



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

July - August 2021

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New Family Group Conferencing (FGC) program

AFSS has launched an exciting new Aboriginal Specific Family Group Conferencing (FGC) program in partnership with the Department for Child Protection (DCP). Referrals to the program will come from DCP in cases where a child may be at risk but the Department believes that the family is capable of making a plan to keep the child(ren) safe. FGC is a family led and child focussed meeting process. Once a referral is received, AFSS will work with the children, parents, care-givers and families to help prepare for the FGC and bring together all family members who will support the process and who can help the family to make clearer decisions about keeping their children safe. The aim of FGC is to create a Family Plan that addresses DCP's concerns and will support the family to keep their kids safe. DCP is part of the FGC process and must agree to a plan for the process to be completed. DCP then works with those family plans. AFSS can support a review process of plans if asked to do so.

The new Coordinator for the FGC program is Charmayne Stenhouse, (previously Manager of Community Safety and Wellbeing) and the service is based at our Ann Street office in Salisbury. FGC Facilitator, Grant Thomas has been employed from a Family Group Conferencing background and AFSS is soon to appoint a second Facilitator and a Child Advocate to work in the program. The model is based on FGC's run in New Zealand and elsewhere internationally and is adopted from traditional Aboriginal practices of decision making, community involvement and family ownership. The program is in the process of being rolled out to the northern suburbs and near-country in Port Pirie and Yorke Peninsula. AFSS is really looking forward to working with families in these communities. If you are interested to know more about the program, please contact Charmayne and the team on 8281 3440.



A message from the Chief Executive

I would like to take the chance to thank all of our wonderful staff and carers for their patience, resilience and cooperation throughout the most current lockdown.

We are continuing to follow all of the appropriate measures here at AFSS, to ensure everybody's health, safety and wellbeing is supported throughout this time.

Although we were unable to go ahead with our Connection to Culture Children's Day, we are not going to miss out on the opportunity to have the day, as a lot of organisation and dedication goes towards the event! The day brings a lot of joy to our children, and once further announcements have been made, we will let you know of the new date.

It is also great to see AFSS continuing to progress with its programs and services. We have recently launched the Family Group Conferencing Program with Stronger Families. Our NDIS program is underway and I would like to welcome our NDIS Navigators, Shana, Travis and Ricache. We have also recently re-designed our Youth Accommodation Program (YAATSISHS) which is now called Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation (AYCA), and is a service of the Toward Home Alliance.

Overall, I hope you all stay safe and well over the next few months as we head into some nicer spring weather. Thank you all once again for your great work throughout this time and the amazing dedication you have towards looking after our children in care.



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*



www.afss.com.au

Ceduna 2021 NAIDOC Week Events

NAIDOC week events did not get postponed in Ceduna. From July 4-10 the week was packed with events. Heal Country was the theme this year. It started on Sunday with a church service and an afternoon of women's football, followed by the NAIDOC March and a Family Fun Day on the Monday. On Tuesday there was an event Celebrating Youth at the Youth Hub and that evening a Quiz Night was held. The Elders Luncheon was held on the Wednesday followed by a Silent Disco. The Silent Disco is an event where the children can experience tactile and visual items without any music. The Thursday's events were a Community BBQ and the Kids Debutant Ball. On the Friday, arts activities were held followed by the Youth Ball in the evening. The final event was on Saturday night with the NAIDOC Ball.

All events were live streamed due to the COVID-19 number restrictions, so if anyone was unable to attend they would be able to still be a part of the event. All events were a great success! The NAIDOC Committee will meet again shortly to reflect on the week and will start planning for next year in February 2022.



From Left: Michelle Naylor - Family Based Care Ceduna and Katherine Micka - Manager Ceduna.



NAIDOC Week Youth Ball



AFSS is very proud to have been named a finalist in the inaugural South Australian Child Protection Awards!

There have been around 200 nominations across 12 categories and the finalists and the winners will be announced at the SA Child Protection Awards Breakfast on Wednesday, September 8.

#SAChildProtectionAwards

Current and New Staff Updates



Shana-May Karpany, NDIS Navigator.

Hi all, my name is Shana-May Karpany. I am a proud Narrunga /Kaurna woman. I was born and raised in Adelaide South Australia.

I have been working for AFSS for roughly 13 months now. I started off as a casual Youth Support Worker in Residential Services, working my way to becoming a permanent Youth Support Worker and then to being a Team Leader. As mentioned above, I am now working in the Be With Me program as a full time NDIS Navigator along side Ricache Van Groesen and Travis Peris.

I look forward to furthering skills and knowledge around the NDIS and making a difference in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

I am also currently completing Certificate IV in Child Youth and Family Intervention.

Before working at AFSS, I have worked at various workplaces in recent years, such as an ACEO and SSO in primary schools and I also worked as a Transitional Mentor in high schools with

the Workabout centre who is a part of the Department of Education. I also have over 13 years of experience working in administration within various government departments.

My hobbies include spending time with my family and friends, being involved with SMOSH football club and spending time with my dog and cat.



Ricache Van Groesen, NDIS Navigator.

Hi all, my name is Ricache Van Groesen and I am one of the NDIS Navigators in the Be With Me Program working along side Shana and Travis.

I am a Warlpiri woman born in Alice Springs and moved to Adelaide when I was 5 years old. I moved to QLD in 2010 and lived there for about 9 years moving back to Adelaide in August 2019 with my partner Michael and my fur baby Ella who is absolutely spoilt.

I have worked in the Disability field as a Support Worker for the last 8 years and have experience with the NDIS, as I support my sister who has a disability and help her with her NDIS plan and requirements.

I assist her to ensure her action plan is implemented by communicating with the services she is linked to, and ensuring her daily routines are being met with a high level of support and consistency. I do this by communicating with her Support Coordinator, by advocating for my sister and by attending NDIS plan review meetings.

My hobbies include bargain hunting at garage sales, art and craft.

I also love to be around my family, especially my 3 year old niece Marley and 7 month old nephew Conway, who I adore so much.

My knowledge of cultural awareness comes from my own heritage as I identify as being Aboriginal. I believe I relate well to other Aboriginal people and this could help me build a rapport for the Be With Me program and help Aboriginal people with the best NDIS plan and services that they need.



Travis Peris, NDIS Navigator.

Hi, my name is Travis Peris, I am a proud Gija (Kija) (Halls Creek) /Yawuru (Yaru) (Broome) man from the Northwest coast of Western Australia. I was born and raised in Darwin, Northern Territory.

I am one of three new NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) Navigators, holding the part-time position within the Be With Me program, working with the beautiful Liv (Olivia), Ricache and Shana.

My professional background includes hospitality, social/community support work, mentoring, working with children, youth work and and as an NDIS Support Worker. I am a domestic/international flight attendant with QANTAS Airways Limited based here in Adelaide, celebrating 21 years of flying service in June 2021 and continuing.

I moved to Adelaide in January 2015 to support my nephew Brandan Parfitt (my twin sister's son), yes I am a twin, to a girl. I have two younger sisters (including my twin), who have given me four nephews and three nieces. However I have a million aunties, uncles, and cousins (extended family/in-laws) and through respect, I am a proud to say I am a proud Guncle.

Brandan was 16 years old at the time and was playing AFL footy for the North Adelaide Roosters whilst completing his year 12. Brandan was Geelong Cat's first draft pick in 2017 where he has been for the past 4 years; he wears the #3 Guernsey.

I stayed in Adelaide and continued flying around Australia and the world, this

was exciting, however I took leave from flying in October 2019 to give back to community and my people, to take some time out for myself, to polish up on my social skills, to learn about the local Kaurna people, meet locals, travel regionally to Aboriginal communities within South Australia to share stories, experiences and our journeys, to achieve my goals and tackle new challenges. I decided to enroll and study at Tauondi College part-time to establish working and personal relations with locals.

I want to work with Aboriginal people, especially here in South Australia, to improve their quality of life, to ensure everyone is treated equally, so that their rights are heard, they feel inclusive and not judged, taken advantage of, or discriminated against, just because of their race, colour, gender, sexual preference or disability, be it mental or physical. I miss playing touch footy and mixed netball, so if anyone needs a fill in or player, let me know. I enjoy spending time with family, friends and enjoy nights in and out occasionally.

I look forward in meeting you all over time. I am excited to be here at AFSS and look forward to the future ahead.



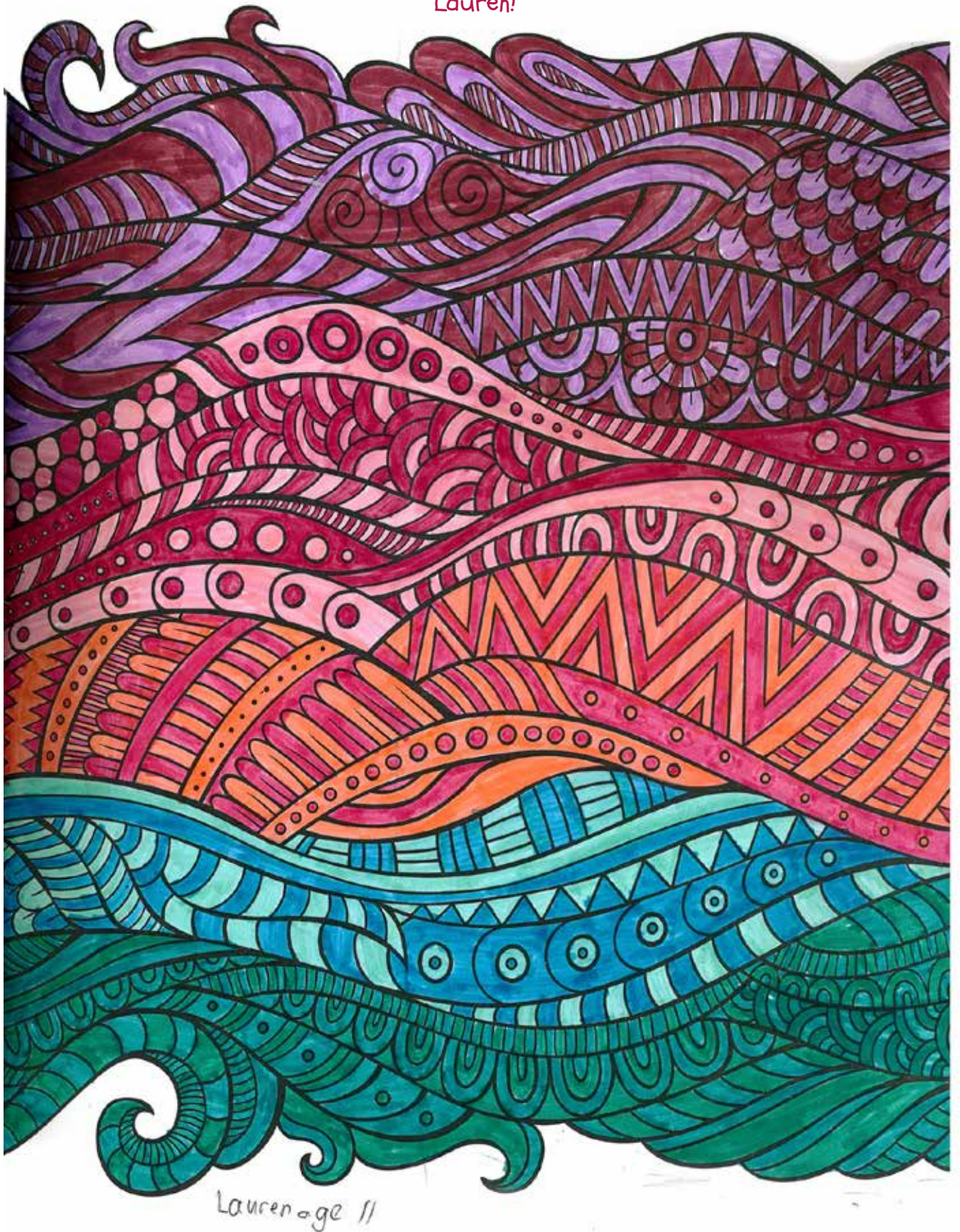
Jo Jennings, Intensive Family Service, Murray Bridge.

Hello, my name is Jo Jennings and I have been working in the Intensive Family Services team for the past 2 months. I have spent most of my childhood and adult life in Murray Bridge up until the past 4 years, which I believe has been really beneficial to providing support to the local community in my new role based here.

Previous to this role I worked at ac.care in homelessness for a period of 7 years. Prior to this I was providing support for Youth as a Youth Worker at the local high school and before that I rode track work on racehorses. I now live in Macclesfield with my partner Brett and my step-daughters Lucy and Lexi. I have a son Jacob who is married to Yeter and they are expecting their first child in December, so exciting times ahead.

I am really grateful for the opportunity to provide early intervention support to local families and look forward to my time working with Aboriginal Family Support Services.

One of AFSS children in care was so pleased to see her boomerang design in the last Newsletter, she decided to send us another masterpiece. Great Work Lauren!



Fishing Trip in Port Lincoln

Port Lincoln organised a fishing trip to Sheringa with two young people currently residing in our care. They had everything ready to go the day before, ready for their fishing adventure. We left town at 8am, bundling the kids with their blankets into the car, heading off to Sheringa. With no luck they packed up and went back to Greenly beach.

Staff set up and within 20 minutes hooked a fish that got away, this then followed by hooking on to another one which staff screamed out to the young people, who ran over and handed him the rod so he could reel it in. The young people were so excited and continued to brag all the way home that they had caught the biggest fish and that the staff had caught the smallest on the day.



Ceduna Garden Makeover

After weeks of cold weather, wind and much rain, Ceduna staff decided to give our back garden some TLC. The garden is located in the back patio area and protected by shade cloth. Plants with different shaped leaves and colours were chosen. The back area is well utilized by both staff and clients. Ceduna has hosted many events in this space as well. We hope everyone will enjoy the new look.



Foster Carers wanted across South Australia!

Adelaide - Peter Dyer

✉ assessments@afss.com.au

☎ 8205 1500

Berri - Leonie Plush

✉ leonie.plush@afss.com.au

☎ 8582 5503

Ceduna - Michelle Naylon

✉ michelle.naylon@afss.com.au

☎ 8625 3466

Coober Pedy - Amanda Zelenko

✉ amanda.zelenko@afss.com.au

☎ 8672 3066

Murray Bridge - Rebecca Hansch

✉ rebecca.hansch@afss.com.au

☎ 8532 1790

Mount Gambier - Dawn Cardona

✉ Dawn.Cardona@afss.com.au

☎ 0499 889 729

Port Augusta - Deb Merchant

✉ deborah.merchant@afss.com.au

☎ 8641 0907

Port Lincoln - Toni-Lee Miller

✉ toni-lee.miller@afss.com.au

☎ 8683 1909

- 
- Are you passionate about the future of Aboriginal children and young people?
 - Are you supportive and understanding?
 - Can you help keep young people safe in culture and community?

AFSS is looking for caring people just like you, who want to play their part in supporting Aboriginal children and young people

You could be just what they need



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

 follow us on facebook www.afss.com.au

Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipintheta

Culturally Responsive & Trauma Responsive Ways

What is Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipintheta?

Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipintheta is a 2 day trauma healing training that is designed to build your capacity to work in culturally responsive and trauma responsive ways with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Kaurna name of this training is Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipintheta or in English Indigenous trauma healing.

In Kaurna language each term means the following:

Yaitya means Indigenous, native, own.

Mingkamingka means hurt, wounded, sore, broken, damaged, full of holes.

Purrutipintheta means make alive, raise life, make whole or healthy, heal.



This Artwork was created by Micky Barlow, Aboriginal Artist and Basket Weaver and called "The Tree of Hope".

Participants who complete this training will :

- Gain an understanding of the guiding principles of culturally responsive practice and how this could be applied in your daily work.
- Explore intergenerational trauma and what is needed to respond and how the lived experience of this impacts families today.
- Strengthen capacity of workers to identify strengths and protective factors in families.
- Have direct opportunities to explore what it looks like in action and develop practical steps to utilise in your work practices.

Who can attend the training?

Yaitya Mingkamingka Purrutipintheta training is designed for frontline DHS and Intensive Family Support Practitioners working in early intervention services with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in South Australia. The Program will be delivered to the broader community agencies later in the year. Further information will be released on AFSS Website, Newsletter and Facebook page later in the year.



AFSS Port Lincoln Partners with Foodbank

Aboriginal Family Support Services in Port Lincoln are very proud to have partnered with Food Bank SA. The Food Bank SA Mobile Food Hub travels to Port Lincoln fortnightly and provides low cost groceries and food relief to those in need in Port Lincoln. Food Bank Food Hubs offer our clients a dignified shopping experience. The Mobile Food Hub offers a variety of foods and general household items and personal items for purchase with a Food Bank voucher. The Mobile Food Hub also provides free fruit, vegetable and bread to those attending the Food Hub. AFSS Port Lincoln are also authorised to distribute the Foodbank Food Hub Customer Pay Vouchers to the community identified as struggling to purchase healthy food for themselves and their

families. The Customer Pay Vouchers allows the customer to purchase foodstuff from the hub at significantly reduced prices. For more information about how Customer Pay Vouchers work, visit the Foodbank website: www.foodbank.org.au or contact the AFSS office in Port Lincoln: 8683 1909. Anna from the Aboriginal Gambling Help Service has also signed up as a volunteer at the Mobile Food Hub. Anna uses this opportunity to not only help those in need in our community but to build community relationships and promote the AGHS program. If you would like further information about Food Bank Food Hub, please contact the AFSS office in Port Lincoln: 8683 1909.



From left: Glenys Nowak - Intensive Family Support Program, Angela Fee - Manager Port Lincoln, Anna Angus - Aboriginal Gambling Help Service.

Congratulations to the following Residential Care Support Workers who have demonstrated values from AFSS Strategic Plan. Great work guys!

Dhruv Sharma

Sustainability

We are committed to achieving lasting, positive change

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective

Emma Van Beurden

Sustainability

We are committed to achieving lasting, positive change

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective

Khiara Gibson

Talking, listening and sharing

Engaging with our staff and our communities

Sharing our culture within our communities and others

Patricia Wilson

Speaking up and giving a voice

Promoting our role as trusted cultural authorities

Culture

Sharing our culture within our communities and others

Stella Kulas

Sustainability

Demonstrates AFSS Residential Service practice approach

Developing

Supporting staff to identify strengths and build capacity

Rachel Currie

Developing

Supporting our staff to be skilled, knowledgeable and professional

Integrity

Being accountable/responsible for our actions and decisions

Shana Karpany

Culture

Sharing culture within our communities and with others

Talking, listening and sharing

Being guided and grounded by our strong connection to country

Shaun Neukother

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective

Providing culturally safe and connected services for our children and young people who can't be with their families

Dave Jenkins

Leading

Being alert and responsive to changing environments, potential issues and emerging opportunities

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective

Jamie Milligan

Integrity

Displays transparency and accountability

Delivering

Child focused and responsive

Aimee Vuchich

Integrity

We are truthful and honourable in everything we do

We are accountable & responsible for our actions and decisions

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective

Leading

Being alert and responsive to changing environments, potential issues and emerging opportunities

Lehsa McCluskey

Leading

Nurturing innovative approaches and future leaders

Delivering

Supporting our staff to be skilled, knowledgeable and professional

Vito Puopolo

Talking, listening and sharing

Engaging with our staff and our communities

Culture

Sharing our culture within our communities and others

Steve Sorrenti

Integrity

We are truthful and honourable in everything we do

We are accountable & responsible for our actions and decisions

Delivering

Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective



Thank you Officeworks for your Donations!

AFSS would like to give a big shout out to the Officeworks store located on Marion Road at Mitchell Park, who made a very kind donation today to AFSS Residential Care houses.

I was in the Marion Officeworks store yesterday with my daughter and enquired about their NAIDOC packs that I saw advertised online and a lovely lady by the name of Kat served me. I told her what I was using it for and she asked me if AFSS was a not-for-profit organisation and then offered to put together a box of craft supplies (for no charge) for me to take around to the houses for the YP to use.

I took the YP from one of our residential homes into the store with me to collect the supplies and the YP gave them a pink cockatoo which they have hung up in the store. The store manager Rob came out and presented the items to me. I am not sure of the exact amount they donated but I would estimate it was between \$200 - \$250.

Here are some photos of the products that they have supplied which we are dividing up between two of our residential houses, along with some of the craft that YP have done.



Thank you Bank SA for your Donations!

Thank you to our friends at Bank SA Westlake's for their generous donation. They wanted to make an impact on our children and young people in Residential Care.

We have purchased these pillow packs for all our houses.

They are sets of 6 animal pillows featuring Aboriginal artworks by Darug artist Leanne Watson and Muruwari John Boney. These beautiful animal pillow sets includes a Fish, Koala, Platypus, Emu, Snake and Turtle.

Thanks again for thinking of us!





Just for **KIDS**

Colour me in!

paint the world
SUPER
COLORING

Call one of our Navigators for a Yarn!

AFSS would like to introduce Ricache, Travis and Shana our Be With Me Navigators (pictured below).

- Do you have a disability?
- Or need some extra help around home or in the community?
- Do you need help to find services?
- Do you have an NDIS plan or need help getting one?

If you live in South Australia, AFSS Navigators are here to help you find the services you want, and to help you with the services you already have and provide ongoing support.



From Left: Ricache Vangroesen, Travis Peris and Shana-May Karpany

Look for us on Facebook, Instagram and linked in

Shana-May Karpany

✉ shana-may.karpany@afss.com.au

☎ 0458 971 789

Travis Peris

✉ travis.peris@afss.com.au

☎ 0458 966 906

Ricache Vangroesen

✉ ricache.vangroesen@afss.com.au

☎ 0458 965 790



Pictured Above: Susan Richards, Senior Manager Residential Services and Robyn Calliess from Local Jobs Program.

AFSS Residential Services has recently formed a partnership with Max Employment to recruit Aboriginal people into roles for Residential Care.

The project is funded by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment for the Local Jobs Program.



To support AFSS and buy the latest Entertainment Book please click the following link:

<http://admin.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/9x50254>

Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation (AYCA)

The service provides crisis accommodation to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people between the ages of 15 and 25 who are at risk of, or who are, homeless. Clients are assisted with practical day to day supports including obtaining identification and securing Australian Government entitlements through Centrelink and opening up bank accounts.

Where are the services?

There are 2 services, one for young women (and may also include their children) and one for young men. Olga Fudge Lodge is located at Westbourne Park while Narungga House is located in Somerton Park.

Who can access crisis accommodation?

Olga Fudge Lodge is for young women between the ages of 15 and 25 (with capacity for young women to keep their children with them in the service) who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless if they cannot find accommodation.

Narungga House is for young Aboriginal men who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless if they cannot find accommodation.

Youth Support Workers

The service employs Youth Support Workers who are committed and passionate about supporting young Aboriginal people to achieve their full potential. This includes engaging with, and actively encouraging young people to fully participate in the daily routines of running a household such as cleaning, menu planning and shopping and budgeting. There is a strong focus on equipping young people with the skills they need to live independently when they move on from crisis accommodation.

Case Management Services

Case management services for clients are provided by the Toward Home Alliance through Baptist Care SA with AFSS Youth Support Workers working closely with Baptist Care in the delivery of case management services to young Aboriginal people.



Training, Education and Employment

Youth Support Workers engage with the young people in the service and assist them with their daily routines including participation in education, training and employment.

Social, Cultural and Sporting Opportunities

Youth Support Workers also facilitate client's access to social, cultural and sporting opportunities during their stay. This includes facilitating in-house and external activities that engage clients in activities, programs and events that increase their social and cultural connections and supports.

Would you like to find out more?

If you would like to know more about AYCA, you can contact:

Nick Ward

Manager, Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation

✉ **0409 993 444**

📧 **nicholas.ward@afss.com.au**





Where to find us

Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
☎ 8205 1500

Berri

23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
☎ 8582 3192

Salisbury

20 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 8281 3440

Smithfield

39a Anderson Walk
Smithfield SA 5114
☎ 8254 1077

Cross Road

503 Cross Roads
South Plympton SA 5038
☎ 8351 2661

Ceduna

28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
☎ 8625 3466

Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
☎ 8672 3066

Mount Gambier

68 White Avenue Compton
Mt Gambier SA 5291
☎ 0438 142 064

Murray Bridge

67 Adelaide Road
Murray Bridge SA 5253
☎ 8532 1790

Port Augusta

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

Port Lincoln

21 Washington Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
☎ 8683 1909

We are excited to invite you to join us at the **AFSS Foster Carers' Lunch**

**Acknowledging your valuable contribution
and celebrating Foster Carers' Week**



When: Thursday September 16
12-3 pm

Where: Sunnybrae Farm
1 Naweena Road
Regency Park SA 5010

With: The staff of the Foster Care team

RSVP: Please RSVP to your Carer
Liaison Officer by Thursday 2
September

RSVP's essential



We look forward to seeing you there!

