



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

July - August 2023

Connecting with Community, Culture and Country - Elders Led Teachings on Peramangk Country

On Friday the 21st of July, AFSS Residential Managers provided an opportunity for staff and Young People to come together and spend the day learning about the history and culture of Peramangk Country.

We were honoured to have the opportunity to be joined by and walk alongside one of AFSS Board members, Uncle Ivan-Tiwu Copley.

We met on Peramangk Country in Mount Crawford Forest on a culturally significant site, Centennial Drive. Kaurna, Peramangk Elder, Ivan started off our day with a Welcome to Country, acknowledging the neighbouring communities surrounding the land we met on.

Without any direction from staff, the Young People all stood quietly, deeply listening and soaking up everything Ivan had to share. The Young People learned about tools used for fires, boomerangs for hunting and protection, as well as clap sticks for ceremony and song. The Young People learned how food would be prepared and divided amongst community and how it would be shared with Elders and the young and why.

During the day, Young People helped manage the fires and did this safely. We cooked roo tail in the hot coals, while our managers cooked a sausage sizzle on the BBQ. One Young Person brought a fish that they had caught with a friend the night before and prepared and cooked it on the fire.



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A message from the Chief Executive

It was great to see such a brilliant turn out for AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day - 2023. This year was the busiest we have seen since the event commenced in 2015.

It was lovely to see AFSS kids in care and other members of the community, come along to celebrate Aboriginal culture with friends and family. 'Little Voices - Loud Futures' was this year's Children's Day theme. Definitely not so quiet at this year's Children's Day, with many children up there singing their favourite tune!

We have had a lot of things happening over the last 2 months, with NAIDOC Week occurring from 2-9 July. The Foster Care team did a fantastic job hosting the Elders Pavilion at Victoria Square (Tarntanyanga) again. Staff from AFSS CS&W team and Port Lincoln office also joined in on the fun and connected with community throughout the week.

Busy times again at AFSS Coober Pedy, with staff and Young People also participating in many NAIDOC events throughout the week, including the NAIDOC Ball, Disco, and various other events which were facilitated with other local community organisations.

I would also like to welcome AFSS' new board member, James Bevan who started with us in August. We look forward to working with him and seeing what he can contribute to the organisation.

We are looking forward to connecting with AFSS Foster and Kinship Carers at Sunnybrae Farm on Wednesday 13 September for the Annual Luncheon to celebrate Foster & Kinship Carers Week. A time to honour all of your dedication and hard work throughout the year!



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*





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While waiting for the food to cook, there was plenty of kicking the footy, sitting by the fire, and a very competitive Bush Hut building in the forest, with one group taking it to another level.

Throughout the day, staff were engaging with the Young People and there was plenty of yarning, which brought everyone closer as an AFSS community. The Young People and staff expressed their enjoyment of the day, and on multiple occasions, requested more days like this.



Reminders

AFSS Foster & Kinship Carer's Lunch

Celebrating Foster and Kinship Carer's Week
A time to acknowledge the valuable contributions of AFSS Foster & Kinship Carers

When: Wednesday 13 September 2023

Time: 11.30am - 2.30pm

Where: Sunnybrae Estate
1 Naweena Road Regency Park

We look forward to seeing you there!

Community Safety & Wellbeing Open Day 2023

When: Friday 20 October 2023

Time: 10.00am - 12.00pm

Where: 254 Kings Road Paralowie

Welcome to Country by Kuma Kaaru
Free morning tea/lunch - plus giveaways
Get to know the CS&W team and the services that they provide.



Connection to Culture - Children's Day - 2023

"Little Voices - Loud Futures"

Connection to Culture - Children's Day - 2023 - was an absolute hit. Bigger and better again.

There were so many wonderful activities for children and families to participate in.

We had great attendance from stakeholders providing information and activities for children and Young People (with over 25 organisations attending on the day).

The event was once again organised by AFSS Cultural Officer, Barbara Falla, and various AFSS staff members who facilitated the early morning set up, pack up and work throughout the day.

Karri Tamaru Smith opened the day with 'Welcome to Country' and carried on with the entertainment as MC.

In the centre of the recreation centre, we had art and craft activities set up for the kids to partake in, such as Macaroni picture making, bead making, pebble painting, play dough, slime making, face painting, henna art and canvas painting.

AFSS NDIS team provided pot painting and had free plants on display for people to take home.

AFSS Foster Care team provided a 'decorate a cookie' activity, which was a lot of fun.

We also had our favourites activities: Jumping Castle, Photo Booth, spray tats and of course the Petting Zoo.

There was a different twist this year for entertainment and instead of the usual rock band, Karaoke was provided for people to partake in. Amanda Tanti (AFSS Recruitment Officer), was first to take the stage and break the ice, doing a fabulous rendition of 'I Will Survive' and Lady Gaga's, 'I Was Born This Way'. When the kids came onto the stage, we had some amazing little stars, some showcasing their rap skills, and others singing their favourite movie soundtracks.

Children's Day wouldn't be the same without seeing a big, bright, round, ball of yellow, wandering around the recreation centre, giving out free hugs - that is OGCYP's mascot - Oog! This year he also had his Kangaroo companion (Nunga Oog), in tail.

Create Foundation's Purple Monkey (Gus) also made an appearance on the day.

Overall, it was once again a delight to see children, and members of the community, come together to celebrate the richness of Aboriginal culture, in a fun and creative environment, and I am sure that everybody slept very well!







NAIDOC Week - Community Safety & Wellbeing (CS&W)

AFSS CS&W Facilitators, Annette O'Loughlin, Catherine Momo and Nartiea Morgan were invited to hold a stall at the Christies Beach High School NAIDOC event on July 3 2023. Other stall holders were based around health employment services and staff from Centrelink, who provided support and forms. AFSS staff reached out to 30+ students and 3-4 families. AFSS merch was our main talking point with the lights being a huge attraction for our stall. Christies Beach High School put on a BBQ and a fire with Kangaroo cooking, and also provided scones with lemon myrtle and various flavours.

NAIDOC Week in Port Lincoln

In conjunction with Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council (PLACC), Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service (PLAHS), Mallee Park, National Indigenous Australian Agency, DCP, Country and Outback Health, Headspace, Rotary, CentaCare, Family Violence Legal Service, Complete Personnel, West Coast Youth Community Support, Eyre and Far North Lower Health Support, Kmart and AFSS Port Lincoln, put together the biggest program that I have ever seen for NAIDOC week "For Our Elders".

AFSS' start to the week was huge, with Managers Angela Backman and Glenys Nowak attending the NAIDOC March on Monday 3 July, followed by a whole staff effort, setting and blowing up nearly 1000 balloons for the Kids Disco. We had cupcake decorating, colouring boomerangs and many competitions to keep the kids interested throughout the night. AFSS would like to thank their sponsors, Kmart, Dominos, McDonalds and Coles for the donations on the night.

The rest of the week didn't slow down with PLACC open days, Nunga Screen, and the PLAHS cook out at the wombat pit, which is always a must! Then there was the Elders Lunch and Bingo, and to finish the week, the Youth Ball and the NAIDOC Senior Ball. It was so nice to see so many different faces come together this year to celebrate this important event!





NAIDOC Week Celebration in Victoria Square: AFSS Team Serves Generously

Victoria Square was buzzing on Friday 7th of July as people gathered to celebrate the main event of NAIDOC Week; a time to honour the culture, heritage, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year's theme was 'For Our Elders' where we paid our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging.

Information and activity stalls lined the perimeter of Victoria Square, giving attendees heaps of opportunities to talk to specialists, collect free give-aways, and to be entertained with activities like face painting.

The festivities were made more memorable thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Foster Care Metro team and a number of workers from other AFSS programs who tirelessly provided free food, tea and coffee to the crowd. The team served a massive 450 scones with jam and cream, 660 pies, 660 pasties, and 660 sausage rolls.

A special thank you to Judy Spooner who put in many hours of work organising the food marquee ensuring the day went smoothly. Under the protection of a large marquee, Elders were served the food and drinks and encouraged to sit and have a yarn.

The Foster Care team's efforts did not go unnoticed, as their hard work was appreciated by all in attendance. Attendees praised their commitment to making the event inclusive and enjoyable for everyone, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere that truly reflected the spirit of NAIDOC Week.

In addition to the culinary delights, AFSS held a free raffle, offering participants a chance to win a large hamper of items or \$100, and a \$50 voucher.

The AFSS teams' involvement in NAIDOC Week celebrations, which included a march 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 2024 NAIDOC celebrations.



Coober Pedy

YOUTH SHED

NAIDOC Week Community Celebrations

This year for AFSS Coober Pedy NAIDOC celebrations, we worked together with other organisations to make it a combined NAIDOC WEEK calendar of events.

On Monday we opened the week with 'Welcome to Country' and a flag raising ceremony at the Coober Pedy District Council. Then a march down the main street to the Rotunda for a community breakfast cooked by the Umoona Tjutagku Health Service.

Events were held all week among the organisation, including Umoona Childcare, Umoona Council, CPAS, Antakirinja Matu-Yankunyjtajara Aboriginal Corporation (AMYAC) and AFSS Youth Team.

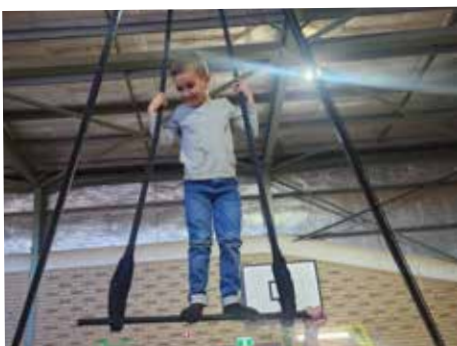
Then we also held a Youth Ball for the Young People aged 14 years and over. The formal wear for the Youth Ball was all donated to AFSS from The Woomera RAAF Base. Youth Worker Simon spent all week getting the kids in for fittings and picking accessories to make sure they all looked fabulous for the Ball. He also was the chauffer and the DJ for the night.



School Holiday Activities

The July school holidays were a busy one for AFSS Coober Pedy Youth Shed, with two different holiday programs being delivered. In the first week we had the circus come to town with the CircoBats group. All the kids loved it and we had 120 kids come along to the sessions to learn circus skills like uni Cycle riding, walking on stilts, balancing beams, trapeze, juggling, flips and tumbling, plus much more. Ages varied from 3 years old, all the way to 16 years old. Everyone loved it and we are hoping to get them back again next year.

In week 2, we had Bikes Palya deliver 4 more new bikes for the Youth Shed and fix several others that were donated by the community. Brad and David from SA Bikes showed the kids some new tricks, road safety and bike repairs and maintenance. David even helped to put the new ping pong table together. We are always excited to have Bikes Palya back again every school holidays.





The new ping pong table which was kindly donated by *Katrine Hildyard, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing.*

Good News story in AFSS Residential Care!

I wanted to put in a good news story about two siblings (aged 7 & 8 years) who came from DCP into one of AFSS residential houses, just before Christmas last year in 2022. As siblings they settled into the house very well with a great care team supporting them.

The team worked very hard to establish good relationships and routines for the Young People who achieved really positive outcomes not only at home, but also in the positive reflection given by their school. They also had access visits with Mum who flew in from Port Lincoln fortnightly to spend time with them, which was very positive.

Each holidays, they spent a week in Port Lincoln, staying with their sister and also seeing their Mum. The fabulous result is that the kids were reunited with Mum in mid-July, which is hugely exciting and a credit to all involved. While this was a bit sad for the dedicated staff team, they are able to reflect on the great work they have done and the ultimate result for our kids returning home safely to family!

We celebrated with the majority of the staff team, as well as the Young People, a couple of days before they went home. - AFSS Manager Residential Services - Alan Bengier.



An artwork display created by kids in Residential Care, including their representation of AFSS Youth Workers and Managers :-)

AFSS Team Members Receive Awards at the Towards Home Alliance Homelessness Conference

On August 15-16, the Towards Home Alliance held its Annual Homelessness Conference at Adelaide Pavilion, South Terrace. This was attended by six of AFSS Aboriginal Youth Crisis Accommodation (AYCA) support staff, Manager Nick Ward and Senior Managers Liv King and Kerry Rogers. There were some great topics for discussion, as well as some fantastic workshops and activities to be involved in. All of the staff reported getting a lot from the day. The program for the conference was built to focus on Aboriginal experience and leadership; children, young people and families. It also discussed evidence based housing models that support not only housing, but the health and well-being outcomes of people experiencing homelessness.

The Conference included discussion panels by Aboriginal Housing experts and the Alliance CEO's, as well as a keynote address by Sonia Waters on Justice, Equity and Self-Determination. The Alliance also launched their Charter and Strategic Directions document. It was a great opportunity to get out and meet different people in the sector and also our partners in the Alliance.

Two of AFSS Youth Support Workers from AYCA were given Values, Education and Leadership awards for their hard work in the Alliance. (Pictured right)



Rebecca Davies - Respect

Rebecca Stanway - Courage



Back from Left: Nick Ward (Manager of AYCA & Reconnect) Youth Support Workers; Rebecca Davies, Michael Boakes, Roz Walsh and Sandra Schulze. Olivia King (Senior Manager Metropolitan Services, NDIS & Specialised Accommodation). Front: Youth Support Workers; Rebecca Stanway & Sarah Gilbert.

Staff Updates

Together with the community



*Michelle Naylon Foster & Kinship
Carer Liaison Officer, Ceduna.*

Michelle Naylon recently celebrated 10 years of working with AFSS. She started one day before the Ceduna AFSS staff moved into their new office at 28 Poynton Street. Michelle has been working in the Family Based Foster Care space and recently also in the Kinship Care program. She has been tirelessly working on recruiting new carers, assessing carers and supporting our exceptional carers in the great work that they do. Michelle always has a smile for anyone and has been an asset to the AFSS team. Thank you for the great work, support and advice that you give us in Ceduna.



*Debra Flavel, Carer Liaison
Officer, Port Lincoln.*

Hi my name is Debra Flavel, I am a Local Aboriginal Wirangu woman from Port Lincoln.

Port Lincoln is my home - where I was born and grew up, all my life, with my family. I am married and have been blessed with 5 beautiful daughters and one son.

I also have eight grandchildren that bring so much more happiness to our family.

I worked later in life. I loved being a mum, loving my children and being there for them every moment and teaching them and being there to see them grow and blossom.

That's the most rewarding job to me - my family, life experiences

and the love and happiness it brings. It has given me the strength to be strong and achieve my goals today.

I did my Diploma of Enrolled Nursing, I worked at Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Services for 8 years, and did my Aboriginal Health Worker & Aboriginal Maternal Infant Care (AMIC) studies.

I then did Aboriginal Health Worker Dialysis training for 12 months and worked at Port Lincoln Hospital in the Dialysis Unit.

I worked at the Tumby Bay Hospital and Uringa aged care as an Enrolled Nurse.

My passion is in health, caring for people and the Aboriginal Community.

I am new in my role as a Carer Liaison Officer. I look forward to learning and supporting the Port Lincoln community locally.



*Drew Hinchey, Coordinator for
Residential Services, Port Lincoln.*

Hi, my name is Drew Hinchey and I am the new Coordinator for Residential Services in Port Lincoln. I have 7 years experience in Community Services and have previously worked with AFSS as a Support Worker in the residential homes. I was born in Ceduna and have lived in Port Lincoln for 24 years. I have two kids, a dog, a cockatiel and a lovely wife. I enjoy going for hikes, spending time with the family and walking the dog in my downtime. I'm excited to be in the Coordinator position as it allows me to learn new skills and work for a company where I feel supported.

I love ndis AFSS NDIS Services

WE Have Capacity

SUPPORT COORDINATION

CALL US FOR A YARN!

Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

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

Seasons for Healing Staff Training

Congratulations to AFSS staff members Kayla, Catherine and Annette who completed their Companion Training for Seasons for Healing.

AFSS deliver Seasons for Healing, which is an education program focusing on grief and loss, developed in conjunction with Good Grief Ltd. Its role is to walk with you through the program process.

For more information, please contact one of AFSS' local offices to the left, or you can also contact AFSS' Paralowie office below, which is focused on running the set of CS&W programs.



☎ **8281 5440** 🌐 csw@afss.com.au 📍 **254 Kings Road, Paralowie SA 5108**



From left: Mollie Thulborn, Artur Sarmiento, Hamza Alison Mazawa, Ajay Nguyen, Martina Kamara, Abigail Roebuck, Padmini Rana and Kimberley Barrie.

Welcome to our new Residential Services staff who recently completed their training!

Our new workers showed great enthusiasm and passion for making a difference in the lives of the Young People in our care. We wish them every success in their new role.