



Tarrnda

Karrawirra Pari

Strategic Plan 2024-29



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community



Harley Hall Acknowledgment of artist

I am a proud Ngarrindjeri Kokatha/Wirangu family man with strong Kurna/Narungga bloodlines. I am a proud father of three, I have 2 daughters and one son. I grew up on Kurna and Ngarrindjeri country learning about Culture from my family and Elders.

I now operate my 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.

I now am dedicated to empowering my people and Community through Culture and building resilience within my people by keeping our culture alive.

This painting represents Aboriginal Family Support Services and their connection to families and country. It illustrates the journey of building strong, resilient families and a healthy community. The hands symbolise our ancestors and the artist, reflecting pride in our ancient culture. The circles represent songlines, while the Aboriginal stars depict the Seven Sisters, connecting women to Dreaming. The emu and kangaroo signify progress, as they only move forward. Tarnda and Karrawirra Pari represent Kurna country, and the dots signify the 500 Aboriginal clan groups of Australia.



Acknowledgment

*Marni ngadlurlu tampinthe Kurna miyurna yaitya
mathanya Wama Tarntanyaku.*

*Ngadlurlu marni naa pudni taikurtirna
wakwakurna. wangkanthe padni'adlu waatu*

Aboriginal Family Support Services acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands where our sites and services are located. We recognise their cultural, spiritual, and emotional connections to these lands, waters, and communities. We welcome all families and children and honor and pay respect to Elders past and present. Let's walk together in harmony.

Aboriginal Family Support Services affirms its support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart

It is time to thank the First Nations people for their invitation to walk with us in a movement of all Australian people for a better future.

We recognise the Uluru Statement from the Heart as an historic mandate to create a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

We hear your call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and for a referendum to amend the Constitution accordingly.

We hear your call for a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

We are committed to respecting the wisdom, knowledge, and Cultural authority of First Nations People and this is at the centre of our work. We acknowledge our non-Aboriginal (brothers and sisters) who have supported us in our work and want to continue to work in harmony together.

AFSS Offices South Australia



'Let's Keep Kids Safe in Culture'



A Message From The Board

Since 1978, Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) has been serving Aboriginal communities across South Australia. We are committed to walking alongside Aboriginal communities, children, and families - caring for the community by ensuring that our work is always focused on Aboriginal culture, country, and connection in all of the services we provide.

We are the largest Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) in South Australia, with over 460 staff across 45 locations. We feel a deep responsibility to work with others to lead positive change for the Aboriginal community in this state.

While we have made significant progress over the past few decades, we recognise that much more remains to be done to support the growth and aspirations of Aboriginal children and families.

In this 5-year strategic plan, we will share our aspirations for the future. As we do, we want to acknowledge all those who have brought us to this point and those who will continue to lead us forward.

We have a deep appreciation for the Kinship Carers and Foster Carers for their nurturing care and unwavering commitment to the Aboriginal children they look after. We know you give your all. Opening your homes to children is something the Board will forever be grateful for.

We would also like to celebrate the leaders and staff across South Australia for their hard work and commitment to the children and the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. We know the work at AFSS can be both rewarding and challenging, but your dedication shines through as you continue to work alongside families and give your best to them.

We would like to thank the Elders, Board members, staff, and volunteers who have walked this path before us and laid the foundation for where we are now.

AFSS places Aboriginal children, young people, families, and communities first.



AFSS Board Members from left to right: Ivan Copley (Treasurer), Alex Houthuysen (Hill) (Deputy Chairperson), Donna Henry (Chairperson), James Bevan (Secretary), and Dan Mitchell (Acting Chief Executive).

'Let's Keep Kids Safe in Culture'

Our Values

Our Values guide every behaviour and every service. This is what we believe in and what we will stand up for.

People

- We believe Aboriginal children have the right to be raised in a safe and healthy environment, preferably within their own community.
- We believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect.
- We believe everyone has the right to speak and be heard.

Culture

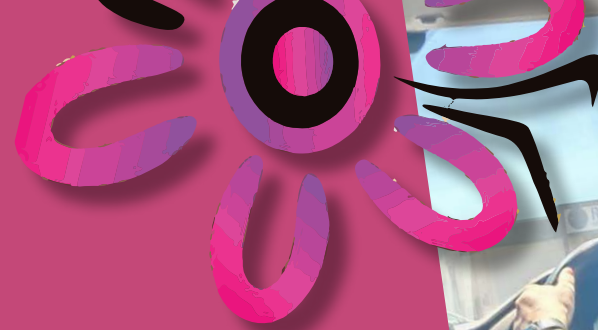
- Our culture gives us strength, stability, wisdom and power.
- We have an opportunity to share our culture within our communities and with others and will do this proudly.

Integrity

- We are truthful and honourable in everything we do.
- We are accountable/responsible for our actions and decisions.
- We act with bravery across all parts of our work.
- We act with humility, curiosity and openness to learning from others.

Sustainability

- We are committed to achieving lasting, positive change.
- We are prioritising our staff's health and wellbeing, investing in young people, and maintaining our relationships with our community.



'Let's Keep Kids Safe in Culture'



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I believe being progressive in this sector is something to strive for as the largest ACCO.

With strong foundations we can build on our strengths to be the leading service provider for our community and to be an exceptional workplace.

*Acting Chief Executive
Dan Mitchell*

2023-24

Our Aspiration

We aspire to

- Being the best service for children, young people and families.
- Strengthening and giving status to the voice of Aboriginal children and young people, advocating for Aboriginal families and children at all levels.
- Being the employer of choice in this sector for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and all those committed to the self-determination and the wellbeing of Aboriginal communities.
- Leading the sector in innovative approaches, service design and delivery and sharing our learning.
- Always working collectively for the self-determination of Aboriginal children, young people, families, communities, and organisations.



'Let's Keep Kids Safe in Culture'

Our Plan

We have a resilient foundation to build upon with strong leadership, and passionate and committed staff. The coming years will be a time of consolidation and innovation for AFSS, building the best services we can with the Aboriginal community.

Delivering

AFSS offer a broad range of high-quality services supporting Aboriginal children and families. We will build on best practice service delivery by:

- Strengthening our cultural support and advocacy across all our activities.
- Maximising integration and access to all our services for Aboriginal children and families.
- Increasing earlier and intensive intervention responses for our community.
- Building a broader response for children, young people and families with disabilities involving holistic service responses.
- Implementing robust monitoring IT systems to track data, performance, and security.
- Ensuring all our programs are innovative, culturally safe, sensitive and continually growing to meet the needs of our community.



Speaking up. giving voice...

AFSS provides trusted cultural advice, advocating for the needs of Aboriginal children and families. We engage and influence for the benefit of Aboriginal community where needed. AFSS is committed to the voices of lived experience by:

- Ensuring lived experience stakeholders can directly contribute to service design and service evaluation.
- Implementing an AFSS lived experience strategy to embed the voices of children, young people, families, and carers across the organisation.
- Implementing a communication strategy strengthening the connections within the organisation and providing a clear path for communication with all external stakeholders.
- Working with children and young people to increase their voice within AFSS and across all services.



'Let's Keep Kids Safe in Culture'



Leading & Innovating

AFSS are always looking to engage with potential issues and emerging opportunities and want to nurture and grow future leaders, we will enhance this by:

- Creating a flexible, vibrant, and creative organisation to sustain the health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, and carers as they are the organisation.
- Bringing together key partners across the sector and research field to explore new areas of focus that are beneficial to Aboriginal children, young people and families, and the sector.
- Developing and implementing an AFSS technology strategy that draws on the cultural traditions and technologies of First Nations peoples, while complementing these with emerging technologies.
- Building an organisation that provides innovative training opportunities for both staff and clients, while establishing itself as an employer of choice within the sector.

We recognise and stand with all Aboriginal nations & communities



DIERI
PIRLATAPA

MALYANGABA

KAURNA

DHIRARI

ANTAKARINJA

KARANGURA

MIRNING

KARANGURA

WILJALI

WANGKANGURRU

ANTAKARINJA

YAWARAWARKA

BIADJALI

NAKKO

YANDRUWANDHA

WANGKANGURRU

ARRERINTE

PITJANTJATJARA

NGADJURI

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Ceduna SA 5690
☎ 8625 3466

Cross Road
📍 503 Cross Road
South Plympton SA 5038
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📍 Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
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Mt Gambier SA 5290
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Paralowie
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