

Jan - Feb - 2025

## Campbeltown City Council Citizen of the Year Mr Ivan-Tiwu Copley OAM

AFSS congratulates Board member Ivan-Tiwu Copley OAM on his nomination for 'Citizen of the Year' by Campbelltown City Council. Your contributions to the community are greatly appreciated. Well done!

Ivan is a committed man and respected elder of



Aboriginal descent from the Peramangk people, the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and the Minang people of Western Australia. Ivan has dedicated his life to indigenous reconciliation and better outcomes for Indigenous Australians. He has conducted many welcomes to country and smoking ceremonies over the years and he has served on the Reconciliation Committee achieving excellent results. He also is Chairperson of the Turkindi Network of SA and the longest serving Member on the City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee dedicating 19 years service of valuable guidance and support.

Ivan established the Aboriginal Funeral Fund which assists family members to travel to funerals. He has been described as a 'bridge for all peoples'. In many ways he has educated many people about Kaurna history and has also led tours showing native foods. Through his work with Rotary, he established the first clean drinking water purifier in the Aboriginal community of Leigh Creek, having raised the funds for it himself.

## Save the Date - Reconciliation in the West 2025! Come and see the AFSS team!

When: Thursday 29th of May 2025 from 10am-2pmWhere: Tauondi Aboriginal College, 1 Lipson Street, Port AdelaideNational Reconciliation Week Theme: Bridging Now to Next



## A message from the Chief Executive

Welcome to the AFSS January/February 2025 Newsletter! The new year has kicked off smoothly here at AFSS, with all programs and services fully operational and running at full capacity.

Community involvement has been a key focus this year, reflecting AFSS's motto, "Together With Community." Highlights include Kaurna Day at Adelaide Uni, the Family Fun Day at Cleland Wildlife Park for

Foster and Kinship Care families, cultural activities for our Youth and Homeless programs, and cultural experiences in our Residential Care as part of the Therapeutic Interventions program.

It was wonderful to see our staff participate in the annual Walk of Awareness on Thursday, February 13th, to commemorate Apology Day. This year marks the 16th anniversary since the Federal Parliament established this significant day in Australia.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new board members who joined at the beginning of the year: Susie Dixon, Noelene Wills, and Tameeka Ieremia. Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we look forward to working with you.

Additionally, we have some exciting changes within our offices. On March 24th, AFSS's NDIS Services and Elder Care team relocated to Level 1, No. 1, Corner of Grand Junction Road & South Road, Wingfield. In the coming months, our Foster Care and Kinship Care metro teams will also be moving, with further details to follow.

Sharron Williams Chief Executive









www.afss.com.au

# Kaurna Day 2025: A Celebration of Culture at the University of Adelaide

On Monday, 3 March 2025, the University of Adelaide and UniSA hosted Kaurna Day 2025, a vibrant celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. The event, themed Tirkanthi - Ngutu - Taikurrinthi (Learning – Knowledge – Be united together), featured a sunrise smoking ceremony and a full day of music, dance, storytelling, and cultural experiences.

Visitors explored community stalls, enjoyed performances from First Nations artists, participated in traditional games, and engaged in cultural workshops. The event also offered a virtual reality experience and showcased academic research on Aboriginal culture.

AFSS Senior Manager of Specialised Services, Liv King and her team went down to check out the

atmosphere. Liv even got to face her fears and pat a reptile to prove to her son that she is a brave!

Kaurna Day was a free, family-friendly event that provided an opportunity to learn about and honor Kaurna culture and history. It was a day of discovery, celebration, and connection.

## DESIGN 1



## **DESIGN 2**



## AFSS New T-shirt designs

Check out our new t-shirt designs which have been created with artwork from artist Harley Hall. Harley is a proud Ngarrindjeri Kokatha/Wirangu family man with strong Kaurna/Narungga bloodlines. He is a proud father of three who grew up on Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri country learning about Culture from his family and Elders and now operates his own cultural business. "I am proud to be a part of the oldest living culture in the world and being story tellers, I am blessed to be able to keep telling stories through my artwork".

## Cleland National Park - Family Fun Day

On 17 January 2025, the Foster and Kinship team hosted a successful summer picnic at Cleland National Park. The day was filled with fun, sun, and plenty of opportunities for families to mingle and enjoy each other's company.

A standout moment was an engaging presentation by Uncle David Booth from IMBALA Aboriginal Performance & Workshops, who shared his knowledge about Aboriginal tools and practices for hunting and gathering. The kids had a blast mixing and painting with ochre, and enjoyed delicious food from the Aboriginal catering company 'Meez on Plus.'

It was heartwarming to see some of the kids excitedly jump in to help the AFSS team ensure everyone had water ready. Even the shyest children eventually warmed up and connected with familiar faces.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this day so memorable!













## Walk of Awareness - Apology Day - 13 Feb

The AFSS NDIS services, Elder Care team, and staff from our Salisbury office proudly participated in the Walk of Awareness on February 13, in recognition of Apology Day. This day is an important time to reflect, acknowledge, and continue the journey toward healing and reconciliation. We walk in solidarity with Stolen Generations Survivors, their families, and all First Nations people, honouring their strength and resilience. Apology Day serves as a reminder that words must be followed by action. This is something we are proud to do and will continue to do every year.





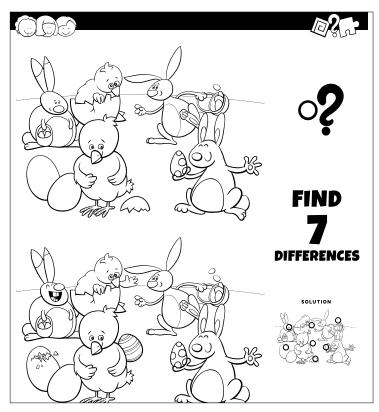


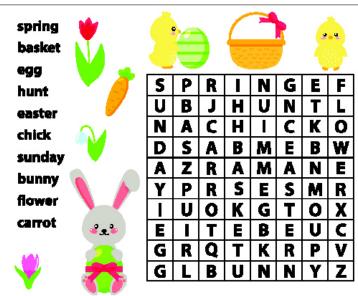




When: Thursday, 13 February 2025, 10:15am (10:45am start)

Where: Birkenhead Bridge (Northern side)







# Online Safety Tips for Parents and Caregivers

As our children become more digitally connected, it's essential to ensure they stay safe online. Here are a few simple tips for parents and carers to help keep their kids safe in the digital world:

**Set Boundaries and Rules**: Establish clear guidelines for screen time, social media usage, and the types of content they can access.

<u>Use Parental Controls:</u> Take advantage of built-in parental controls on devices, apps, and websites to monitor and restrict inappropriate content.

<u>Talk Openly:</u> Have regular conversations about online safety, including the risks of cyber-bullying, sharing personal information, and interacting with strangers online.

**Lead by Example:** Model safe online behaviour yourself. Show your child how to protect their privacy and practice respectful online communication.

**Stay Informed:** Technology is constantly evolving, so stay up to date on new apps, games, and online trends to better understand potential risks.

Remember, online safety is an ongoing conversation. By staying engaged and proactive, we can help our children navigate the digital world with confidence and care. There are some fantastic resources for different media platforms at:

https://www.carlyryanfoundation.com/





## International Womens Day - March 8 2025

On Friday March 7, the teams in Port Lincoln, along with Dawn and Judith from Mt Gambier, came together to celebrate International Womens Day (IWD). The theme for 2025 was "For ALL women and girls: "Rights. Equality.

Empowerment."

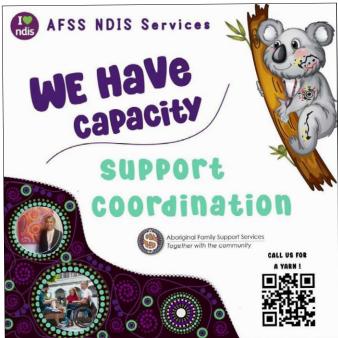
IWD dates back to 1908, when women marched for better working conditions and voting rights. It became a global movement in 1911 and was officially adopted by the UN in 1975.

At AFSS we honor all the incredible women in our teams and communities for their strength, resilience, and positive impact. Let's continue to uplift and empower each other every day.









## We Have Moved!

On 24th of March, AFSS' NDIS Services & Elder Care team have moved to a new location

### **Our New Address:**

Level 1 - No. 1 Corner of Grand Junction Road & South Road, Wingfield.

## Staff Updates



Meery Iancu, Human Resources Business Partner.

Hi I am Meery, I am an experienced HR professional, AHRI Member with 16 years in operational and strategic HR across public and private sectors, with sound understanding of Employment law, Workers Compensation system and Fair Work Act and Awards application. Passionate about fostering inclusive policies, transparent communication, and aligning HR strategies with business growth. My success is effective people and culture relations.





Belinda Black, Project Support Officer - Specialist Care.

#### Meet Belinda Black

With 12+ years in recruitment and project management, Belinda is a passionate advocate for Aboriginal workforce development. A proud single mum to a daughter of Torres Strait Islander heritage and owner of a cheeky husky, she balances family, career, and adventure. Her cheeky husky was even found on the roof once – proof that life with her is always full of surprises! Belinda is also a travel enthusiast, with her next trip planned to Thailand and Vietnam. Known for her strong sense of social justice, relationship-building skills, and leadership, Belinda is committed to making a difference while embracing life to the fullest. (By the way, she prefers to be called Bindi!)



## Christmas School Holidays in Port Lincoln

I would like to express my gratitude to AFSS for the incredible experiences the young people in Port Lincoln had over the Christmas school holidays.

It all began on 5 January, when two young people and a carer were welcomed aboard the Sunset Charters sailing catamaran for a dolphin swim experience. They cruised out into the heart of Coffin Bay, home to the resident Burrunan Dolphins, and had the opportunity to get up close and personal with these beautiful creatures. They spent five hours exploring Coffin Bay, with the crew ensuring they were well-fed and hydrated.

On 14 January, 12 young people headed back to Coffin Bay for a Cultural Day. They visited Yarnbala, one of South Australia's last remaining 'grassy low she-oak woodlands,' a critically endangered vegetation community. Kane guided the group through the property, showing them the abundant bush tucker available.

Back at the open fire, Tahnee Weetra welcomed the group to Nauo Country, and Susie Betts shared her culture with the young people while they painted and wove. Kane also taught the young men about the Didgeridoo. Throughout the afternoon, the group foraged for bush tucker, bringing it back to share with everyone.

Finally, AFSS Port Lincoln went on their first cultural camp in the Port Lincoln National Park, the land of the Barngarla and Nauo people. The young people saw ancient stone fish traps, explored animal tracks in the sand dunes, and camped under the stars. The feedback from these adventures has been amazing, and we look forward to more in the future.









If you love savings on food and entertainment, then follow this link to purchase a digital Entertainment Book & help support AFSS!

https://subscribe.entertainment.com.au/fundraiser/9x50254

# Empowering Youth: Culture. Connection. and Fun with the WEL Program

Judith and the team at the Salvation Army WEL Program (Warrondi Engage and Link Day Program) organised a youth program for young people facing alcohol and other drug use disorders (AOD). The program includes youth outings such as cultural tours in the Botanical Gardens and Living Kaurna Cultural Centre, go-karting, mini golf, horse riding, laser tag, and bowling. The young people who attend experience a day out filled with connection, culture, education, and bonding with peers, Olga Fudge and Narrunga House staff, and organiser Judith. All clients express their thanks to Judith and the team at the Salvation Army after each event and outing. With Aboriginal Cultural Engagement Advisor Isaac Hannam occasionally attending events with the WEL program, it has made a significant difference for clients in connecting to culture, family, and peer bonding. The clients are relaxed during these outings, creating a great space to see their personalities shine.





## A Day of Connection and Culture at Ingalalla Falls

Earlier this year, staff from the AFSS' Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation and Towards Home Alliance teams, (Sarah, Amanda, Matt and Isaac), organised an outing for the clients of Olga Fudge to Ingalalla Falls as a cultural day. Clients were happy, laughing, and enjoying the wonderful, emotionally transforming day. Dreamtime stories and knowledge were introduced and shared by Isaac (Cultural Engagement Advisor). Isaac also shared with the clients about their Elders and relations, which made a significant difference in their connection and sense of belonging. Isaac brought the group together in a way that was kind, caring, natural, and respectful. Isaac's kind nature drew the clients in and made the environment a safe place for all to ask questions and be informed.

We all enjoyed a smoking ceremony, Elder connection, Didgeridoo music, and Dreamtime stories about the surrounding environment - flora and fauna linked to Dreamtime - at Ingalalla Falls, which continued as we drove in the cars.

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic day; it was a pleasure to see everyone finding connection with themselves and each other.

Thank you, Isaac. We appreciate you, and we look forward to more cultural events in the future.

## Ngandyardnidi (to remember) Honoring Culture. Healing Through Art. and Community Connection

AFSS had the privilege of supporting the Port Lincoln City Council and Traditional Owner Emmalene Richards from Maba Idi Cultural Services and Tourism, who is a local Barngarla woman from Galinyala (Port Lincoln), at the Ngandyardnidi (to remember) Event on Sunday, 26.01.2025. It was a time for the community to come together, honour and celebrate culture, have a feed, yarn, and heal through art.

The event was a success, with everyone getting involved in art and yarning about what Australia Day/Survival Day meant to them. It held space for reflecting, learning, sharing stories about history and culture, and for some, healing through art and yarning.

It was a historic first that Local Government endorsed this event, and it was great to see it supported by many council representatives and volunteers such as the Mayor of Galinyala (Port Lincoln), Dianna Mislov; Deputy Mayor Robyn Rowsell;



Member for Flinders Sam Telfer; Museum/Historian/Committee Member Port Lincoln RSL Lee Clayton; Manager of Community, Culture and Recreation Helena Jones; Country Arts SA Gillian Steel; The Port Lincoln Rotary Club; and AFSS Intensive Family Support Case Worker Chloe Warren and Community Safety & Wellbeing Facilitator Melissa McNab.

Lee Clayton (Museum/Historian/Committee Member Port Lincoln RSL) shared the history of Australia and the impact the date has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This created a space for people to ask questions and learn about Australia's history.

It was an honour to be a part of this event and support Traditional Owner Emmalene Richards and her family in creating a space to have important conversations, build relationships, and heal through yarning and storytelling as a community.





## Port Lincoln - Community Safety & Wellbeing

A big warm welcome to 2025, our team have been quietly working to bring the 2025 calendar to life. Ngandyarnidi – To remember.

As we step into Term 2, let's take a moment to Ngandyarnidi (to remember) the strength that comes from kindness and connection. Our communities thrive when we look out for one another, share our stories, and walk together on the journey of healing and growth.

This term, we have some powerful workshops in Port Lincoln designed to support safety, well-being, and strong relationships. Whether you're looking to build resilience, heal from past challenges, or strengthen your parenting journey, there's something here for you.

## Upcoming Workshops – Join Us! (See next page)

**The Shark Cage –** Starts Tuesday 6th May (6 weeks)

Empowering women with tools to build confidence, set boundaries, and break free from cycles of violence.

**Seasons for Healing** – Starts Thursday 1st May (4 weeks)

A culturally safe space to navigate grief, loss, and healing, guided by Aboriginal ways of knowing and being.

**Bringing Up Great Kids** – Starts Thursday 22nd May (6 weeks)

A reflective and nurturing parenting program to strengthen family relationships and support positive growth.

Come along, have a yarn, and be part of a safe and supportive space where we lift each other up.











## CS&W - Term 2 Programs in Port Lincoln

The AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing program is dedicated to enhancing the safety and wellbeing for Aboriginal communities across South Australia.

The program emphasises early intervention and prevention, aiming to help families navigate life's challenges, stay safe from violence and harm, ensure children attend school, and equip families with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a safe and healthy environment.

To register or find out more, contact Mel at

Melissa.mcnab@afss.com.au or call 0417 255 724

Term 2 Calender will be out soon, click here for info:

www.afss.com.au/community-wellbeing





## Cultural Adventures in Residential Care

## **Mylor Adventure Camp**

In Residential Services, we continue to grow and develop our group programs. Recently we had fifteen of our young people attend camp "Yurebilla" along with about 20 other young people. This camp was held at Mylor Adventure camp. We were welcomed onto country by Uncle Ivan which was followed by a smoking ceremony. Many young people at the camp had not experienced a smoking ceremony before and felt extremely connected to culture though this happening. Baptist Care provided us great feedback and have asked for future opportunities to partner with us when we are planning cultural programs.

## Engaging Youth in Cultural Learning and Outdoor Activities

We have been working on getting a boys' and a girls' group started with the aim of engaging them in cultural learning from elders in the community. The boys requested a big roo tail cook-up in the forest. One of the Young People showed the group of 8 boys how to peel back the skin and shared how he had done this with family years ago. He was eager to cook up and eat the tail.

We have organised multiple group BBQs and hikes to get the young people out and about in nature. Morialta is usually the hike of choice, as not only does it provide the young people with a physical and mental challenge, but it also rewards everyone with spectacular views. Our most recent hike saw one of our young people push hard through physical and mental challenges and reach the top with his peers. He was incredibly proud of himself. This young person had previously not had any positive social interactions. Through support from his care team and engagement in our new therapeutic interventions, he has now participated in multiple group activities and felt supported by his peers

## Canoeing on the Coorong

Our most recent group activity was on Ngarindjerri Ramindjerri country where we took the young people Canoeing along the Coorong. For some this was a first-time experience. However the real win for the day was getting two of our young people Malakai Y and young JJ out with the group. Malakai has struggled to get out and enjoy these types of activities as he gets quick high level of anxiety, as does young JJ. Throughout the day we saw both of the boys enjoying themselves and coming out of their shells. The group enjoyed seeing seals and riding waves before having a cooked lunch of fresh pippi's with a special sauce in a bread bun. Most thought they wouldn't like them, but soon were going back for seconds. While sharing hot chips and reflecting on the day we just had out on the water, the young people asked if this group could all do a camp together as they go along so well....

## Canoeing the Coorong – Round 2

After the overwhelming success of our first Canoe the Coorong trip, more young people expressed interest in experiencing this incredible journey. So, we went back - and once again, it was an unforgettable adventure.

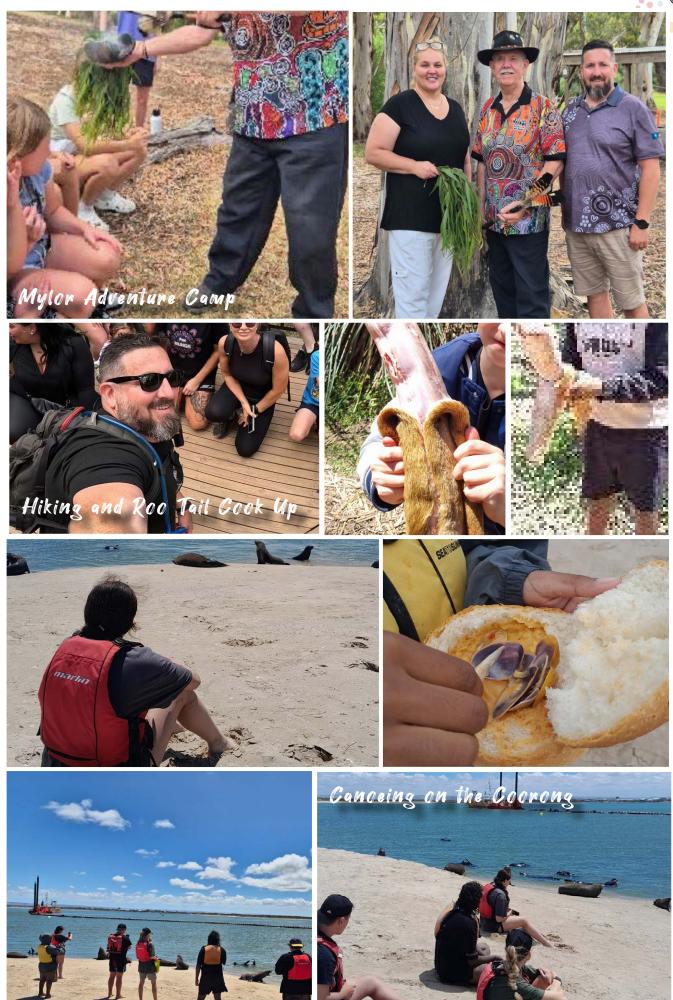
We were welcomed onto Country by Elijah Sumner, a local Ngarrindjeri man who guided and supported our group throughout the day. As we paddled through the Coorong, Elijah shared cultural stories and the language of the area, enriching the experience for everyone involved.

One of the highlights of the trip was encountering a large group of seals on the beach where we stopped for lunch. Our meal was a delicious mix of a classic sausage sizzle alongside freshly cooked cockles infused with sweet chili and garlic—an authentic taste of the region.

Beyond the stunning scenery and exciting wildlife encounters, this trip also served as an essential engagement tool for some of our more disengaged young people. Friendships were formed, conversations flowed, and discussions emerged about what other activities could be incorporated into our Therapeutic Interventions program.

These experiences continue to highlight the importance of cultural connection, adventure, and community in fostering healing and growth among our young people. We look forward to many more opportunities like these in the future!





## Where to find us

#### Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000 ② 8205 1500

#### Berri

23 Denny Street Berri SA 5343 ② 8582 3192

#### Ceduna

28 Poynton Street Ceduna SA 5690 © 8625 3466

#### Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street Coober Pedy SA 5723 © 8672 3066

#### Mount Gambier

20 Elizabeth Street Mount Gambier SA 5290 © 8723 6110

#### Murray Bridge

67 Adelaide Road Murray Bridge SA 5253 © 8532 1790

#### Noarlunga Centre

1A Hannah Road Noarlunga Centre SA 5168 ② 8186 4000

#### **Paralowie**

254 Kings Road Paralowie SA 5108 ② 8281 5440

### Port Augusta

8-14 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

### South Plympton

## Whyalla

19B Darling Terrace Whyalla SA 5600 @ 8644 0116

## Wingfield

1 Corner South Road Wingfield SA 5013 © 8281 3440

## Coober Pedy Youth Shed

We have had a very hot summer at Coober Pedy and the kids have been spending a lot of time at the local pool and trying to stay cool indoors at the Youth Shed.

The Coober Pedy Youth Shed is a service designed for young people aged 6-18 years of age. It is aimed to provide a safe and central location where youth can hang out with their peers. It helps to give Young People a sense of purpose so that they can build positive relationships and stronger connections with peers, family and community. It delivers targeted activities such as:

- Health and wellbeing programs
- Blue light discos
- Comprehensive school holiday programs
- Leadership programs
- After hours homework groups
- Peer mentoring
- Cooking and life skills programs
- Other initiatives developed by the young people themselves









If you would like to find out more info about the Youth Shed please contact:

#### **Coober Pedy Office**

8672 3066 
 Coober Pedy SA 5723
 Section 1991 Aylett Street - Coober Pedy SA 5723

Adam Salazar - Youth Worker © 0419 7 85 238

