

Christmas cookies & lizard hunting at the Coober Pedy Youth Shed!

It has been a busy last few months at the Coober Pedy Youth Shed. The Young People have been busy in the kitchen baking Christmas cookies and banana bread. Our face painter has been back to visit (this is now a regular thing which happens and a real highlight with the kids). The kids have also been getting outside and catching lizards, which is a normal every day thing that they like to do when out and about. We also had a surprise visit from the RAAF last month (See page 6). While 2022 has been a testing year for us all here at the Youth Shed, we are looking forward to developing some new programs in 2023 and also working on some renovations to improve the building. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A message from the Chief Executive

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of 2022! What a year it has been!

It was wonderful to see everybody who attended the AGM on November 25, where we discussed the happenings of the past year. Please head to AFSS website to view our 2021-22 Annual Report to learn more.



I would like to congratulate the NDIS 'Be With Me' Navigator team who were very fortunate in winning the 2022 HESTA 'Disability Services Team Excellence' award. Their hard work and determination has definitely paid off to reach this level recognition within the community. I have enjoyed watching their progress over the past 2 years!

It is also great to see AFSS staff getting involved in some well deserved Christmas celebrations over the past week, a great chance to relax and celebrate to reflect on the year.

We did not put on a Foster Care Christmas party this year, due to COVID-19 safety measures and also having just had the Carers Week Luncheon. But we have generously given all of our Carers vouchers to use as they please. We once again would like to thank you all for your hard work throughout this year, and it does not go unrecognised.

Lastly, I would like to wish everybody, including our staff, foster carers, board, partnering organisations, and the children in our care, a wonderful Festive Season and a Happy New Year. It has been a pleasure working with you all and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

> Sharron Williams Chief Executive









www.afss.com.au



Staff at AFSS Port Pirie office have been busy putting together a lovely Christmas Lego display.



On behalf of the Board, Chief Executive and everybody here at Aboriginal Family Support Services, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!

AFSS Christmas and New Year Operations

All of AFSS Offices across South Australia will be closed between Christmas and the New Year (from Friday 23 December at close-of-business and re-opening again on Tuesday 3 January).

Our Accommodation Services including Residential Services, Supported Independent Services (SILS) and Aboriginal Youth Accommodation Services (AYCA) will remain open and operate as normal during this period. All on call services (Foster, Kinship and Specific Child Only) will also continue to be available at all times during the closure. In the event of an emergency not related to our on-call services, you can contact:

Aboriginal Family Violence Helpline	1800 800 098
Child Abuse Report Line	131 478
Crisis Care	131 611
Lifeline	131 114
SAPOL	131 444

Sista 2 Sista Day (E-Safety)

AFSS Port Lincoln attended the Sista 2 Sista (E-Safety) day held at Mallee Park Football Club on Wednesday 16 November 2022. Sista 2 Sista is a day where the women in the community come together to build connections and shared life experiences. The Sista 2 Sista 2022 theme was E-Safety and throughout the day community organisations spoke about their services and the support that they offer. Many agencies and organisations within the Port Lincoln community got involved and provided activities. AFSS Aboriginal Gambling Support Officer Anna Angus worked in conjunction with Centacare to organise an information session as well as display the gambling game called Lived Experience. Anna had also set up an art table that was popular with the women and children as they enjoyed designing their own wooden boomerangs and Australias with posca pens. Other activities that were available were basket weaving and knitting. Local businesses set up pampering stations that allowed the women to enjoy getting a haircut, face waxing and an overdue massage.



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Click this link to purchase a digital Entertainment book and help support AFSS. https://au.entdigital.net/orderbooks/9x50254



Jaquan and Oshay's Camping Trip!

On 10 October 2022, Jaquan and I went on a camping trip to Wauraltee Beach in the Yorke Peninsula of South Australia. This trip was a first for Jaquan and I thought it would be a great experience for him and a great way of getting him out in country. We started off the day by getting together the last few items that we needed for the trip, we then packed the car and off we went. The drive was about two hours long, but we made it as fun as possible by listening to music, playing games and pointing out wildlife. Once we arrived, the first job was to find a spot to camp. We chose a site which was a short walking distance from the beach. Before setting up camp we noticed that there was a bit of rubbish around the site, I took this opportunity to teach Jaguan about sustainability and the importance of looking after the land. Once we had finished cleaning the site it was time to set up camp. With the camp site set up, it was time for the important stuff - fishing! We spent the rest of the day on the beach with our lines in the water, I don't think the fish got the memo, as they were not biting. After about what seemed like forever, we decided it was time for dinner and we packed up our fishing gear and headed back to camp. For dinner we had sausages and hamburgers. After dinner we decided to have another crack at catching a fish, we sat for about

an hour until it happened. Jaquan got a bite and he started to reel it in as fast as he could until it was lying on the sand in front of us. Jaquan had caught a stingray! The look of excitement was plastered all over Jaquan's face. We held it up and took a couple of photos and then released it back into the ocean. Jaquan didn't move from that spot and about 30 minutes later, he had another ray on the line. Again, he reeled it in as fast as he could and landed it on the sand in front of us, and then once again we released it back into the ocean. With that, Jaquan was very happy with his efforts and we returned back to camp and started a fire before it got dark. We sat by the fire and talked about the land we were from and traded stories. Unfortunately I began to get ill and with that we decided to pack up and return back to placement.







You might be temporary in their lives. They might be temporary in yours. But there is nothing temporary about the love or the lesson **?**

TONIA CHRISTLE

Woomera Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) visit the Coober Pedy Youth Shed

Every so often, when the compliance monitoring team are doing patrols in the area, the Young People at the Coober Pedy Youth Shed get a visit from the Woomera Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). Luckily enough on November 9, they were in the vicinity and decided to stop in for a chat. This was the first visit in many years. They brought along some goodie bags and let them play in the cars and use the radio and sirens - it was a real treat for the Young People!

They have also offered for us to come and visit them at the Woomera RAAF base for a few days and nights. This will hopefully be happening early next year.









Together with the communi



Congratulations to Jashaun Brady, for winning the 'Academic Excellence in Maths' award! The team here at the Coober Pedy Youth Shed are very proud of your achievement!

Riverland Aboriginal Health Expo

Last month, the Riverland AFSS team attended an Aboriginal Health Expo which was held in Berri at the Berri/Barmera Council Town Hall. The Expo is a great initiative developed by Trent Wingard who is the Aboriginal Health Workplace Coordinator from the Aboriginal Health Council. It was a great opportunity for the Riverland team to speak to some of the local people, to explain what our services are and how we can support them. There were many other local services in attendance at the Expo, which gave our Riverland team a great opportunity to network with these services to further ensure our people are being looked out for. It was also great to speak with many of the local High School students who attended the Expo, not only to hear their story, but also to provide advice and guidance to support them in the coming years. Our Riverland team enjoyed the experience and can't wait to continue these strong connections that we have within our community.



From left to right: Shane Karpany, Rhett Colls, Nicole Barber and Michelle Harris.

Congratulations to the NDIS 'Be With Me' Navigator team for winning the 'Disability Services Team Excellence' HESTA Award!



In October, AFSS found out that the 'Be With Me' Navigator team had not only been nominated for a Hesta 'Excellence in Disability' Award, but also that they were finalists in the Excellence in Disability Team category!

Our Navigator team was being recognised for "their dedication to Aboriginal people with disability by assisting them to access and utilise appropriate support, while encouraging a culturally safe environment". Our story was picked up by a national news website

and we were asked to do a story on our project and the success we have had from tailoring a service really specific to the community's needs. This can be found at:

https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2022/11/ navigators-guide-first-nations-people-through-the-ndismaze/

NDIS Navigator, Shana-May has given us a rundown of the night:

Eileen Collins-Cole and I were fortunate enough to be asked to attend the HESTA Awards Gala Night in Melbourne on November 24, on behalf of the NDIS Navigator team. The night started with a run through of where we were required to enter on stage and where to stand once they started announcing the finalists. After that, we had drinks and canapés, along with a meet and greet with other finalists, to learn about what other organisations are doing within the community service space.

The formal part of the night then started, with a Welcome to Country by Aunty Janet Galpin (this was an amazing experience watching and listening to how a Welcome to Country is done in other countries). After the Welcome to Country, there was an official welcome and an introduction to the MC/Host for the night, Rhiannon Tracey. As the official welcome was happening, our entrées started coming out.

Once the main courses were done, Eileen and myself had the opportunity to go have a photo with Aunty Janet Galpin and introduce ourselves, but also to thank her for the beautiful Welcome to Country.

After the first seven awards were handed out, I became extremely nervous because I knew we were next! As the staff brought out the dessert, tea and coffee, I sat at our table and nervously prepared what I was going to say if we had won the award. Luckily for me, I had Eileen with me to help try and calm my nerves. As the desserts finished and the staff were clearing the tables, it started to kick in that it was our turn to go stand on stage.

As my hands were shaking, Rhiannon starting introducing the 'Disability Services Team Excellence' finalists:

- 'Be With Me' Navigators AFSS SA
- Communication eXtra SA
- Down Syndrome Australia Health
 Ambassador Team Vic

Then Rhiannon called out... 'Be With Me' Navigators, Aboriginal Family Support Services. I was in shock and extremely nervous. I went up and collected our trophy/awards and then stood with Rhiannon and did a little thank you interview on stage. It was such an honor to just be invited to the night and to stand on stage with other amazing organisations that provide services to the community.

After I had finished and everyone else was thanked, I returned to our table where Eileen was sitting, still shaking and not completely comprehending that we had actually won! Everyone at the table was congratulating us.

I sat for not even 5 minutes, before being asked to go out to the foyer to have photos taken with the other winners from the night. The professional photographers where taking pictures of us individually and also as a large group.

Between the photos and the interview I received a call from Ricache (our other Navigator), congratulating us and who was extremely proud. I also made a call to our Manager Liv, telling her



that we had won and how happy we were and how nervous I was giving the speech. Liv reassured me that I had done well and to enjoy the rest of our night. Once all the photos were taken, Eileen and myself were pulled aside to do another little interview in front of a camera. They asked questions about how I was feeling about winning, who I would like to thank and what we were going to do with the prize money.

Once that was all over, Eileen and I ended our night back in the hotel room with not 1 but 2 trophies! One is kept with us at the AFSS 20 Ann Steet office, and the other is with our CE, Sharron Williams, at AFSS head office in Waymouth Street.

Shana-May Karpany

Right image: Ricache Van Groesen - NDIS Navigator/Support Coordinator, Olivia King - Manager of NDIS/SILS, Shana-May Karpany - NDIS Navigator and Eileen Collins-Cole - NDIS Navigator.





disability services team excellence finalists

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Be with Me' Navigators, Aboriginal Family Support Services Idelaide SA

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From left: Shana-May Karpany - NDIS Navigator, Aunty Janet Galpin and Eileen Collins-Cole - NDIS Navigator.

Staff Updates

Ricache takes on second role as Support Coordinator

We would like to congratulate Ricache Van Groesen. Ricache has worked with AFSS for 18 months as 'Be With Me' Navigator and during this time Ricache has completed a Cert IV in Indigenous Leadership.

Ricache was recently successful in her application for the Support Coordinator role with AFSS and she will now take on a dual role between NDIS Navigator and NDIS Support Coordinator.

Ricache is a go to for any NDIS related questions or supports.

Feel free to give her a call for any of your NDIS questions or support needs.

⊘ 0458 965 790 🛛 ricache.vangroesen@afss.com.au

Welcome Aboard Bianca!

Hi, my name is Bianca and I have recently joined the NDIS program at 20 Ann Street, as a Support Coordinator.

I commenced my career in Corporate Services and made the change into the Disability Sector where I have been working, since I have had over 5 years' experience and found this to be much more enjoyable and rewarding.

Before AFSS, I worked in the community as a Local Area Coordinator (LAC), a partner in the community for the National Disability Insurance Scheme and then had a career change into Plan Management followed by Support Coordination.

I love being a Support Coordinator as I find it so rewarding for people to link in with supports and get the support they need, to be able to have more choice and control over their lives and to be able to make a difference.

I am so excited to be able to learn more about Aboriginal communities and connect into my culture in any way I can and am extremely grateful and excited to have this opportunity and be on-board with the AFSS team.

When I am not at work I love spending time with my partner, family, friends and furry friends.

I love trying new places to eat and going on adventures to new destinations. Recently, I have been getting into reading more than I have in the past and camping since buying a swag.

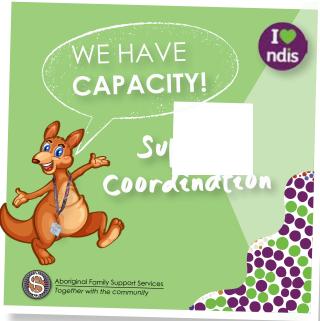
Two fun facts about me:

I have the memory of a sponge because I can remember the smaller details in things mentioned to me from weeks/months/years ago.

I also own more jumpers than other clothes and continue to buy these no matter what season it is and need to constantly be reminded I don't need any more!









Bec Kairns, Kinship Liaison Officer, Port Lincoln.

Hi, my name is Bec Kairns and I have recently started as Kinship Liaison Officer in the Kinship Care team in Port Lincoln. I had recently been employed in the Department for Child Protection for about 21 years, firstly as a Financial Counsellor, however have spent the last three years as a Transition from a care Case Manager role where I gained extensive knowledge and experience on how to support Young People in gaining independent living skills and transition into adulthood. While this role was rewarding, I'm excited to be working with our Kinship carers to make sure they feel heard and supported to care for children and young people so that they can have the best care experience possible. I'm also looking forward to getting a better work life balance back.

I love spending time with my family and catching up with friends on the weekend. We have two dogs and some chooks that keep us busy. We moved from Gawler to Port Lincoln five years ago and are in the process of building our new home. We love to go out on the boat and try our hand at fishing. I'm ok at filleting squid but not so good at fish. I love to cook and I have an addiction to cooking shows on the Food Channel and I love to eat.



Anna Lucia Draper, Manager, Finance and Administration.

Hello AFSS Family. Thank you for the fabulous welcome I have received so far. I'm Anna Lucia Draper and am now sitting in the role of Manager, Finance and Administration.

I have been in Finance Manager roles longer than I want to admit to. I have worked in a range of industries including recruitment, local government, the wine industry and retail. It feels wonderful to come back to a not-for-profit, where I can achieve great satisfaction, be passionate and especially impact on young people's wellbeing. It's been a whirlwind of training and learning since I started and I am quickly learning all things AFSS.

A little bit about me, I am married to Tim, have been for almost 29 years, no kids but we do have 5 cats, Lucky, Tommy, Tina, Simba and Jelly Bean. All are rescues, no I am not the crazy cat lady, we just couldn't imagine our home without fur babies.

The other really important person in my life, is my father who turned 90 earlier this year. He lives in a nursing home, and demands that I visit often.

Tim and I love to socialize, and have an amazing group of family and friends. When the world gets a bit safer we would love to travel overseas again. The last two years have been 'overseas' holidays in Port Lincoln and Kangaroo Island, which were fun and full of activities, but I am itching to get on a big plane and go somewhere a bit more exotic. I look forward to meeting you all and hope that I can make a difference at AFSS. Please call or come and visit for all things finance.



Dinusha Nallaperuma-Arachchige, Accounts Officer.

My name is Dinusha and I have started my role as an Accounts Officer.

I have about 15 years of experience in the finance discipline in different capacities across the Government, Non-Government and corporate sector as an Accountant, Finance Officer and School Services Officer in Australia and Sri Lanka.

I am looking forward to learn and blend in with AFSS and it's culture, and applying my knowledge and experience to make a positive difference to our community. Please email, call, or come see me if you need any help finance related, so I can share what I know and I can learn from you.

I have two beautiful girls and my husband in my family. I love cooking, gardening and spending time with my family and friends.

I strongly believe in kindness and always trying to treat others the same way that I would want to be treated. Hi, my name is Hayley Wallis and I have recently commenced as Payroll & HR Administration Officer.

My background is in HR & Payroll, having worked in the area for over 10 years. In my most recent role, I was employed as a Payroll Officer with one of South Australia's largest 'for profit' organisations, however, the majority of my experience has been working in HR & Payroll positions in the 'not-for-profit' sector, so I was excited when this opportunity came up.

When I am not working, you will find me spending time with my friends, taking part in a fitness group in Mount Barker. I go most nights after work, with my favourite night being Wednesday night as this session is boxing.



Hayley Wallis, Payroll & HR Administration Officer.

I also love to spend time with my family and I enjoy spending time in my garden and going for walks around the Adelaide Hills.



KWY Aboriginal Corporation are hosting The National Aboriginal Child Safety and Domestic Violence Summit 2023: Strong Families, Safer Children at the Pullman Hotel, Adelaide from 29 – 31 March 2023. The Summit will bring together guest speakers to stimulate new and innovative pathways to address the national issue of child safety, domestic and Aboriginal family violence across Australia.

Across 3 days, you will hear from keynote speakers and take part in breakout sessions, which offer new ideas for trauma-informed culturally responsive practices. Keynote Speakers include Dr Tracy Westerman, Stan Grant, Muriel Bamblett and many more!

To find out more about the summit and to purchase your tickets head to:

The National Aboriginal Child Safety and Domestic Violence Summit 2023: Strong Families, Safer Children 29 - 31 March 2023 - Adelaide SA Featuring keynote speakers: Catherine Liddle Richard Weston Cathy Taylor



08 8377 7822

https://www.kwy.org.au/summit

Congratulations to our green thumbs in EEH!

Employment and Education Housing tenants, Bella and Ronald, entered the Gardening Competition held by Community Housing Limited and were invited to attend the awards ceremony at Harry Weirda Reserve, Arlington Court, Oakden on the 16 November 2022.

Bella and Ronald were the 1st prize winners of the Best Front Garden Category. When they moved in the front yard was a mud patch but it looks amazing now. Congratulations Bella and Ronald!



L to R – Sophie the Garden Guru (Gardening Australia on ABC), Ronald and Bella (Employment and Education Housing co-tenants), Nikki (Community Housing Limited) and Leonie (Community Housing Limited).

Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up Healthy Term 3

Port Lincoln

In Term 3, the Port Lincoln Community Safety & Wellbeing team facilitated a Healthy Homes Resilient Families Growing Up Healthy workshop, at the Community Hub, Lincoln Gardens Primary School. A massive thanks to all the participants for coming together, learning and sharing their knowledge. One particpant said "I have never cooked some of the things we did and having leftovers to take home was deadly." Another said "I didn't know that sugar was so bad for my kids, my son has ASD and he doesn't need that much sugar." Congratulations to the participants and thanks to Chris Buckland who made us all feel so welcome at the Community Hub.



Jedda, Ian, Cruz Miller and baby Delilah.



Connie and Jase cooking up a storm.



Connie and Jase outside Ceduna Blues Footy Club.

Ceduna

In term 3, the Ceduna Community Safety and Wellbeing team facilitated Healthy Homes, Resilient Families - Growing up Healthy, at the Ceduna Blues Footy Club. These families learnt about the impact of sugar and how to cook tasty meals with less sugar. "Sugar is in everything, I can now cook thinking about how to reduce the sugar." During this workshop we prepared meals together and sat and yarned about ways to budget, especially now with the price rise of food, fuel and electricity. "We buy a whole sheep from the butcher and store it in our freezer, this works out cheaper per kilo." Connie and Jase worked as a team preparing the Pumpkin Chicken dish, then we sat together yarning about what we learned.



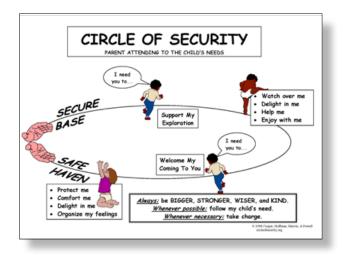
AFSS Port Lincoln meet the founder of Circle of Security-Parenting

On November 1-4, AFSS staff from Port Lincoln and Paralowie offices had the opportunity to meet Bert Powell, the founder of Circle of Security-Parenting. He provided insight into how he developed the program, which is now internationally recognized and translated into multiple languages.

Circle of Security-Parenting is a program which draws from 50 years of research into attachment. It runs for 1 day a week for at least eight weeks and is designed to enhance the bond and sense of security for you and the children in your care by:

- Giving you skills to better understand your children's needs
- Inviting you to reflect on your own experiences of being parented and how it impacts on your parenting
- Providing an environment where you can focus on your strengths and challenges
- Benefiting from the experience of sharing with other caregivers

The staff reported that they all enjoyed the training and the opportunity to meet other people interstate who have similar roles. They are now keen to deliver this program to community members.



To find out more about Circle of Security-Parenting, or if you would like to take part in the next program, please contact AFSS on: Image: Security 2015 on: Image: Security 2015 of Security 201



From left to right: Mel McNab, AFSS Port Lincoln & Sachina Maharjan and Pauline Mann, AFSS Paralowie, with the founder member of the Circle of Security-Parenting Program. (COSP), Bert Powell.

Where to find us

Adelaide 134 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000 Ø 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 Ø 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



Aboriginal Family Support Services Together with the community

Aboriginal Family Support Services

Port Lincoln COLOUR FUN RUN

When: Wednesday 18 January 1-3pm Where: Foreshore (near the Yacht Club)

Age: 5-12 years

We encourage you to wear sunglasses (or safety glasses) and old clothing on the day

Club of Port Lincoln

Rotary

Free Sausage Sizzle

For more information please contact Mandy Drummond on:

mandy.drummond@afss.com.au / 8683 1909



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.