



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

May – June 2017

AFSS promotes responsible gambling on NITV

Have you seen AFSS' Aboriginal Gambling Help Service (AGHS) ad on NITV over the past few weeks?

AFSS received a funding grant for a number of community consultations about gambling in Berri, Port Augusta and Raukkan. Part of the grant allowed for AFSS to produce a 30 second spot promoting the AGHS, which was approved to air on NITV, commencing on 21 May in Gambling Awareness Week.

Tony Lawrence, former AGHS coordinator, convened the three community consultation sessions in each area, and a professional camera operator filmed all the sessions.

AFSS' Communications Officer condensed the hours of filming down to create a 30 second ad – no mean feat!



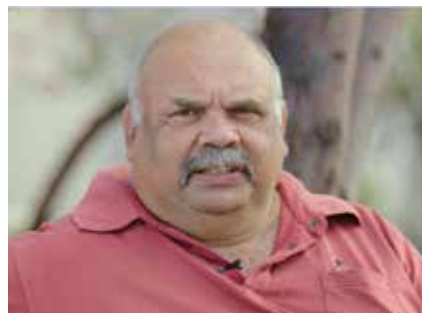
AFSS is proud to be able to take our message of the importance of getting help for problem gambling to the community, and have the opportunity to showcase our organisation right across Australia.

If you didn't get to see the ad on NITV, it's available for viewing from the home page of the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au

Find out more about the AGHS program on page 14 of this newsletter, or on the website.

Pictured above: AFSS Port Augusta AGHS Worker, Charlie Jackson, shares his knowledge with community members in Port Augusta.

Pictured below: Three of the stars of AFSS' NITV ad, Kathy Rigney (left), Tony Clark (centre) and Frances Day (right).



A message from the Chief Executive

Plans are well under way for our Connection to Culture Children's Day on August 4, to coincide with the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

The event has been organised with carers, families and Aboriginal children in mind, and follows on from the successful Connection to Culture Workshop that AFSS held at Tandanya last year.

This year's event will take place at Tauondi College, and I encourage you all to mark the date in your calendars and come along, share with other carers and families and enjoy the activities.

There have been a range of exciting events in the past couple of months detailed in this newsletter, so I encourage you to read it from cover to cover.

One such event was the Family Matters lunchtime public awareness-raising event held in Rundle Mall. The rain held off, and those who attended the whole event, together with shoppers and people on their lunch breaks, were treated to some great performances from our talented Aboriginal young people and children as well as being provided with the opportunity to learn what Family Matters is all about through materials, giveaways and a range of great speakers. Congratulations to all involved.



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*

Important info for carers!

Please be advised that the Department for Child Protection (Formerly Families SA) carer payments team's email address has changed to CPCarerPayments@sa.gov.au effective 17 May 2017.

AFSS gets the Charity Tick of approval!

You may have noticed the logo shown on the right on the front page of this newsletter and on the AFSS website. "What is it for?" you may ask.

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) has introduced a Registered Charity Tick to help charities show the public that they're registered with the ACNC.



AFSS is registered as a charity with the ACNC and we are proud to be able to display this tick, which is intended to promote public trust and confidence in the sector via this increased transparency.

Great start for *Respect Sista Girls 2*

Aboriginal Family Support Services Facilitators, Nirelle Ware and Nicola Rathman from the Smithfield Community Safety and Wellbeing team were very excited to roll out the very first module of the *Respect Sista Girls 2* workshop to Aboriginal women and girls in Port Augusta at the Carlton Community Centre.

The first workshop module was absolutely fantastic as we were all getting to know each other and building fantastic friendships and rapport.

The participants even made a sista girls contact page on Facebook to stay connected as they are taking the sista girls on as their own. Eleven women attended and absolutely loved the workshop! The women who attended come from all over SA, with some originally coming from WA.

We all had so much fun; we provided some awesome ice breaker activities which helped everyone interact and engage. One of the activities we did was making a “bling” folder, with stickers and all sorts of bits and pieces, which we all enjoyed. We also spoke about culture and what culture means to us. The participants loved it as they talked about things that are important to us as Aboriginal people, like dreamtime stories, sitting by the fire yarning, camping and fishing. They remembered and reflected on the good times they have spent with their families and elders doing these amazing things, which was a very special moment to witness.

Some of the participants had children and said that they joined the *RSG2* workshop as they wanted to be a better stronger mother for their children; they wanted to become a better person for themselves, their families and also their community. This is very important as they are a group that want to change and empower our families and communities – the more groups we have the better, to make our communities and people even stronger.

It was a very empowering first session as the women reflected on their lives, where they come from, where they are at the moment and where they would like to be in the future.

Both the women and the Facilitators can't wait to complete the workshop and to present these beautiful people with their well earned certificates.



Above: Participants in the first Sista Girls 2 workshop.

Below: AFSS team members have completed training to facilitate the Sista Girls 2 program. Thanks to Shirley Young (CAMHs) for training our staff. After three days of learning and laughter, all participants are eager to get out in communities across SA to deliver the workshop.



We also will be delivering the *Respect Sista Girl 2* workshop at Olga Fudge Lodge and also at the AFSS Smithfield office for the community to attend.

Respect Sista Girl 2 comprises of nine modules which will be offered within high schools as a leadership empowerment program and to community as a self-awareness program.

The primary audiences are Aboriginal girls and women who want to use their cultural strengths to make positive changes in their lives.

If you are interested in having the *Respect Sista Girls 2* workshop at your organisation or community please contact the AFSS office in Smithfield on 8254 1077; we will be pleased to come to you and your community. Full details about all CSW programs can be found on the CSW page at the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au



Fun at the Aboriginal Children's Health Expo

AFSS Family Based Care (Tamara Young and Illira Wanganeen) and Community Safety and Wellbeing (Nirelle Coleman and Nicola Rathman) teams collaborated to hold a stall at the Strong Aboriginal Children's Health Expo. It took place on Wednesday 19 April at the Entertainment Centre, Adelaide by SA Health – Watto Purruna.

There were many activities for the children; arts and craft, face painting, rides, jumping castles, petting zoo, show bags, raffles, funny photo booth and of course an awesome lunch.

AFSS Metro engaged with community members to talk about fostering Aboriginal children and the need for more carers.

We spoke about the services and supports AFSS delivers and broke down barriers with individuals.

We had a lot of free giveaways for all the beautiful children and the best part of the day was seeing their happy faces.

It's a not-to-miss once a year Community Event that feels like the Adelaide Show, but it's all free!



Above: The AFSS stand at the Strong Aboriginal Children's Health Expo, where a great time was had by all.



Foster Carers needed URGENTLY

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

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 8205 1500

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

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

Port Augusta Deb Merchant deborah.merchant@afss.com.au 8641 0907

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



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

Family Matters in Adelaide

Friday 19 May was a special day in Adelaide and around South Australia for Family Matters SA when a number of activities took place as part of the Family Matters National Week of Action. Visitors to Rundle Mall were treated to inspiring performances from Yellaka, Kalaya Children's Centre and the Dusty Feet Mob from Port Augusta.

Jackie Huggins, AM, Co-chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, shared with those present the need for change and the importance of connection to culture for all Aboriginal children, particularly those in out of home placements.

There was also the opportunity for people to sign up to the national campaign website for ongoing updates regarding the campaign, or to fill out a survey regarding their awareness and understanding of the complex issues around the over representation of Aboriginal children in out of home placements.

Earlier in the day at the Reconciliation Breakfast, the SA Family Matters working group (FMWGSA) launched the campaign to the SA corporate sector through a sponsorship page in the SA Reconciliation Breakfast program.

This provided the Family Matters website details and promoted the signing of the Statement of Commitment for Government departments and organisations, and details for individual support through signing up to the campaign newsletter.

Jackie Huggins encouraged the audience to learn about the over representation of Aboriginal children in out of home placements and to get on board in supporting the Family Matters campaign.

Tahnee Sutton, Indigenous Marathon Project Graduate spoke along with Robert De Castella about running the New York City Marathon. Tahnee is also an Ambassador for the Family Matters Campaign in South Australia.

An information table in the foyer provided Family Matters campaign resources and promotional materials as well as Statements of Commitment for executive management personnel to take back to their workplaces to discuss and sign on behalf of the organisation/department.

Surveys were also provided for attendees following the breakfast to gauge people's current



Above: The Dusty Feet Mob from Port Augusta provided a great performance for the watching crowd.

Below: Yellaka were the opening performers at the Family Matters Rundle Mall community event.



understanding of the issues for Aboriginal children and the child protection system.

You can find out more about Family Matters in SA through the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au

AFSS celebrates Reconciliation Week

On Thursday 1 June AFSS Head Office staff celebrated Reconciliation Week with a morning tea, organised by AFSS Cultural Officers.

It was a great opportunity to come together to share with each other and reflect on the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Referendum.





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.

Great new resource for kids from NITV

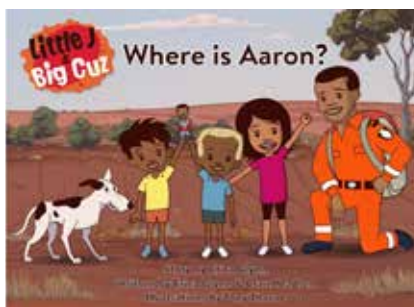
Little J and Big Cuz, now showing on NITV, is Australia's first Aboriginal kids' series, exploring culture, community and country. It also reinforces the cognitive development of children.

Importantly, the series lets Aboriginal kids see themselves on the screen in a positive and fun way.

Little J and Big Cuz screens on Fridays at 7.30pm and Mondays at 4pm.

The series features the voices of some of Australia's great Aboriginal talent and follows five year old Little J and his nine year old cousin Big Cuz as they discover connection to country, traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

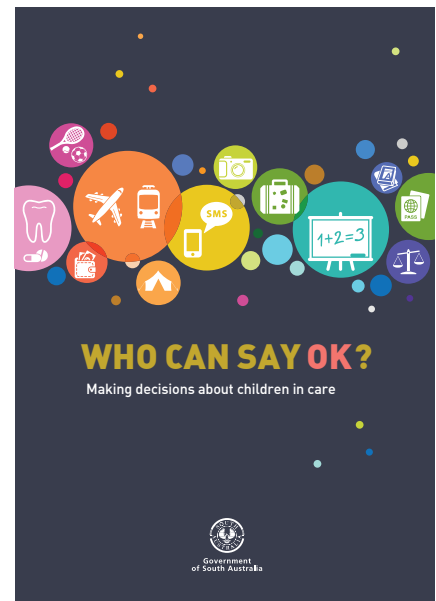
There is a companion book, "Where is Aaron?" that goes with one of the Little J and Big



Cuz stories, which is available to the children in AFSS' residential houses and in AFSS foster care. We would like to thank NITV for providing copies for AFSS.

You can download an interactive App of the same story for your phone or tablet – check it out, it's free and it's great! You can also visit nitv.org.au/littlejbigcuz for heaps of Little J information and resources.

If you haven't got your copy of Little J and Big Cuz, please contact your support worker and we'll get one out to you if there are any left!



Who Can Say OK? Making decisions about children in care

This new booklet is available from your support worker now, please let them know if you would like a copy or you would like to discuss any of the changes.

One of the important changes is: Time Away from Carer – Overnight stays/sleepovers, up to two nights are now seen as a normal part of growing up and providing there is structure, a supportive and supervised environment. Carer can consent to two consecutive nights, more than two nights requires approval from a Department for Child Protection supervisor.

Foster carer forums review

Peter Frankcom, AFSS Recruitment Officer, is reviewing the carers forums, including where, when, how often and what format they should follow.

Can you please contact Peter or your support worker to fill in the form that you have received via email with your preferences. We are looking forward to receiving your feedback so that we can take your views on board with regard to future forums.

Please call 8205 1500 if you need a hand or would like more information.

AFSS carers enjoy a well deserved break

AFSS appreciates the hard work done by our foster carers. To say thank you AFSS enters all active carers of each region into a draw for a Shorts Holiday Break twice a year. Below are the winners of the latest draw.



Port Lincoln

AFSS Port Lincoln Carers, Helen and Greg Kerley were the winners of the \$500.00 weekend break draw.

Helen says “The Kerley Family would like to say thank you for the lovely gift voucher for the Port Lincoln Hotel. It was very relaxing. It is so nice for AFSS to do this, to show their appreciation of their carers.”



Metro

AFSS values and respects the wonderful commitment and care that our foster carers provide to Aboriginal children who are unable to reside with their parents.

The most recent Metro raffle was drawn by Peter Frankcom AFSS Assessment Officer and the winners are Maryanne (*pictured*) and Marc Ryan who provide

long term care for children in the Metro area. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication Maryane and Marc. We really hope you enjoy your special break.



Ceduna

Cheryl Hummel was the lucky winner in Ceduna to receive a \$500 Shorts Holiday voucher for a well deserved break. Cheryl has been an AFSS registered carer since January 2016 and has cared for multiple children and young people since then. She provides regular respite for a number of children and has also opened her home for emergency placements. Thank you to all our carers and congratulations Cheryl.



Port Augusta

Northern Regional AFSS Foster Carers Cynthia Clayton and Tim McLister from Port Pirie are the lucky Shorts Weekend Holiday Draw winners this time around. Cynthia and Tim got married earlier this year and will no doubt enjoy some respite from caring by choosing a weekend away of their choice to the value of \$500. Congratulations Cynthia and Tim have fun!

Coober Pedy

Tanya Lauder and Jayden Watts won the Short Holiday for Coober Pedy. Congratulations to these worthy winners and AFSS hopes you enjoy your well-deserved break.

Child Safe Environments Training for Metro foster carers

16 August 9.30am - 4.30pm

Training will be held in the Training Room on the 1st floor, AFSS, 134 Waymouth Street, Adelaide.
Morning tea and lunch supplied.

Contact Becky Matthews on 8205 1522 or 8205 1500 to register or for more information.



Just for kids



These two rabbits are watching the autumn rain fall.
Colour the picture and hang it on your wall.

Word Find

This Word Find is all about animals. You will find the animals named on the right in the puzzle below. They are down, up, across and diagonal. The answers are on the right too. Have fun!

How many Animals can you find?

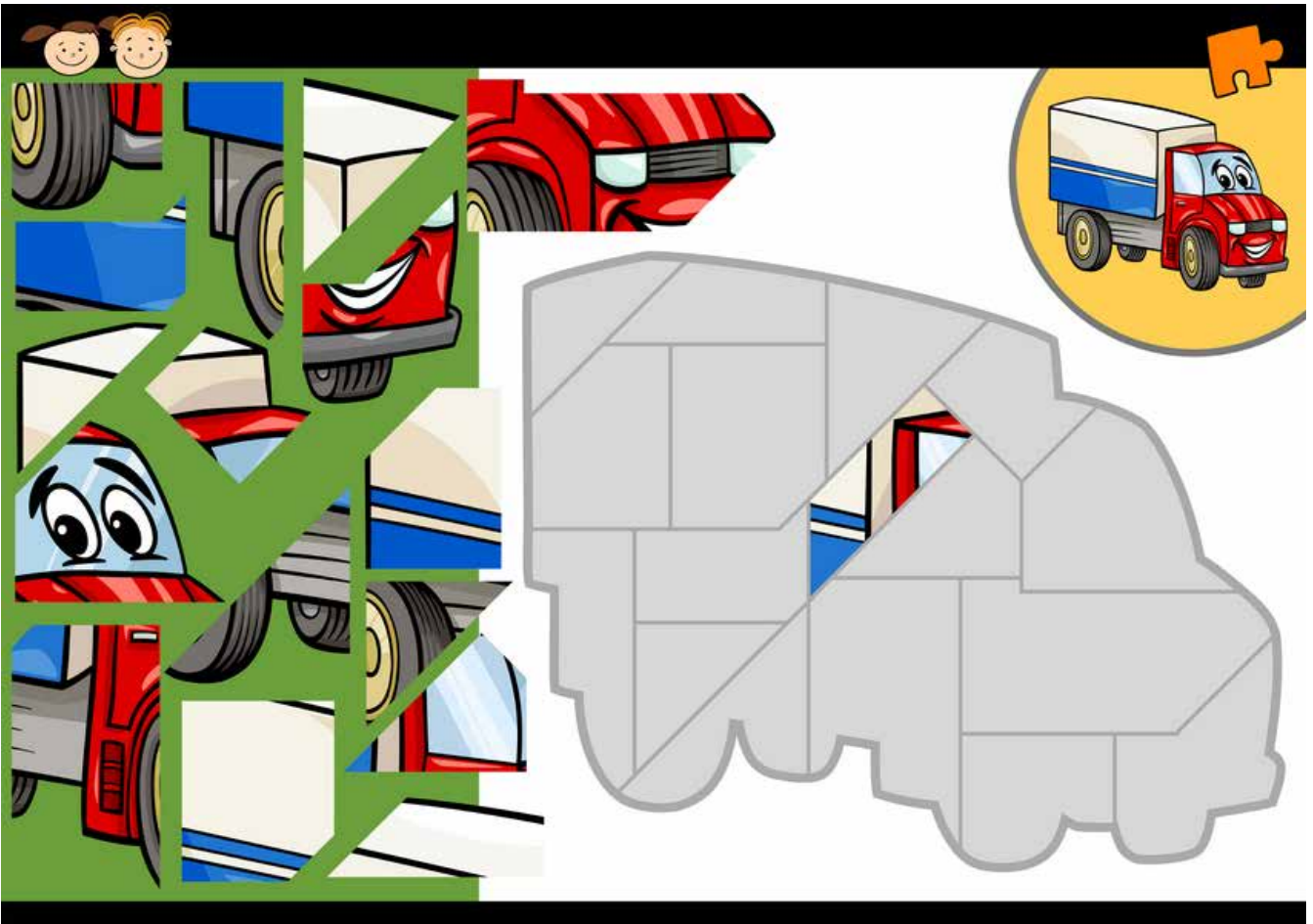
Q	K	O	I	O	K	I	T	T	E	N	G	C	Q
D	H	M	E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T	G	F	G
P	U	Z	E	X	L	P	X	R	D	X	N	X	I
S	P	E	C	Z	E	J	U	P	P	Y	Y	H	R
E	T	E	A	A	U	I	I	P	G	P	A	D	A
O	I	O	F	V	T	K	N	A	P	T	I	R	F
Y	B	O	O	X	R	Z	T	C	E	Y	V	A	F
T	B	R	X	M	E	Z	N	E	B	D	N	P	E
A	A	A	G	D	G	N	H	P	R	D	W	O	M
B	R	G	B	O	I	C	A	A	R	R	C	E	U
M	Z	N	L	G	T	N	A	P	Z	V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

- | | | |
|----------|---------|--------|
| FOX | CHEETAH | WOMBAT |
| HORSE | EMU | TIGER |
| CAT | LEOPARD | PANDA |
| GIRAFFE | PUPPY | KITTEN |
| KANGAROO | RABBIT | FERRET |

How many Animals can you find? Answer Key:

Build the truck

Cut out the pieces of the puzzle and to make the truck. You can see what it looks like in the small pictured below



AFSS welcomes new team members



Hi everyone! My name is **Nirelle Ware** (nee Coleman) and I am excited to say I am a new Facilitator at Aboriginal Family Support Services in the Smithfield office.

I am a Narungga and Kokatha woman and my Mother is from Point Pearce on the Yorke

Peninsula and my Father is from Koonibba on the Eyre Peninsula.

I am married to an amazing man and together we have three beautiful sons, my family is very important to me. Our Aboriginal culture is very important to my family and I and is something we hold high within ourselves and is very strong in our daily lives.

My family and I moved over from Ceduna to Adelaide in April 2017 so I can take up this exciting opportunity to be a part of the AFSS organisation. I have a strong passion for helping my Aboriginal communities, people and our families.

I cannot wait to get out there and get to know everyone in the AFSS team and build relationships and networks within our community.



My name is **Rebecca Salisbury** and I am excited to be joining the Port Lincoln AFSS team as the Residential Coordinator.

I have lived in Port Lincoln for majority of my life and have a passion for helping our vulnerable children in the community.

SNAICC National Conference 2017

The next SNAICC National Conference will be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra, in September 2017.

The conference provides a powerful and inspiring learning experience for attendees and features:



SNAICC

- International and local keynote speakers
- Over 70 concurrent sessions, yarning circles, panels and workshops
- Displays, poster presentations, exhibitors
- Cultural highlights and performances
- Social events and opportunities to network and connect with peers.

It is expected that the conference will attract a diverse audience of 1,000 participants from all over the country. This will provide a dynamic networking and learning opportunity for attendees. SNAICC aims to develop a program and conference experience that is culturally rich, interactive and culturally safe.

Delegates and speakers will gather to discuss the challenges and share knowledge and experiences in raising happy, healthy and confident children in our communities.

The conference will appropriately be held at the National Convention Centre, on the lands of the Ngunnawal people, where Canberra's name is derived from the Ngunnawal word "kamberra" meaning "meeting place".

Providing a powerful and inspiring learning experience, the conference is a must for anyone working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and family services.

Registrations are already open. To find out more please visit www.snaicc.org.au/conference/registration/#registrationinfo

Family Matters at Port Lincoln Family Fun Day

Tony-Lee Miller and Donna Carr were proud to represent AFSS during Port Lincoln's annual Family Fun Day on the foreshore to celebrate Families week. The event highlights and celebrates the role that families play in the community and helps to promote community and family wellbeing. Twenty local agencies and businesses came together to deliver activities, entertainment and information to families.

Coupled with the sunny weather, the event provided plenty of opportunities for families to come together, relax and play. Information was provided to families from various services and the event allowed AFSS staff to promote the Family Matters campaign. This campaign and information around this was central to the AFSS stand.



Above: Mary Octoman and her little ones enjoy the fun in the sun.

We set up a safe yarning circle for families to come, sit and explore musical instruments and stories as an art activity for children to participate in.

The children enjoyed tracing hands and spraying paint to decorate them. Local community members enjoyed

the opportunity to sit and relax and were happy to yarn with staff about the importance of foster care, the Family Matters campaign and the importance of ensuring that Aboriginal children were supported in culturally appropriate environments.

National Sorry Day - 20 years on from release of *Bringing Them Home* report

National Sorry Day on 26 May marks 20 years since the release of the *Bringing Them Home* Report. Heather Shearer, shares her thoughts on this poignant occasion:

“Please remember all Stolen Generations people, their families and communities on this day, and recognise that in much of the work we do, therein lies a legacy of the transgenerational trauma of this historical injustice inflicted on the Aboriginal community in this country.

“The Desert Rose (*above right*) is a symbol of the tenacity of Stolen Generations people (from the Kimberley Mob), and the Grieving Mother statue (*bottom right*) is at the Colebrook Home

site on Shepherds Hill Road, Eden Hills in Adelaide, where there is also a Fountain of Tears.

“There is no commemoration here in Port Augusta so I lit my candle this morning as a way to offer light to those still searching, and to comfort those who mourn their loss...

“I ask that you forward the photo of the Desert Rose to all Aboriginal people you know to let them know they are not alone, and please let them know that this gift from the Kimberley Stolen Generations people (that I have so proudly worked with during my time in the Stolen Generations Movement....) is for all to unite in commemoration.”



Family Matters in Ceduna

AFSS, in partnership with Save the Children Australia, held an information stall with activities in the main street of Ceduna on Thursday 18 May, promoting the Family Matters campaign.

There was much community interest and participation in the activities by children on the day, especially during the morning.

Family Matters is aimed to make the community aware of the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care.

Family Matters provided information and some fun giveaways, including balloons and wrist bands. Save the Children Australia provided a play area with toys and building blocks.



Above: Staff setting up the stall with information for community members and fun activities for kids.

Both agencies also set up activities for the children, such as painting hands in different sizes, printing of hands and colouring in, helping to engage local families in the campaign.

Look out for AFSS at the NAIDOC Family Fun Day!



Above: The theme for this year's NAIDOC is Our Languages Matter.

Make sure you visit the Elders Pavilion, sponsored by AFSS, to enjoy a chat and a cuppa with friends and to take the weight off your feet.

The Family Fun Day will take place following the NAIDOC March on Friday, July 7, at Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square), from 11.00am - 3.30pm. This is a free community event.

And while you're looking at all the great stalls, information stands and getting

together with family and friends be sure to drop by and say hello to our team at the AFSS stand, where we will be providing giveaways and information about AFSS foster care and our other programs to community members.

We look forward to seeing you!



Seasons For Healing Companions complete training

Above: Members of the AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSW) team have successfully completed their training as Companions for the Seasons for Healing program. Pictured above, from left are: Tracy Miller, Tim Mitchell, Ish Gunasekara and Eunice Bartlett. To find out more about Seasons for Healing visit the CSW page on the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au or call 8254 1077.



AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing team is pleased to offer

Respect Sista Girls 2

If you're an Aboriginal woman or girl aged over 12 then this program's for you!



Make positive changes in your life! Empower yourself to make better choices and re-connect with your cultural identity, family, land, language, values and spiritual beliefs.

This is what Sista Girls 2 is all about!

There are nine modules in the program:

- Cultural integrity
- Communication
- Reflect, connect and know self
- Relationships and empowerment
- Family
- Sista girls
- Violence, abuse and power-over
- Consequences to behaviour
- Inner Circle Support: Outer circle networks

AFSS' Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitators run the program and provide a culturally safe and confidential environment for all participants across South Australia. To find out more, or if you would like to take part in the program, please email csw@afss.com.au or contact AFSS CS&W team at:

Smithfield

39A Anderson Walk
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Port Augusta

8-10 Victoria Parade
Phone (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln

3 Gloucester Tce
Phone (08) 8683 1909



AFSS Gambling Help Service provides education and support to Aboriginal community members

AFSS Gambling Help Service recognises the need in the community to support Aboriginal people and their significant others, where gambling has become, or could potentially develop into a problem.

The program provides support, education and awareness about how best to help Aboriginal people in regional South Australia with issues around gambling. AFSS recognises that education and awareness are fundamental in supporting Aboriginal people who have gambling problems. This can only be effectively achieved within the broader context of educating families and communities, agencies, clubs and hotels.

We aim to build resilience by:

- Educating individuals about gambling
- Advocating, supporting and referring service users
- Identifying risk factors for clients.

We promote connectedness by:

- Targeting community services to raise awareness of gambling behaviours and associated risks
- Providing education and awareness for family and friends of problem gamblers
- Providing support and advice to family and friends of problem gamblers.

We undertake community awareness and education to:

- Increase awareness of AFSS Gambling Help Service to community groups
- Promote culturally appropriate understanding of gambling to hotels and clubs.



Above: Norman Giles (AGHS Riverland), Charles Jackson, (AGHS Port Augusta), Angela Burford, Office of Problem Gambling, Warren Guppy, (AFSS Senior Manager Metro Services) and Bronte Warneke (AGHS Murray Bridge).

AFSS has designed a series of posters and handouts specifically for Aboriginal community members to help them understand the myths and realities of gambling, and how to recognise that gambling is becoming a problem (*see poster above*).

Would you like to find out more?

If you, a significant other or family member have problems with gambling, or know someone who is having problems with gambling, contact AFSS Gambling Help Service for a friendly and confidential chat. We're just a phone call away:

- Berri, Norman (08) 8582 3192
- Port Augusta, Charles (08) 8641 0907
- Murray Bridge, Bronte 0418 499 649
- Port Lincoln, Anna (08) 8683 1909.

Attention all parents, families and carers of Aboriginal children!

AFSS warmly invites you to a

Connection to Culture Children's Day



When: Friday 4 August

Where: Tauondi Aboriginal Community College
1 Lipson St, Port Adelaide

Mark the date - more information to come!



value our rights,
respect our culture,
Bring us home.

Celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day with activities to help you keep the kids in your care connected to culture. Keeping kids safe in culture provides a strong cultural identity and contributes to children's resilience.





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

8-10 Victoria Parade
Port Augusta SA 5700
Phone (08) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln

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

Attention Aboriginal foster carers and families

Mark your calendars!

AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day

AFSS will be holding a Connection to Culture Children's Day at Tauondi College on Friday 4 August 2017 to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day.

The event will feature a wide range of cultural activities and is designed specifically for all foster carers of Aboriginal children and Aboriginal families to empower them and assist them in ensuring that Aboriginal children are kept connected to, and safe in culture.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day (Children's Day) is the largest national day to celebrate our children. Children's Day is celebrated across Australia each year on 4 August and is a time to for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to celebrate the strengths and culture of their children.

The day is an opportunity for all Australians to show their support for Aboriginal children, as well as learn about the crucial impact that culture, family and community play in the life of every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child.

The theme for Children's Day 2017 is *Value Our Rights, Respect Our Culture, Bring Us Home*.

This year Children's Day recognises the 20th anniversary of the Bringing them Home



value our rights,
respect our culture,
Bring us home.

Report and the many benefits children experience when they are raised with strong connections to family and culture.

Published in 1997, the seminal Bringing them Home Report exposed the violations of fundamental human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, families and communities through the policies and practices of the Stolen Generations.

Keep your eyes on the AFSS website www.afss.com.au and Facebook page *Aboriginal Family Support Services* for more information about the Connection to Culture Children's Day as the event draws nearer.

To find out more about the great work that SNAICC does nationally for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, their carers and families visit their website, www.snaicc.org.au