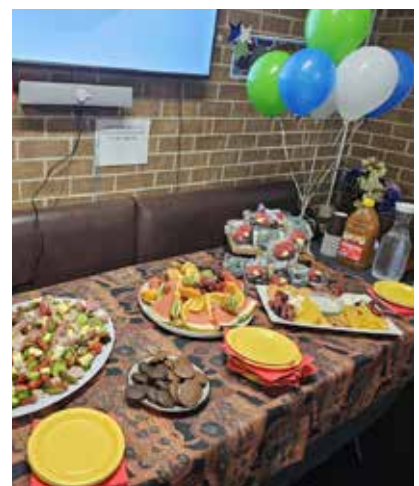
We shared our stories of histories and futures, watched short videos, and discussed and learned about language.

We also reflected on what reconciliation means to us individually and collectively.

As part of the event, we created artwork to be displayed on site and enjoyed a fabulous lunch together.

What an amazing morning we had on site! Great yarns, sharing stories and knowledge, acknowledging, understanding and caring for one another. This all links to our drive for Reconciliation.

Thank you to each and everyone of you for entrusting me to present a morning tea, worthy of you all! We are an office filled with diversity, who are all supported by the knowledgeable and supportive cultural authorities on our site.





Staff Updates



Glenn Kerrigan, Senior Manager Regional Services.

Glenn reaches a 10 year milestone!

Here's to a decade of making it through office shenanigans, navigating "Did you get my last email?" moments, and dodging the infamous "reply all" button! We appreciate all you've done and all you continue to do!

Here is a little message from Glenn's Co-worker Divya who has worked with him over the years...

"Glenn has been a 'Guru' to me and always will be. Under his mentorship, I could build a strong career at AFSS.

Glenn not only comes up with creative solutions but also uplifts your spirit. His ability to lead with a smile, even under pressure, has set a remarkable example for me.

I congratulate Glenn for reaching the 10-year milestone mark and wishing for many more. "Be good, Glenn".



Penny Kaur, Administration Officer.

Hi everyone, I am Penny. Thrilled to introduce myself as an Administration Officer at AFSS. With a strong background in admin & a passion for our cause,

I am dedicated in ensuring that our operations run smoothly & efficiently. My goal is to streamline processes & work with every staff member for any administration needs.

I was born in India and now I am an Australian citizen. I spent about one year in Melbourne & then moved to Adelaide. I fell in love with the beauty of Adelaide & have been residing in this city for about 5 years now. I enjoy spending time with my family & travelling. I look forward to contributing to our shared goals in this organisation & making a positive difference together.



John Tan, Senior Accountant - Finance

Hi, my name is John Tan, and I'm thrilled to join AFSS as a Senior Accountant. I'm a CPA with over 5 years of experience in financial reporting, budgeting, forecasting, and analysis.

I'm passionate about supporting the Aboriginal community through my work. At AFSS, I handle annual budgets, lead month-end processes, and keep an eye on financial performance, always aiming to make a positive impact. It's incredibly fulfilling to be in a role that aligns with my values and supports the community.

Outside of work, I love hiking, spending time with my family, and walking my Labrador. These walks are my way to unwind. I also have a serious sweet tooth and enjoy indulging in cakes and other treats.

I hold a master's degree in finance and accounting from the University of Adelaide, and I've got two Bachelor's Degrees in Risk Management & Insurance, and Marketing from China. I'm fluent in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin, which helps me connect with a wide range of people.

I'm excited to be part of the AFSS team and look forward to contributing to our financial success while continuing to support the Aboriginal community. I can't wait to get started and make a positive impact here.



Annette O'Loughlin - Community Safety & Wellbeing Facilitator - Paralowie Office.

Hello, my names is Annette O'Loughlin

I am a proud Narungga Women from the York Peninsula of South Australia

I am a mum, Godmother, nana and aunty to many nieces and nephews.

I love spending time with my family and friends.

I like to go camping and fishing.

I am excited to be a part of the Community Safety & Wellbeing team.

I am passionate about my job role, focusing on working with individuals, families, groups, and communities across South Australia. My aim is to enhance their safety and wellbeing, ensuring they are functioning effectively and are equipped with the skills and knowledge to grow in a safe and supportive environment.

Blak and Deadly Colour Run

Earlier this year AFSS ran our first "Blak and Deadly" Colour run on Peramangk country at Mylor. In partnership with CREATE, we ran a day full of fun adventure activities, reptiles and culture. The reason for running the "Blak and Deadly" colour run, was to have our Young People hear from Elders about what it means to be Aboriginal. This came from listening to some of our Young People talk about being told "Your not Black enough to be Aboriginal".

Our day started off with AFSS Board member and Kaurna Peramangk Elder, Ivan Tiwu Copley, Welcoming us to Country, followed by a smoking ceremony.

The Young People were excited to get to their first activity as we had a 200 metre flying fox, Indoor Pool and Archery for them to all participate in prior to the colour run.

Throughout the day "Animals Anonymous" walked around with different native reptiles that the Young People could hold and look at. We had snakes, monitors and even a baby crocodile. The Young People thoroughly enjoyed this and we will definitely need to work with Animals Anonymous again.

The Young People rotated through the activities of the day while one of our managers slugged it out in the heat cooking over 200 sausages. Our staff, Team Leaders and Managers who attended on the day all helped out which made the day such a great success.

We were extremely lucky to have Uncle Bonnie and Aunty Irene join us. When they heard about the event and the meaning behind it, they were both extremely eager to support and share their cultural knowledge with our Young People and staff. Those who wished to participate were invited to join in a Yarning Circle and Drumming Healing Ceremony.

Uncle Bonnie did another smoking for the group followed by Aunty Irene doing a drumming. Bonnie then spoke in depth to the group about what it means to be Aboriginal and the struggles the Aboriginal people have faced time and time again about skin colour. Watching the Young People soak up his knowledge and deep listening just confirmed how much this day was needed. Listening to staff and Elders share how important connection to country is really hit home for some of our Non Aboriginal staff who participated in the yarning. And seeing our Young People be hungry for more cultural connection, learning from Elders.....Amazing.

It was time...The "Blak and Deadly" colour run was starting. The younger kids started off first, followed by the older mob... It was laughter all round, staff, kids and Elders... Our amazing staff supported by CREATE were set up across the run loaded with powder!!

Running through the big gums along the river, laughter could be heard in every direction. There were flumes of colour blowing up everywhere and quite a spectacular moment to stand back and just watch it all play out.

The Deputy Chief Executive of DCP, Adam Riley joined us toward the end of the day taking time to speak with some of our staff and Young People. Although he may have wanted to stay clean...his white shirt was far too irresistible to our Young People who were armed with a rainbow of powders! In the blink of an eye Adam was blasted with a jet of blue powder, but took it all in the spirit of the day.

We finished the day with an explosion of colour to close the event...

The "Blak and Deadly" colour run will be an event that we run annually and continue to build on, bringing in community and Elders to support such a fantastic day.





NAIDOC Week - 2024

*'Keep the Fire Burning
Blak Loud & Proud'*



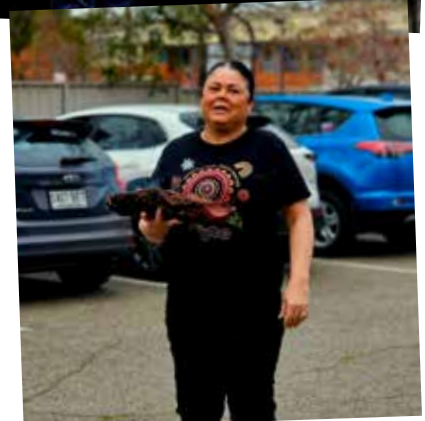
Held across the country from 7-14 July 2024, NAIDOC Week celebrates and recognises the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This year's theme chosen by the National NAIDOC Committee, is Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud.

The theme honours the enduring strength and vitality of First Nations culture – with fire a symbol of connection to Country, to each other, and to the rich tapestry of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week, which first began in 1975, provides an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth.

It has been wonderful to be provided the chance to Celebrate our First Nations Culture. Our amazing 4 Ann Street Aboriginal staff planned an insightful, educational and fun filled event for all staff. We also had acting CE, Dan Mitchell come out and enjoy the celebrations with us, and AFSS' Child Advocate Sharon Watts perform a smoking ceremony.



NAIDOC Week Family Fun Day - 2024

Elder Park was buzzing on Friday 12th of July, as people gathered to celebrate the highlight of NAIDOC Week. This annual event honours the culture, heritage, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme was 'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud' where we paid our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Information and activity stalls lined the perimeter of the park, offering attendees plenty of opportunities to engage with agencies, collect free give-aways, and enjoy activities and live music.

The festivities were made memorable by the dedication of the Foster Care Metro team and valuable volunteers from other AFSS programs, who tirelessly provided free food, tea, and coffee to the crowd. They served morning tea, catered by Meez on Plus, featuring a variety of muffins and cookies with a cultural element incorporating lemon myrtle and wattle seed. The team served approximately 500 lamb, chicken, and kangaroo yiros. Elders and community members were served food and drinks and encouraged to sit and have a yarn.

A big thank you to all the volunteers on the day who put in many hours of work for the event, the efforts did not go unnoticed and was appreciated by all in attendance. Attendees provided positive feedback on the lunch, praising the healthy options available.

In addition to the culinary delights, AFSS held a free raffle, giving participants the chance to win hampers and vouchers for family activities, including passes to the Adelaide Ice Arena, Marion Indoor Pool, and Barossa Bowland, among others.

The AFSS teams' involvement in NAIDOC Week celebrations, which included a march from Victoria Square to Parliament House served as a reminder of their commitment to the cause and passion for making a difference in the community.

Through their generosity, the AFSS team not only provided free food but also fostered a sense of inclusivity and goodwill, creating positive memories and a sense of excitement for hosting the 2025 NAIDOC celebrations.





NAIDOC Awards Ball



At the NAIDOC Awards night, AFSS Senior Management, the Board of Directors, and carers came together to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, achievements, and contributions. The evening was filled with celebration and inspiration, highlighting the remarkable stories and accomplishments within the Indigenous community. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners for their outstanding contributions. A special highlight of the event was Jessica Mauboy's powerful performance, which had everyone up and dancing, adding an extra layer of joy and energy to the night.

NAIDOC Week in the Regions

Mount Gambier started the week off on Monday morning with the flag raising held at the cave garden. We then marched down the main street from the cave gardens to Pangula Mannamuna, where the NAIDOC awards for 2024 were held. It was great to see our very own Dawnie win the local Elder of the year award.

On Wednesday in collaboration with local community organisations, We held a NAIDOC Breakfast along with some old school games and activities for the children and Young People to enjoy. At the end of the day, we finished off with a colour run which was a huge success for all of our Children and Young People.



Congrats Dawn Cardona on your NAIDOC Award! 'Female Elder of the Year'



We are thrilled to announce that Dawn Cardona (AFSS CS&W Community Development Facilitator - Mount Gambier), has been named Female Elder of the Year! This award recognises an individual who has made significant contributions as a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and the broader community. The award aims to celebrate someone who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aunty Dawn is a passionate and respected ATSI community leader and Elder, with over 42 years of dedicated experience in community development. She excels in cultural guidance, sharing knowledge of her own cultural protocols, and always finds engaging and collaborative ways to unite our community.

Through her community involvement, Aunty Dawn has shown strong leadership, compassion, and a willingness to go above and beyond for positive outcomes for her mob. Whether mentoring fellow community members, sharing valuable cultural knowledge, or simply being a reliable and well-respected presence, Aunty Dawn is a cornerstone of our community. Her storytelling and yarns are inspiring, evoking a profound sense of connection and understanding.

Fostering empathy, understanding, and cultural connection, Aunty Dawn continues her efforts to drive ongoing progress and inspire others to join in. Aunty Dawn is valued in her community for a range of culturally significant events like NAIDOC Week celebrations, MABO Day celebrations, Children's Day celebrations, and cultural mentoring for Uni SA students.



Ceduna had a very busy NAIDOC week in 2024. The week started with a combined church service in Koonibba. The march through the main street was on Monday morning and the celebrations continued with a Family Fun Day. AFSS had an activity table and give-aways which was well received. There were all sorts of activities that people could attend: Children's Fancy Dress, Cultural Arts & Cook Up, a Comedy Night, a Quiz Night, a Community BBQ and of course the highlights were the Youth and Adult NAIDOC balls. AFSS supported the Neon Silent Disco with helping set – up, run and pack up, AFSS also donated appropriate give-aways. This was in partnership with the Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation and the evening was a hit for the children and Young People attending.



Summa Milligan and Christianne Pope from Whyalla at the NAIDOC Community event.

Summa and Christianne gave away approximately 170 bags and our activity was helping children draw on coasters and earrings with Aboriginal symbols, educating them on what the symbols meant at the same time. We couldn't have done it without the support of our Port Augusta mob that came down to help us all day.

The Ceduna Rainbow Frog

This rainbow frog belongs to a little boy who could no longer live with his foster family. The little boy still has access with his foster family who have given him this rainbow frog. Every time they see each other the frog gets cuddles from all the foster family. So when he feels like a hug and support from his foster family he can hug the rainbow frog.



AFSS' Tika Tirka staff get crafty..

If you find yourself on Glibert Street, come and take a look at the stobie pole art that AFSS TIKA TIRKA staff Reb did alongside our clients to celebrate NAIDOC week.

They are beautiful !

What is AFSS' Tika Tirka Student Accommodation?

Tika Tirka is a new accommodation service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote and outer regional communities studying in Adelaide.

Tika Tirka is built and operates on Kurna Land and we reflect our deep respect by dedication of the building name in Kurna language, meaning to sit/stay and learn. We acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and we pay our respects to elders past and present.

The 20-bed apartment style facility in the Adelaide CBD accommodates post-secondary students from remote and regional locations engaged in further education and training.

The innovative space features a mix of flexible common and private living areas.

If you would like to find out more contact:

AFSS Manager, Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation, Nick Ward on:

☎ 0409 993 444

✉ Nicholas.Ward@afss.com.au

Aboriginal Community Housing Ltd:
1300 245 468

Your Aboriginal Student Support unit at your chosen University and let them know you're interested in living at Tika Tirka.

Aboriginal Community Housing provide tenancy, property management and cultural support services for Tika Tirka residents.

Please contact our ACHL staff via:

Email at tika.tirka@achl.org.au

Phone us on (08) 8210 0200





Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) Conference - Sydney

Susie Crisa, Glenn Kerrigan and Deb Irvine attended the Association of Children's Welfare Agencies (ACWA) Conference on Gadigal land on 5-7 June.

The conference, attended by 800 workers in the field, was packed full of interesting speakers, both national and international.

The stand out Keynote speaker on Day 1, Dr. Darcey Merrit from the University of Chicago, spoke about supporting minoritized families and understanding their lived experiences. From Dr. Merrit's presentation about US systemic oppression, there were clear similarities to those experienced by First Nations people in Australia.

From networking with other attendees and listening to the many presentations, it's clear that AFSS shares many of the challenges that others do.

Some of the talks we attended:

- **Removing the Mask: Indicators of Coercive Control in Family Assessments** gave guidance around identifying whether coercive control is being used in families.
- **Finding Family to Build a Village Around a Child (Uniting NSW/ACT)** which has Family Engagement Consultants whose goal is to:
 - Work with the child to record personal memories of their family and other significant people in their previous life
 - Research, locate and invite family and kin to participate in the child's life.
- **Connecting Carers, Children and Families in a Unique Community – MOCKINGBIRD FAMILY (Life Without Barriers)** Flinders University, DCP and LWB evaluation of this home support program for carers has indicated reduced placement breakdown, carer burnout and secondary traumatic stress.
- **Are we asking the right questions: enhancing assessment of foster carers to reduce risk of child sexual abuse (Life Without Barriers)**
- **Responding to the tug-of-war of time demands in foster care casework – strategies to build team capability and facilitate deliberate practice (Care South).** This is a model for group staff coaching, where team skills are developed.

What we all recognised during the week is:

- The growing number of children in care is a national crisis.
- More foster carers are needed throughout Australia
- Incentives are needed to encourage people to become carers.
- When carers are well trained, the chance of placement breakdown reduces.
- Foster carers are an ageing group, and we need to find solutions to address this
- Creativity required for carer recruitment, to ensure future generations can provide support as foster carers. This may include addressing the remuneration, superannuation and supports that carers need.

Key takeaways from the conference include:

- Context not risks
- Need for interagency collaboration



Susie Crisa (Manager Kinship Care), Glenn Kerrigan (Senior Manager Regional Services) and Deb Irvine (Carer Liaison Officer - Foster Care Services).

Community Safety & Wellbeing Updates (Term 1 & 2)

Fiona's country, if you haven't been, its an absolute must! I was incredibly lucky to be shown around and welcomed onto Adnyamanthana Yarta. The name Adnyamanthana means 'Rock People'. Adnyamathanha people are from the northern part of the Great Flinders Ranges and are from Nepabunna, including Copley and Leigh Creek.

The journey three hours north of Port Augusta, Fiona was trapped in a car with me (Mel) and I was incredibly lucky and forever grateful to be taught many things. Fiona helped me almost pronounce some of the exquisite language and share with me the many ways to cook and present her famous 'Betty Crocker Cake'. 11 participants from the area joined us to share the journey of Seasons for Healing, we formed ever lasting connections with the participants and look forward to making the journey back up that way soon.

Term 1 and 2 have been jam packed with not only all our deadly workshops but with Reconciliation Week events, NAIDOC Week March events, and the Kids Disco. AFLW Crows players visited our region and Community Safety & Wellbeing and our Intensive Family Support team worked in the Mallee Park canteen offering healthy fruit snacks and bottles of water while the kids and their families met the athletes. As a part of Reconciliation Week Mel joined Lyndah and Emmalene Richards at the Port Lincoln Netball Association game where the round was formally opened with a welcome to country by young and upcoming leader Lyndah. We have an even better term 3 planned and cant wait to tell you all about it in our next Newsletter.

Our new workshop 'Bringing Up Great Kids' has been a lot of fun where we learn together how to better manage and cope with our kids big emotions and behaviours.

Connect with one of our team members at the offices below to learn how you can take part:

Paralowie
254 Kings Road
8281 5440

Mount Gambier
20 Elizabeth Street
8723 6110

Port Augusta
8-10 Victoria Parade
8641 0907

Port Lincoln
21 Washington Street
8683 1909



Community Safety & Wellbeing Melissa McNab and Emmalene Richards with her daughter Lindha Richards at Reconciliation Event at Port Lincoln Netball Association.



Seasons For Healing Term 1: AFSS CS&W Facilitator Annette, Tanya, Maree, Alicia, Jo, Mish, and AFSS Facilitator Mel.





Community Safety & Wellbeing - Mt Gambier

Mount Gambier facilitated Seasons For Healing for AFSS Kinship Carers and commenced Healthy Homes Resilient - Families (Routine and Rules & Growing Up Healthy) with the latter being continued in Term 3.

CS&W Facilitators Dawn and Kayla attended the National Reconciliation Week event hosted and collaborated by the Limestone Coast Local Health Network (LCLHN), Reconciliation Working Group and Pangula Mannamurra Aboriginal Corporation.

Kayla and Dawn joined the Junior Medical, Graduate Nursing/ Midwifery and Graduate Allied Health, Pangula Mannamurra Aboriginal Corporation Staff and the local community members for a luncheon and learning tour of Pangula Mannamurra Aboriginal Corporation Healing Circles.



CS&W - Metro Updates

Our Metro team during term 1 & 2 completed 1 x Growing Up Healthy, 3 x Routines and Rules, 1 x Shark Cage, 1 x Seasons For Healing, 3 x Circle of Security workshops for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community. This term we visited north, south, east including Murray Bridge. Our Community Safety & Wellbeing Educators Annette & Kayla attended Reconciliation events, including Salisbury High School, Pooraka Farm Neighborhood Centre, Morella House Community centre where community members attended the 'Bush Rub Workshop' and made their own to take home. We also attended Reconciliation by the river at Riverdale Primary and Hampstead Primary School. We wish to thank all of the organisations that invited us to these events. NAIDOC week at the John McViety centre was jam packed full of community members and families with lots of activities and entertainment for everyone. Term 1 & 2 was an overall success for all involved and we are excited and looking forward to our term 3 & 4 workshops.

If you would like to attend any of our workshops contact our Community Safety and Wellbeing team on (08) 8281 5440 or Community Development Facilitator Annette O'Loughlin 0459 890 805.



Artwork created by participants who attended Shark Cage which is a new program run by the CS&W team.



Routines and Rules Term 2 Paralowie - (from left) Abigail Mansell, Dorothy O'Loughlin and Tiabna Wanganeen.



Elder Care Services

Are you receiving all the care and support services you need?

AFSS new Elder Care Support program supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 50 to understand the aged care system, including identifying the level of care and services required.

We now have specially trained Elder Care Support Connectors who know and understand our people in our Community, and can help navigate this system.

Our **Elder Care Support Connector** can come and meet you - at your home or wherever you feel safe and comfortable - with your family or carer if you prefer - there's no cost to you or your family. We can even come and pick you up for our yarns.



When you meet with our **Elder Care Support Connector**, you can yarn about what you'd like assistance with in your home. It might include cleaning, shopping, cooking, personal care or help with other tasks.



contact our team to find out more



📍 20 Ann Street Salisbury SA 5108

✉ ElderCare@afss.com.au

📞 8281 3440

This program is supported by:



Our **Elder Care Support Connector** then makes sure you are connected to the aged care services and support you need - and if your circumstances change and you need some additional or different assistance, they will also arrange it - or if you aren't satisfied with the provider of the service, the Elder Care Support Connector can help get things back on track.



“ Our Elder Care Support service now makes it easier to receive aged care support and the care you need ”





AFSS Coordinator, Coober Pedy attends Government House to support 'Coober Pedy Together'

On Wednesday 22nd May, AFSS Coordinator Coober Pedy Jaqui Boland and Senior Manager regional Services, Glenn Kerrigan, attended Government house to share and promote the Coober Pedy plan 2024-28. The plan is a direct result of plans and conversations across the community, and represents a united group of people known as 'Coober Pedy Together'.

'Coober Pedy Together' is about bringing change, community spirit, community pride and a sense of purpose for the community of Coober Pedy. It's about creating common place and vision.

Jaqui also visited Parliament House for a further Meeting with Minister Joe Szakack for Local council who was newly appointed from Geoff Brock. She also met with the Opposition leader David Speirs.

Jaqui is passionate about advocating for pathways and educational standards that support Young People, as well as infrastructure development such as recreational areas that benefit both youth and families.



Senior Manager Regional Services, Glenn Kerrigan with Jaqui Boland, Coordinator AFSS Coober Pedy.



Thank you AFSS for attending our Reconciliation Day event. We hope you enjoyed your day with us.

Kind regards
Your friends at DCP

AFSS Whyalla wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude to Whyalla DCP for the exquisite artwork gifted to us during Reconciliation Week. We extend our sincere appreciation for the ongoing partnership that enhances our ability to serve the community of Whyalla.

Coober Pedy **YOUTH SHED** & STAY Program

Exciting Events and Collaborations!

Our recent activities have been nothing short of fantastic, thanks to the incredible support from our community partners and volunteers. Here's a look at some of the highlights:

Sports Day

We kicked off with an exhilarating Sports Day, featuring a vibrant Colour Run organised by Jasmin Brooks in collaboration with the Indigenous Marathon Foundation.

The day was filled with energy and enthusiasm, and we were thrilled to see the kids embracing the fun and excitement of the Colour Run.

Bonfire Night and Dinner

In addition to the sports festivities, we hosted a Bonfire Night and dinner at the Youth Shed. It was a perfect opportunity for community members to come together, enjoy some great food, and create lasting memories.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

Although NAIDOC Week fell during the school holidays, we kept the celebrations going with a week-long series of events. We were honoured to have the Woomera RAAF join us for the week, actively participating in our activities and adding a special touch to the celebrations. Their presence was a huge help at the Sports Day, where they engaged with the kids through games and skill-building activities.

Community Collaborations

Child and Parent Program: Tamsin and the team led engaging soccer matches during Sports Day, enhancing the experience for all participants.

Complete Personnel: They generously provided BBQ supplies, ensuring that everyone enjoyed delicious food at the event.

AFSS Coober Pedy Team: Their support was invaluable, from coordinating AMYAC mini ball bus runs to assisting with food preparation and transportation during the Umoona Community Day. Special thanks to DJ Simon for keeping the atmosphere lively!





Good News Story

An AFSS Youth Worker in Residential Care attended one of our Young Peoples care team meetings today and for the second time received amazing feedback from a senior Aboriginal Case Worker from DCP who praised our placement. The Case Worker came out last Friday and did a home visit, Two of our Nunga workers were present. Another Young Person was sitting in the lounge watching TV as we all sat at the dining table while we all had a yarn and a cup of tea. The Case Worker used the word "village" several times in reference to what the Young People have here at this placement. The worker held her hand on her heart with tears in her eyes and said "what you girls have here with these kids is real deadly, you can see how comfortable she and the other little ones are". The worker went on to say that she has cultural relations with our Young Person as an Aboriginal Woman and how she can rest easy knowing one of her babies is safe here.

Mander House Artwork

Katelyn and Jack are our Young People from Mander house and they have been doing some amazing artwork at the house. The house is looking so welcoming and colourful with the paintings hung up around the house. They have done a piece called Mander Mob which includes the hand print of the Young People and staff working at the house, the name has also been painted with the support of the Youth Support Worker Melissa.



"Our hands are on the painting so we will never forget we did it"

Create Event

AFSS Young People in Residential Care, Katelyn and Jack received the flyer for a Create Youth Advisory Group for Young People to attend to discuss storytelling and to paint a mural inside the community Centre with support from a First Nations artist around the Cheltenham's history and story of Aboriginal people.

Katelyn wanted to go and so she asked her brothers to go with her. Katelyn, Jack and their brother Bailey have proudly shared with their staff team's what parts they had helped design and painted in the Mural. Katelyn said the best part was meeting other people, sharing, and learning more about Aboriginal culture. Katelyn said she enjoyed being part of this group and would like to be included in other events like this.



Connection to Culture – Children's Day 2024

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day had a new home this year at St Clair Recreation Centre at Woodville as our event continues to grow and be an important day in the calendar for not just AFSS families and children, but the wider community in the Metro area. This central location provided an opportunity for us to offer a day of fun and connection to even more families and children.

This year's theme was Strong in Culture, Stronger Together, a slogan that elevates the intention of Children's Day, focusing on the strength of our children that comes from their connection to culture and mob. Staff across AFSS programs including Foster Care and Kinship Care, NDIS & Elder Care, AYCA and Community Safety & Wellbeing, and our Head office in Waymouth Street came together at 8am to set up for a day of fun, connection and celebration. Everyone's efforts helped the venue come alive and the colours of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags, represented in balloons, gave everyone a sense of pride.

We began our day with Welcome of Country from Mark Catanzariti who followed up with a smoking ceremony and Acting CE Dan Mitchell welcomed the community, stakeholders and AFSS staff to the event.

There were many amazing stallholders that came together to offer the community information and resources, continuing to work toward our common goal of supporting children and communities. It was a fantastic opportunity for our Community Safety Wellbeing, and NDIS programs to promote their services and upcoming workshops. There was a collective approach to the day, with support across many agencies which enabled networking to occur, supporting a future goal of having holistic supports wrapped around the community.

This year we welcomed Woolworths on board who provided some healthy fruit to fuel our participants for the day of fun.

AFSS combined with SNAICC to offer every child a goodie bag filled with bubbles, sensory toys, and putty among other items. Over 300 bags were put together by the Foster & Kinship teams.

AFSS liaised with local children's centres to ensure they had the opportunity to come along and share in the day's activities. There were a few tired but happy faces as they left the event.

Let's talk about entertainment!

Catering to many different interests, there were amazing inflatables, including not just one, but four jumping castles. We also had axe throwing, which kept everyone on their toes!

Children got to explore their creativity with several stall holders offering crafts, biscuit decorating, badge making, and colouring in. There were some amazing

artistic pieces created by children. The smiles and pride in their accomplishments shone brightly through the venue.

The children were transformed through the creativity of face painting, mermaid braiding, and henna art. Many participants then got their memories recorded in a 360-degree photobooth.

Families were able to sit back and enjoy our live entertainment in the afternoon which included performances by Adelaide group, Sons of Serpent, who are an Indigenous hip-hop group consisting of Adnyamanthanha, Arrernte, Narrunga and Ngarrindjeri nations artists Native Emcee, The Yowie and NativeSon91. We were amazed by the dance performance of Impala Dance group who captured the attention and hearts of everyone in the venue.

Children and adults alike enjoyed a special visit from Nunga Oog who posed for photographs and explored the stalls on offer.

We appreciate the hard work of the staff at St Clair Recreation Centre who worked tirelessly to provide both morning tea and lunch for everyone who attended.

A number of artworks were created specifically to commemorate Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day but also to honour the late Barb Falla who worked tirelessly in spearheading many events over the years.

AFSS would like to acknowledge that this year's Children's Day event was a tribute to the hard work and enduring passion of AFSS Cultural Officer, the late Barbara Falla, who championed the Children's Day event since 2016. We thank her family for being present with us on the day to continue to provide these important days of connection and reflection.

We would also like to thank Acting CE Dan Mitchell who endured until the end, packing up and ensuring all staff who had worked tirelessly throughout the day were supported.

Overall, we thank and acknowledge the efforts of everyone who participated and collaborated in the planning of Children's Day, to bring to fruition such a fabulous event. We can all now reflect on the positive opportunities for children to celebrate with their families and peers that we were able to experience this year. Focus now turns to 2025 Children's Day!



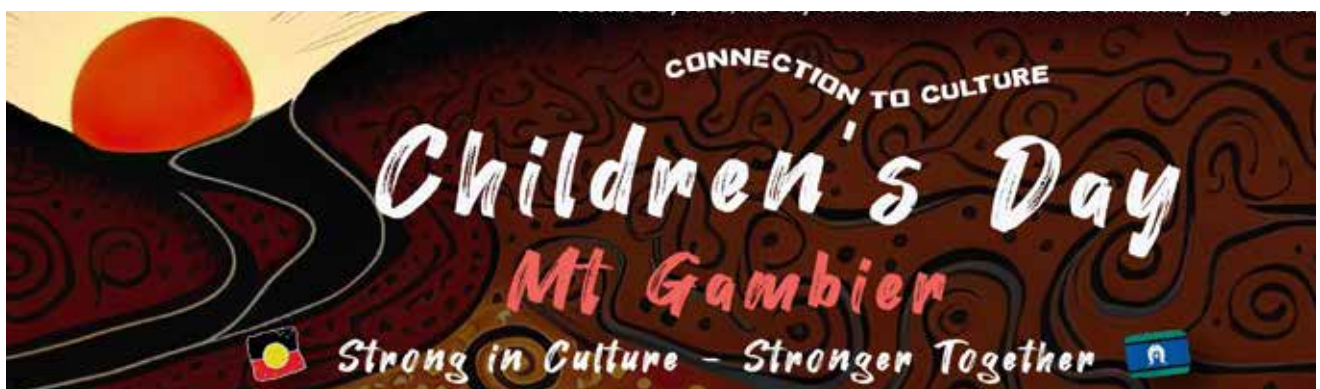


Connection to Culture - Children's Day 2024 Mt Gambier

AFSS Mount Gambier in collaboration with the City of Mount Gambier and the local Working Group came together to celebrate the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - Strong In Culture, Stronger Together. A wonderful Welcome to Country was given by three of our future leaders (Bobbie and Chuck Brennon) in Bunganditj, the language of the Boandik people of the Southeast. This was followed by their oldest brother Alfie, who translated into English.

We had lots of activities from stress ball making, bush hand sanitiser, sticky dot art, scratch art, donut decorating and lots more. We also had the privilege of both Aunty Val and Aunty Michelle respected Elders of our community, who joined us in story time and basket weaving. Having the local community come together to stand with our children, proud of their culture, stories, kin and community, is all that makes our children special, resilient and the bright leaders of our future.

All in all, it was a huge success, with local community giving lots of positive feedback about the event and requesting more activities for our children.





Connection to Culture

Children's Day 2024

Ceduna

The ATSI Children's Day was celebrated on Friday 2 August at the Minya Bunhii Childcare Centre and the Ngura Yadurim Children and Family Centre. There was a huge marquee set up in the car park between the two Centres and there were a hive of activities for the children to participate in: painting of rocks, hands, boomerangs and animals. There was cupcake decorating, face painting, yarnng, a sensory play area, tattoos and Parks had an exhibition. There were culinary delights such as kangaroo tails and damper making, a huge BBQ and a coffee van. But the real treat for our community was LEGO, LEGO, LEGO. SNAICC and Lego had donated a HUGE amount of Duplo (large lego for younger children) for the Ngura Yadurim Children and Family Centre and the entire community. There were four different sets: 'Big Feelings & Emotions', 'Life at the Day Nursery', 'Daily Routines Eating and Bed Time' and 'Buildable People with Big Emotions'. The Duplo was delivered to agencies and organisations that work with children. AFSS donated 20 large boxes. Thank you to SNAICC – who also attended – especially Catherine Liddle the CEO and Lego for the generous donations.



Our Super Heros !

In light of the data breach that occurred last November, we want to take a moment to thank Rob and Stew (AFSS IT team) for their exceptional efforts. Alongside our Cyber Security team, they worked tirelessly to manage the situation, retrieve our information, and implement enhanced security measures.

AFSS took everybody's privacy and confidentiality seriously throughout the process. We investigated the situation and actively contacted affected individuals with advice on protecting their information. We also collaborated with relevant government agencies and IT security specialists to address the issue.

Importantly, no AFSS services were impacted, and our staff continued to serve the community without interruption.

Thank you to all of our staff for your support and resilience.



"It's time once again for the Morning Motivational Roar."

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

Family Cultural Day Monarto Zoo



Earlier this year AFSS hosted a Cultural Day at Monarto Safari Park. It was an amazing day for Foster and Kinship Carers and their children, with over 150 participants coming together to enjoy each other's company, create lasting memories, and make new friends. The day was filled with thrilling adventures and opportunities to connect, making it a truly unforgettable event. The private safari tour allowed everyone to get up close and personal with the incredible wildlife at the park. Highlights included seeing adorable baby lion cubs, as well as the majestic giraffes. The knowledgeable Monarto Safari Park tour guides entertained and educated the audience with fascinating (and sometimes gross) facts about the animals. Alongside the fun, the day also provided a chance for carers and children to learn about the importance of wildlife conservation and protecting endangered species.

In addition to the safari tour, families had the privilege of joining a cultural walk led by Leon Dodd (Scornzy), a respected member of the local Ngarrindjeri community. Leon shared his extensive knowledge of the land, wildlife, and cultural traditions, allowing families to deepen their connection with the natural environment and develop a sense of respect for the land and its Indigenous heritage.

Families gathered for a relaxing picnic lunch on the park's lawns, providing an opportunity for parents, carers, and children to socialise and form new connections.

It was a time for carers and families to share their stories and experiences of their foster care journey, offering support and solidarity to one another. Overall, it was a fantastic day that brought us all joy, knowledge, and stronger community bonds.

We are excited to host more events throughout 2024!



Disclaimer: This newsletter is intended to provide information only and may not necessarily represent the views or opinions of Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS). All details are correct as at time of publication.