



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

May – June 2016



AFSS celebrates staff achievements with Solution Based Casework

Thursday 19 May saw the culmination of months of hard work and training for AFSS staff in the Solution Based Casework (SBC) case management practice model.

Certificates were presented to those who have attained certification in the program by Dana Christensen, from the University of Louisville.

Dana is an internationally recognised expert in the field of child welfare casework, and the main developer of SBC.

He was engaged by Families SA to facilitate the implementation of SBC in South Australia, and to provide training to the non-Government organisations (NGOs).

AFSS was pleased to welcome Dana and his partner, Natalie Bowlds, Director of Operations and Special Projects for SBC, to share in the celebrations.

Staff from all AFSS offices attended, and seven received their certificates, with Wendy Wicks, Stronger Families Senior Quality and Accountability Officer, being Certified as an SBC Coach, Glenys Nowak and Helen



Above, back row from left: Amber Shannon (Case Worker, Ceduna); Helen Dunn (Case Manager, Ceduna); Dana Christensen (Solution Based Casework Developer); Wendy Wicks (Solution Based Casework Coach), Michelle Brooks (Case Worker, Port Lincoln); Glenys Nowak (Case Manager, Port Lincoln); Rebecca Starrs (Families SA). Front, from left, Tania Elliott (SBC Trainer); Natalie Ross (Case Worker, Ceduna); Rebecca Vincent (Case Worker, Ceduna).

Dunn being certified as SBC Supervisors and Amber Shannon, Natalie Ross, Rebecca Vincent and Michelle Brooks being certified as Proficient in SBC.

Bev Ewen, AFSS chairperson, acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the Adelaide Plains, the Kaurna people, and welcomed everyone to the celebration of team members' successes.

Sharron Williams, AFSS CEO, thanked Tania Elliott, AFSS Training Officer and Wendy Wicks for their hard work in training staff in SBC, and congratulated those who have attained Accreditation.

“It has been a long and necessary process,” said Sharron, “but we are finding that outcomes are better for our families when SBC is being used.”

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A message from the CEO

We were thrilled to invite Dana Christensen, Developer of Solution Based Casework (SBC) and his partner Natalie Bowlds, Director of Operations and Special Projects for SBC, to attend the celebration and formal presentation of Accreditation certificates to those AFSS staff who have achieved competency in SBC.

The event was held on Thursday 19 May, and provided the opportunity for the AFSS Board Chairperson, Bev Ewen, and staff from AFSS offices around the state to get together and celebrate the achievements of their colleagues. You will find more information about the event in this newsletter.

Thanks to all for their hard work in attaining accreditation, and also to my Executive Assistant, Trish Laccos, who worked tirelessly to ensure that the event was well catered for and ran smoothly on the day. A wonderful team effort that highlights the dedication and commitment of our staff.

Eoin Loftus has provided support to AFSS for a number of years. Eoin's commitment will see him undertake four marathons across Kangaroo Island at the end of August to raise funds so that children in our care have the opportunity to undertake a variety of activities and experiences that will enrich their lives. Read the story on page 15 of this newsletter to find out more about this exciting event. Eoin's commitment to supporting AFSS is second to none and we express our heartfelt thanks to him for the work he undertakes on our behalf.

A sincere thank you also goes to the Lions Club for providing several hundred tickets to AFSS for families to attend the Razzamatazz event. Feedback received is that the event was fantastic and the children really enjoyed it.

We are very grateful to the Zonta Club of Adelaide, for their continued support of our work. Zonta presented a cheque for \$2,100 to AFSS for the Olga Fudge Lodge. The money will go towards a shade sail to be put over the play equipment, which was paid for with previous support from Zonta, along with personal packs and art supplies.

At the time of writing this message, AFSS is in the planning stages for an exciting event – a Connection to Culture Workshop, to be held at Tandanya on Thursday, 4 August 2016. You will find a registration form and more information attached to this newsletter.

I encourage you to attend what will be a great opportunity for service providers and other interested parties to ensure Aboriginal children and young people are assisted to maintain real connections with their culture while unable to live with their families.

Sharron Williams
Chief Executive Officer



AFSS and AnglicareSA sign partnership agreement



Above: Peter Sandeman, CEO of AnglicareSA, and Sharron Williams, CEO of AFSS, signing the partnership agreement between the two organisations.

Monday 6 June 2016 saw the signing of an historic partnership agreement between AFSS and AnglicareSA.

The purpose of the agreement is to work together to develop strong families, where children are safe and can thrive and achieve their potential.

“It’s vital that AnglicareSA and AFSS work in partnership to enhance and increase capacity within the Child Protection and Out of Home Care sector,” said Sharron Williams, AFSS CEO.

“We look forward to further strengthening our working relationships with Anglicare for the benefit of Aboriginal children and families in South Australia.”



AFSS celebrates successes with Solution Based Casework

Continued from page 1

Dana was pleased to join Bev to formally present certificates of accreditation to staff.

“Certification shows that you have core proficiency in the program,” said Dana.

“It is an ongoing process, which includes noticing ongoing change. Celebrations like this should occur on a regular basis.”

As well as congratulating the team, Dana paid tribute to Natalie Bowlds for the vital role that she plays with SBC.

AFSS is proud of the achievements of the SBC team; having started the program a year later than Families SA (FSA) in the training and implementation process, AFSS has caught up and is leading the way in SBC among non-government organisations.

Rebecca Starrs, FSA Solution Based Casework Advisor/ Practice Support Project Officer External SBC Implementation, who has worked closely with AFSS throughout the whole process, shared her pride in the manner in which AFSS has embraced SBC.

Wendy Wicks reiterated Dana’s comments, and also paid tribute to the important role that Tania Elliott has played in SBC implementation.

She also thanked Dana and Natalie, stating how easy they have been to work with, and expressed thanks to Rebecca Starrs, who, she said, “has always been there when we needed her.”

A Question and Answer time gave Dana the opportunity to share insights from his recent visit to Yalata, which was his first time in an Aboriginal community.

He was pleased to engage with families on community, and was able to watch women painting artworks.

It also provided him with insight into the differences between Western and traditional Aboriginal cultures, and an understanding of the importance of oral documentation and sharing of stories, as well as the Western focus on written reports and documents.

At the celebration AFSS launched the first four in a series of posters specifically for use with SBC, that have been designed in collaboration between Tania Elliott and Grace Nelligan, AFSS Communications Officer.

The posters will be used as tip sheets to support AFSS’ work with Aboriginal families.

The posters are bright, engaging and culturally appropriate, and will help families remember important messages about their roles and responsibilities in keeping their children safe.

The event provided a great opportunity for staff from all AFSS regions to come together to celebrate the hard work that we do as we strive to achieve positive outcomes for Aboriginal families in South Australia.

If you would like more information on SBC, please visit the website at

www.solutionbasedcasework.com



Ceduna forum focuses on foster care

A Foster Carer Forum was held in Ceduna in the early evening of 6 April. The forum was a joint event between AFSS, Centacare and Families SA. Carers enjoyed talking among themselves in a relaxed atmosphere whilst having a cuppa and nibbles. Among the topics under discussion were current carer payments, and possible future changes to carer payments.

Families SA also explained about the procedures associated with Other Person Guardianship (OPG).

What is OPG?

Under Section 38 (1) (d) of the *Children's Protection Act 1993*, the Youth Court can appoint up to two people, other than the Minister, to be the legal Guardian(s) of a child.

Guardians through OPG have day-to-day parenting and decision making responsibility for a child.

Some examples of this include decisions in relation to education, health, holidays and child care. The appointed Guardian(s) can exercise their rights to the exclusion of all others. Birth parents retain rights relating to passports, name changes, the death of the child and organ donation. Guardians have to follow any conditions set in the Youth Court order, such as agreements regarding access.

OPG is not adoption. Adoption permanently changes the legal status of the child, as birth parents are no longer recognised by law as the child's parents, thus severing all their parental



Above: Carers enjoyed sharing with each other in a relaxed atmosphere whilst having a cuppa and nibbles.

rights. OPG supports the importance of maintaining birth family connections, where possible.

More information can be obtained on the Department of Education and Child Development website, www.decd.sa.gov.au

Participants also discussed other questions and issues raised and talked about specific training that carers may wish to attend.

The evening was all about information sharing and getting to know other foster carers in Ceduna and surrounding areas, and was of great benefit to all who attended. The Ceduna foster carer forums are a regular event held approximately every three months. Keep your eyes on the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au for details of upcoming events.

AFSS is growing in Port Lincoln



Southern Eyre Food for All Network is an initiative of Red Cross. For the past year AFSS has been involved in the Edinburgh Community Garden project with agencies including Red Cross, OARS, Uniting Communities and Port Lincoln Community Learning.

As well as teaching the children and young people who live in our Residential Service skills of gardening and food to plate healthy eating, AFSS has also supplied any surplus food to Red Cross to donate to the local community.

Since the success of the program, the committee is broadening its concept to include businesses on Eyre Street, involving Uniting Care Wesley, where an information session was held on 6 May, with the group supplying homemade pumpkin soup made from vegetables out of the gardens.

The concept was well received and resulted in front page coverage in the Port Lincoln Times.

Pictured at right: Donna Carr, AFSS Community Safety & Wellbeing, and Douglas Pope, tending chilli bushes in the Port Lincoln Community Centre's community garden. Photo courtesy Pt Lincoln Times.

A little story from a foster carer

A newly registered foster carer shared the following story after she had provided a short respite placement for a four-year-old girl (we'll call her Sally).

The foster carer has a little fluffy white dog (let's call him Fluffy). Both Sally and Fluffy became quite attached to each other during Sally's time with the foster carer.

One late afternoon the carer was preparing dinner in the kitchen whilst Sally was in the lounge room colouring in. After a while Sally asked the foster carer, "Is Fluffy a boy or a girl?" The carer replied, "Fluffy is a boy dog."

The carer continued to prepare dinner whilst Sally was humming a melody. After some minutes the carer entered the lounge room to find that Sally had coloured Fluffy in various shades of blue with pencils, crayons and felt tip pens.

The carer looked at Sally, who said "If Fluffy is a boy dog he needs to be blue!"

Sally did not want the carer to wash Fluffy – so Fluffy, who was quite happy with his new look,



stayed blue for couple of days until Sally went back home.

Our carers are certainly an exceptional breed of people who know how to make the children in their care feel special!

Violence towards women is **not OK**

On 8 April 2016 Ivan Phillips attended as a guest speaker at our staff meeting.

Ivan is a White Ribbon Ambassador and is planning to ride his motorcycle 15,000km around the circumference of Australia to promote the White Ribbon cause and raise awareness that violence towards women is Not OK.

In 2007 Ivan's step daughter, Tash, was murdered as a result of sustained vicious domestic violence attacks.

Tash left behind a seven-year-old son, Josh and a grieving family. Ivan said that to lose a child under any circumstances is heartache but to know that a perpetrator was involved was just unfathomable.

Ivan shared an emotional speech, and AFSS



Above: Left to right, back row: Glenys Nowak, Shane Sumner, Ivan Phillips, Hippy Wanganeen, Jeanette Dudley. Middle row: Michelle Brooks, Debra Garrett. Front row: Angela Fee, Jess Backman.

thanked him for the courage that he showed and in sharing his story. You can follow Ivan via his Facebook page, Riding Free of DV.



Watto Purrinna focuses on children's health

Kathi Fejo, Peter Frankcom (from AFSS foster care team) and Tony Lawrence (AFSS Gambling Coordinator) attended Watto Purrinna, an Aboriginal children's health expo, at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre on 20 April, to promote AFSS and the services we provide to the community.

The event was facilitated by SA Health and was a well organised, strongly attended and well catered function. As well as providing the opportunity for organisations to share information, there were fun activities for the children, including a rock climbing wall, a bungee jumping arena, a jumping castle and a photo booth with costumes to wear in the photos.

Attending on the day and available for autographs and photos were a number of AFL Crows and Power players.

Stalls and stands were well received, as were the giveaways, and the activities available for the children were varied and enjoyed by all.



Above: Kathi Fejo and Tony Lawrence smile for the camera at the AFSS stall during the children's health expo.

AFSS was able to provide information to the many interested visitors to our table covering both foster care and gambling, and it was a great opportunity to spark interest in our programs.

This is certainly an expo to put on your calendar each year!

Reconciliation Week

Black Screen community event in Coober Pedy

AFSS Coober Pedy, in conjunction with the Coober Pedy Drive In, were involved in the community event Black Screen. Black Screen is a Reconciliation Week event that is sponsored by

Country Arts SA and the National Film and Sound Archive Australia, which is running for the second year in Coober Pedy. This year the feature film is Spear by Bangarra Dance Theatre, with a selection of short films made by the local community.

Ish Gunasekara (AFSS – Youth Officer, Coober Pedy) and Matthew Key (Media Studies teacher, Coober Pedy Area School) have been working with youth as part of the Youth Support program to develop a short documentary on modern dance in Coober Pedy.

This has provided the youth with performance experience, documentary and media studies and building confidence and self esteem. It has showcased our youth, who may have been seen negatively, to show that they can give something positive back to their community.

It was a great opportunity for AFSS to be able to support the Reconciliation Week event and promote AFSS to the local community and promote young people in a positive light.



Above: Ish Gunasekara (Youth Officer), Frankie Wonga (Modern Dance participant), Mikey Roesch, Dylan Roesch and Matt Key (Media Studies teacher).

Murra Dreaming share their skills and teaching with AFSS resi care

Art is important for children, especially during their early development.

Research shows that art activities develop brain capacity in early childhood; in other words, art is good brain food!

Art engages children's senses in open-ended play and develops cognitive, social-emotional and multi-sensory skills.



Above: Some of the lovely art and weaving that the children did with the help of Murra Dreaming artists. Art is great brain food for kids!



As children progress into primary school and beyond, art continues to provide opportunities for brain development, mastery, self esteem and creativity.

AFSS Residential Services are mindful of providing every opportunity to foster and develop the creativity of the children and young people in our care.

AFSS was able to engage Murra Dreaming to visit and teach our children a number of traditional painting and basket weaving methods.

Weaving teaches children many developmental skills while offering a creative and challenging learning experience.

As they weave, children learn patterning, critical thinking skills and problem solving.

A number of masterpieces were created during the visit from Murra Dreaming, as you can see at top right.

We look forward to maintaining this partnership with future masterpieces in the making!



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing team is pleased to offer

Seasons for Healing

Do you

- Need a space for conversation and reflection?
- Need help in dealing with your feelings of hurt, pain, grief and loss?

**Then maybe
Seasons for Healing is
just what you need**

This education-based program uses the seasons as a way of supporting you and helping you to understand and handle your feelings.

It is run in small groups, for people who are all going through the same thing – dealing with grief and loss.

Do you think Seasons for Healing would be helpful to you?

If you answered yes, please contact us to register or to find out more. You may also be referred to AFSS by another agency.

AFSS' Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitators run the program and provide a culturally safe and confidential environment for all participants across South Australia.

Please email csw@afss.com.au or contact AFSS CS&W team at:

Smithfield
39A Anderson Walk
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Port Augusta
1st Floor, 47 Commercial Rd
Phone (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln
3 Gloucester Tce
Phone (08) 8683 1909





tips and info for foster carers

bits 'n pieces is designed with our foster carers in mind!

Here you'll find some useful information and news that will help you in your vital role as a carer. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

Dealing with children's behaviours

Behaviours we see in children are really coping mechanisms that children have developed to manage their emotions and the distress that they feel inside. In this and upcoming issues of the AFSS Newsletter we'll look at some of these behaviours, explain why they are occurring and provide you with tips and information to cope with them. The material is taken from the "Iceberg Model" fact sheets, Families SA.

Social Events

Social events can be extremely stressful for children in care. Children may lack knowledge of social norms and skills may become emotionally overwhelmed by the excitement of the social demands of important social events. Social events need to be managed carefully so that children experience success.

Underneath the surface

Children who have been raised in an environment of abuse and trauma are often constantly watching activity going on around them. They have developed this strategy as a way of protecting themselves from potential threat, as they may have previously needed to fight or flee a situation at any given moment. Whilst they are no longer in these situations, they remain hyper vigilant (in a constant state of heightened anxiety) to their environment, for example they are over alert and pay close attention to people. Special events are often a time of high social contact and children are expected to behave in socially

appropriate ways. Because of this, children often feel stressed about the social situation and are not always able to cope with the stress that social contact requires. If there is too much activity going on around them, it may lead to information overload as they struggle to maintain an awareness of every potential threat. This can lead to the young person expressing their emotional stress in a variety of ways, for example anger, aggression, withdrawing etc.

Children in care often have difficulties with social skills and find it difficult to maintain contact with others making social occasions very challenging. As well, their arousal level is high, and they have difficulty identifying and managing emotions. This means that they often misinterpret excitement as a feeling of stress, anxiety and/or fear, which in turn can lead to an escalation in problematic behaviour.

At the same time, many special events such as Christmas or birthdays may remind the young person of earlier times with their family. This may evoke many

mixed and confusing feelings for the young person including anxiety, longing, loneliness and fear. Anniversaries such as the anniversary of coming into care may be extremely distressing times for young people, as they feel abandoned and rejected by their family and may be reminded that their separation from their family is long term.

Strategies

Prepare the child. Talk with the child about what is likely to happen during the event, who will be attending, and the duration. Try and avoid surprises as this creates a sense of uncertainty and fear in the child.

Keep events manageable. Decide what the child can reasonably tolerate. Children with histories of trauma and broken relationships have experienced repeated failure and, without careful management, special events may be experienced as yet another failure in their lives. Limit the size and scale of the event to maximise the young person's chances of success. For example, try to plan the child's first special event, such as a party, to be a small gathering that will not be

too overwhelming and less likely to trigger anxiety and subsequent behaviours problems. This will increase the child's confidence and willingness to attend future parties. It is important to recognise that small successes are more beneficial for the child than large failures.

Limit the duration of the event. Children are most likely to succeed when the duration of the event is for a short period of time. For example, some young people may only be able to cope with birthday celebrations for half an hour before feeling a sense of stimulation overload leading to emotional dysregulation (feeling confused about their feelings and not knowing how to manage their feelings/calm themselves down). When children need to be involved in an event for longer periods of time it is important to be physically and emotionally available to them in case they require some assistance to calm down.

Reduce the number of presents given to the young person at one time. For example, stagger the giving of gifts as this can create a very stimulating time for the

young person. Remember that excitement can be a confusing and frightening feeling for some children, as it is easily misconstrued as anxiety.

Keep number of guests to a reasonable level. Large groups of people can overwhelm the child due to high noise levels which can create a sense of chaos. Being in a large group will also make it harder for you to focus on the child and recognise when they need help to manage their feelings. It may be necessary to explain to the child (and others) the reason behind limiting the size and or scale of events.

Avoid competitive games and engage in activities that are less stimulating. For example, if a child is going to be involved in a treasure hunt, it may be necessary for all the children to take the treasure to one adult who will then divide the findings equally amongst participants. It

is important to remember that children may not understand the rules of a game and feel a great sense of failure and humiliation if they don't perform well. The child may feel angry and cheated if they finish with less rewards than other children.

Limit sugary foods. Provide nutritious foods. If sugary food must be provided keep it to a minimum and offer it only at the end of the event. Explain the reasons for limiting sugary foods at events to the child.

Anticipate difficulties. Familiarity with the child's history will help identify which times are likely to be difficult for the young person.

Monitor behaviour. Be aware that children are likely to be in a high state of arousal during special events. Intervene before they escalate by offering them some cool down time.

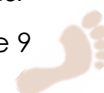
We want to hear from you!

If you have any ideas or information that you'd like to share with carers on these pages, such as things that you've found helpful, special events or activities that have worked well, we'd love to hear from you and publish your story (your identity will be kept confidential if you wish). Simply write to Grace Nelligan, AFSS, 134 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000 or email grace.nelligan@afss.com.au

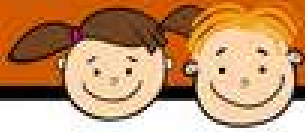


All work and no play

Cooper Pedy staff recently attended SBC training in Adelaide and decided that they would have some fun bowling. It was a night of fun and laughter enjoyed by the whole team. Pictured, from left to right Donna Dixon, Grace Adubal, Kim Key, Ish Gunasekara and Lisa McClure.



Just for kids



find 10 differences



Word Find

Find the school words in the word find. They are up, down, backwards and forwards. Answers are below.

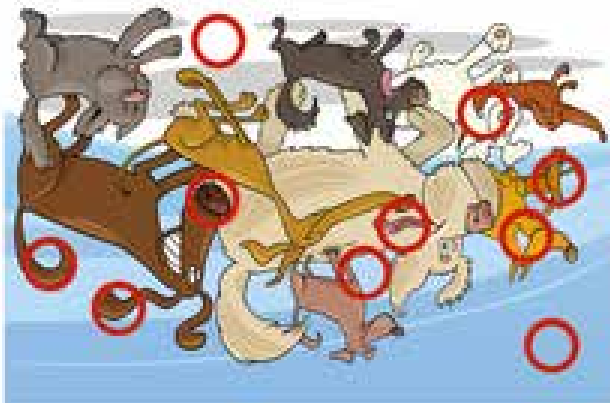
K T E E E E W B O O K S
 S N O Y A R C E T A A R
 S S E S D N E I R F E T
 C T P O H S K C U T N C
 H E H E P O E K U E L R
 O A O T P A S P D A A R
 O C M R E E M U S A R R
 L H E O D O T S C A R I
 B E W P C S R Y D U T S
 A R O S H O L I D A Y S
 G K R P O E R E C E S S
 E P K M C S L I C N E P

Word List:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-----------|
| PENCILS | CRAYONS | BOOKS | TEACHER | CLASSROOM |
| TUCKSHOP | RECESS | HOLIDAYS | FRIENDS | HOMEWORK |
| COMPUTER | STUDY | SPORT | DESK | STUDENT |
| SCHOOLBAG | | | | |



Answers



M K P E
 S R K G
 S O A R
 C M B E
 D O H E
 R E M C
 A O T A
 H E H E
 N C T P
 O H S K
 C U T N
 E I R F
 E T A R
 C E T A
 A R S
 N O Y A
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 A A R
 W B O O
 K S



AFSS welcomes new team members



Greetings All! My name is **Kate Wright** and I have recently joined the team at AFSS as the Senior Manager of Therapeutic Services.

I have been a Social Worker for about 14 years. During that time I have worked in a range of roles in a number of NGOs. Most of these roles have been working with children and young people who have experienced abuse and trauma. I have worked as a counsellor, educator, managed foster care and residential care services and worked both here in South Australia and in Queensland. I am passionate about supporting children and young people to have the best outcomes.

I am excited to be joining the AFSS team and working with the Stronger Families Program to continue embedding SBC into practice and growing the service. I also look forward to providing therapeutic support to other teams and programs across the organisation.

Over the next few weeks I will be travelling around the state to visit all the AFSS sites and I look

forward to meeting as many of the team as I can. If you are in Adelaide feel free to pop in and say hi!



Hello, my name is **Leata Clarke** and I joined the AFSS family as the Senior Manager Regional Services in early May. My family name is Tucker and I belong to the Wongi peoples of my father's country in Western Australia. I was born in Esperance and had a very transient lifestyle growing up. I am a sister to five siblings and married with two wonderful young ladies. In 1989, I left Western Australia with my now husband for a trip around Australia. Adelaide was our last stop, where we have happily lived for the past 26 years. In 1997, I successfully graduated with a Diploma in Aboriginal Community Administration from the University of South Australia. I have extensive experience working in all three tiers of government in areas such as education, policy, heritage and reconciliation. I am passionate about working within an Aboriginal community organisation whose values align

with mine in keeping our families together and children safe.

I look forward to travelling out to the regional offices over the next couple of months to gain local knowledge and to meet with staff. Please feel free to say hello.



Hi my name is **Charmayne Stenhouse**. I am the new Coordinator of the Community Safety and Wellbeing program based in Smithfield.

I am a Barkindji woman from the Broken Hill area. My family name is Gilby. I have lived in the northern suburbs of Adelaide for seven years. I have 15 years of experience of working with survivors of Family and Domestic Violence. This was followed by working with Elders and grandparents raising grandchildren. I have five children and seven grandchildren. I am really passionate about culture, training and teaching and guiding others to work appropriately with our peoples. I love making something that's not working work.

I am looking forward to working in the Smithfield team and community in a different field.

Welcome to our new Northern Region carers

AFSS Port Augusta office is pleased to welcome and introduce our new foster carers for the northern area, Tania Gill and Chad Warne and their family Jaiden and Breeanna, who live in Port Pirie.

We also welcome our new carers Sue and Matt Ganley and their family Elise, Tessa and James, also from Port Pirie.

Both families successfully completed all the steps of the Foster Carer Assessment process and they have already had their first introduction to foster care, each currently having a foster child in their care.

We also thank Tania, Chad, Sue and Matt and their families for choosing to become AFSS carers and, importantly, accepting children immediately into their homes.

As is the case with all our foster carers, their care and acceptance of children into their homes is a priceless gift they offer to children who have been removed from their own homes and need to be cared for and cherished in loving families.

Top photo: Gill and Tania with their children Jaiden and Breeanna.

Bottom photo: Matt and Sue with their children Elise, Tessa and James.



Strong children strong community

Stand with us – become a carer

Aboriginal Family Support Services is looking for family based carers who are committed to providing safe and culturally appropriate homes for children in need.

You can be single or a couple, with or without children. And whether you're willing to provide emergency, short term, respite or long term care, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact:

Adelaide Peter Frankcom peter.frankcom@afss.com.au (08) 8205 1500

Ceduna Michelle Naylor michelle.naylor@afss.com.au (08) 8625 3466

Coober Pedy Donna Dixon donna.dixon@afss.com.au (08) 8672 3066

Port Augusta Marie Skipworth marie.skipworth@afss.com.au (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln Toni-Lee Miller toni-lee.miller@afss.com.au (08) 8683 1909



Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc
Together with the community



Gambling Awareness Week at Murray Bridge

For Gambling Awareness week this year AFSS Murray Bridge office Community Development Worker (CDW), Bronte Warneke, delivered an Aboriginal Gambling Help presentation entitled *What am I really Gambling with?* to volunteers and residents of Murray Bridge at the Murray Bridge Community Centre. Bronte discussed how gambling impacts not just on the gambler, but their family and friends as well, providing the audience with an insight to what gamblers were going through in their lives and thinking.

Other invited guest speakers were Di Axford from Consumer Voice, Relationships South Australia (RSA), and Ann Lawrence, Senior Peer Worker, RASA, who shared their own experiences of gambling and how at that time it had negatively impacted them and their families' lives. They also gave us insight that there was excellent support to help with these issues.

Angela Roesler, Community Development Worker from the Murray Bridge Community Centre,



Above: Bronte Warneke (AFSS CDW), Di Axford (Consumer Voice - RASA), Ann Lawrence (Senior Peer Worker - RASA) and Angela Roesler (Community Development Worker - MB Community Centre).

congratulated both these guest speakers on the valiant efforts they had made within their lives, commending them on being role models and on the honesty of their presentations, which had the audience engaged right from the start.

Gambling Help Service consults with community

The AFSS Aboriginal Gambling Help Service (AGHS) completed the first round of community consultations on Friday 27 May. The first forum was held in Port Augusta, followed by similar events in Berri and then Raukkan.

The general consensus was that the information provided on the days was both interesting and educational.

The comments and feedback we received after each session was rewarding and important to further

our aim of providing an even better service to the community.

The community lunches in each area also proved to be a big hit, as did the AGHS beanies that were given to all who attended!

We want to hear from you!

The next round of these important consultations commences on 7 June in Port Augusta, then onto Berri and Raukkan, with the final round commencing 21 June (Port Augusta), 23 June (Berri) and 24 June (Raukkan).

If you are in any of the three regions in time for the final round of consultations, your attendance and subsequent thoughts on how we can improve our service and break down some of the barriers in engaging with the AGHS in the future would be most welcome.



Above: Community members in Port Augusta shared with the AFSS team their thoughts and ideas on how we can best serve the community through the AGHS.



AFSS celebrates with Circle of Security graduates

AFSS sends warm congratulations to recent Circle of Security graduates Chantell and Margaret.

Both ladies persisted and completed the eight-week parenting program that Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitators, Joy Makepeace and Eliza White, provided at our Cross Roads Office in South Plympton.

Both Mums gained much personal insight from the program and each share their thoughts below:

Chantell: "I found that the Circle of Security helped me understand my children's feelings and behaviour. It helped me to understand the reasons they may be acting out. I also found that it wasn't just the children with the issue, but also within myself."

Margaret: "This time I've actually learnt the difference between insecurity and security with my children. It has opened my eyes up to better ways of parenting. I enjoyed every time I went."

It has been our pleasure meeting both ladies and working closely with them and their children.

Marathon effort to support children in AFSS care

Readers of the AFSS newsletter will be aware of the wonderful support that Eoin Loftus provides to children in AFSS' care.

Eoin is CEO of Majestic Hotels, a South Australian owned and operated accommodation group comprising 5 hotels.

Eoin feels blessed to have a supportive wife, Denise, and two wonderful children, Chloe and Brodie. He considers himself to be very fortunate, and as a result is committed to give something back to help those who have less.

He first approached AFSS two years ago "after being rejected by various charities."

"My condition to support an organisation was to be involved and not just drop off money at the door," says Eoin.

"I insisted 100% of the funds donated go direct to the people who needed it most. AFSS was the first to wholeheartedly agree and support this approach. AFSS really appealed to me after reading their website as it was very clear how important the work is that they do and in an area where most would not recognise nor support."

As part of Eoin's commitment, he will be running four marathons across Kangaroo Island on 24, 25,



Left: Chantell and her lovely family proudly display Chantell's Certificate of Achievement.

Right: Joy Makepeace, CSW&B Facilitator, (left) and Margaret smile for the camera.



Thank you for your honesty, openness and willingness to learn and participate. A special thank you to the twins, who gave us such joy each week as they provided on-cue examples of exploration and coming back into the circle for comfort and security. We celebrated these special occasions with a mini graduation for both Chantell and Margaret.



Above, from left: Peter Shattock, Senior Manager Corporate Services; Leata Clarke, Senior Manager Regional Services; Kate Wright, Senior Manager Therapeutic Services; Bev Ewen, AFSS Board Chairperson; Eoin Loftus; Sharron Williams AFSS CEO; and Warren Guppy, Senior Manager Metropolitan Services.

26 and 27 August – a total of 189km – to raise funds to ensure that AFSS foster kids have access to a range of activities that otherwise may be out of reach, from sport through to education, art, culture and more.

"My run across Kangaroo Island in August is as much about recognition of our First Australians – the Aboriginal people who lived here for more than 40,000 years before we arrived as immigrants just 228 years ago," says Eoin.

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Where to find us

Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Phone (08) 8205 1500

Berri

23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
Phone (08) 8582 3192

Smithfield

39a Anderson Walk,
Smithfield SA 5114
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Ceduna

28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
Phone: (08) 8625 3466

Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
Phone (08) 8672 3066

Murray Bridge

C/- ALRM Inc
27 Beatty Terrace
Murray Bridge SA 5254
Phone 0418 499 649

Port Augusta

1st Floor
47 Commercial Road
Port Augusta SA 5700
Phone (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln

3 Gloucester Terrace
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Phone (08) 8683 1909



Visit the AFSS
website
www.afss.com.au

News in brief



Connection to Culture workshop

AFSS is convening a Connection to Culture Workshop to coincide with National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 4 August 2016.

An important annual event, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day provides a focus for AFSS to bring together mainstream services who work with Aboriginal children, young people and families, with Aboriginal service providers who assist in providing culturally appropriate connections, support services and activities, so that Aboriginal children and young people are supported to maintain real connections with their culture while unable to live with their families.

You will find a separate registration form for the workshop with this newsletter.

You are encouraged to register as soon as possible as places are limited and we expect a lot of interest from community members and agencies.

AFSS to host Elders Marquee at NAIDOC Family Fun Day 2016

AFSS is once again honoured to be hosting the Elders Marquee at this year's NAIDOC Family Fun Day. AFSS always looks forward to hosting the Elders Marquee as it provides a great opportunity to acknowledge Aboriginal Elders from across greater Adelaide and the wonderful support they have provided to communities for many years.

The Elders Marquee provides an area where Elders can relax under cover and sit around chatting with other while they enjoy coffee, tea and a wide selection of warm foods as well as scones and biscuits.

Marathon effort to support children in AFSS care

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According to Eoin, training is going well – he has run 800km to date – and already donations have been received.

Eoin and his wife Denise, who is Eoin's tower of strength in his fundraising activities for AFSS, were pleased to visit AFSS on Friday 3 June to discuss the marathon and plan for a major fundraising event that Eoin will be holding prior to the marathon.

Your opportunity to support Eoin's marathons

If you, or any interested organisations, would like to support Eoin financially in his marathon efforts, please email grace.nelligan@afss.com.au for further details or visit www.mycause.com.au then enter LOFTUS in the filter.



Connection to Culture

Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

A special event proudly hosted by Aboriginal Family Support Services

SNAICC recently announced that the theme for Children's Day in 2016 is **We all Belong, My Country, Our Country**. It's about celebrating our culture, connection to each other and the future together.



To honour and celebrate this important event, Aboriginal Family Support Services is holding a **Connection to Culture Workshop** at Tandanya on Thursday, 4 August 2016.

A day-long event, AFSS will bring together mainstream services who work with Aboriginal children, young people and families, and Aboriginal service providers who assist in providing culturally appropriate connections, support services and activities, so that Aboriginal children and young people are assisted to maintain real connections with their cultures while unable to live with their families.

We encourage you to attend this important event.

Places are limited, so register your attendance as soon as possible, using the form below.

Fill in the details and return to Trish Laccos at AFSS.

Mail to: Trish Laccos, AFSS, 134 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, SA 5000
Email to: Trish.Laccos@afss.com.au

AFSS Connection to Culture Workshop – 4 August 2016
Tandanya, 253 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

Yes! I wish to register for the **AFSS Connection to Culture Workshop**

My details are provided below:

Name

Organisation

Position

PhoneMobile

Email

A detailed program will be provided closer to the event.