



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

September - October 2019



From Left: Susie Crisa (Training Officer) Glen Kerrigan (Manager Residential Services) Susan Richards (Senior Manager Residential Services) Sophie Trabilisic (Lead Support Worker, Residential Services) Isaya McKenzie (Cultural Officer, Connection to Culture) Nick Ward (Manager Residential Services) Olivia King (Manager Residential Services)

SNAICC Conference 2019

The 8th Annual SNAICC conference was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre this year, and the theme was "Growing up with Strong Identity, Culture and Connection".

With over 1200 attendees, it was the largest gathering of any SNAICC Conference to date. The conference provided 3 full days of plenaries presentations and performances, which were complimented by master classes and an exhibition hall with information booths, agencies and groups from around the country.

On Tuesday, Michael O'Brien opened the conference with a heartfelt Welcome to Country speech, and we had the pleasure of listening to Garry Goldsmith who was MC throughout the conference, who sure enough brought some light heartedness to the occasion.

Tuesday night was the Welcome Reception. The evening was

beautiful, with an amazing outside view overlooking the River Torrens. (Also known as the Karrawirra Pari River to the Kaurna people). The faces of the delegates were lit up, taking in what was to be a strong start to the conference.

We had the dinner on Wednesday night, which provided an opportunity for delegates from around the country to let their hair down and to get their dancing shoes on. The food and company at the dinner were a highlight of the conference and delegates were able to solidify networks and to meet new and old friends. It was great to see everyone getting into the groove to the sounds of the Twang Bangers.

The photo booth was a hit and saw groups of people trying to clamber into the small space to get a memorable photo of their

time at the conference.

The young people and children's performances from Dusty Feet Mob, Yellaka, Tal Kin Jeri, Kaurna Plains and Kalaya Children's Centre was a very poignant reminder of why we were all here at the SNAICC Conference. These performance groups are truly inspiring with their passion to keep culture alive through dance.

All 3 days consisted of quality speakers and very informative sessions, of which AFSS presented 5 sessions.

The conference would not have been such a success without the help of AFSS Cultural Officer Barbara Falla, who played an integral part in organising the cultural performances and also Helen Laxton who contributed to the organisation of the stall equipment and set up.

A message from the Chief Executive

The events of the past few months have been both somber and inspiring in nature. It is with great sadness that we have had to say goodbye to our Chairperson, Tauto Sansbury, who passed away peacefully at home on 23 September. Tauto was a true ambassador for Aboriginal rights and spent much of his life empowering and seeking justice for Aboriginal children and their families. He was involved with many Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations throughout his life, and while it was evident that this was his main focus, he will always be remembered for his sense of humour and ability to see the funny side of things. Our deepest condolences go out to his loving partner Grace and family. He will be truly missed by all.

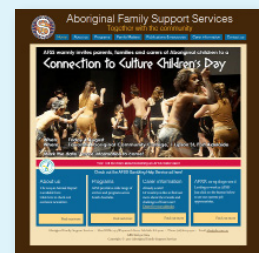


On a lighter note, AFSS has once again had the privilege to participate in the 8th Annual SNAICC Conference, which was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre this year. It was an absolute joy to see the AFSS team represent our organisation, giving 5 presentations in total illustrating the work they have been doing throughout the year. It was both informative and humbling to witness the ideas and strategies of other organisations across the country, and to see what they have been doing to enhance and support the lives of Aboriginal children and their families.

AFSS has also had a considerable influx of staff over the past few months, particularly in the Community Safety and Wellbeing, and Stronger Families teams. Both areas continue to grow and it's lovely to see some fresh faces from a variety of backgrounds. We look forward to seeing what they can contribute to AFSS and wish them all the very best with their careers.

Lastly, we also look forward to collaborating with the Menzies School of Health Research over the next few months as we continue to develop strategies and get together some collateral and publications to ensure that Aboriginal people and their families are well informed about their choices and rights in regards to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Chief Executive
Sharron Williams



www.afss.com.au

SNAICC Conference 2019 - Staff Reviews

Here are some reflections from AFSS staff members

I had the opportunity to attend my second SNAICC conference held in Adelaide. From the opening ceremony to closing, I had the privilege to watch some amazing cultural performances, which absolutely moved me to the core. As a non Aboriginal woman, with Aboriginal grandchildren, it was delightful to see such a passion in keeping these children connected to their culture and empowering them to grow strong and achieve future success. I really enjoyed the panel of youth who discussed creating and challenging change in policy making. Isaiah Dawe was an inspirational man! Personally I could have listened to him all day! It really gives me hope, to know that our young people in care are able to achieve anything they put their mind too.



Angela Fee

AFSS Manager Port Lincoln

Cultural connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is as important as ever. The conference was very insightful and surprisingly concerning when you see the statistics of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care. This to me highlights the importance of my position at AFSS. Being a Cultural Officer, I understand the significance of providing children and their families with as much information and practical involvement with their culture as possible. It is vital to help them develop a sense of belonging and pride. The conference was a great success and very informative - I can't wait for the next one!

Isaya McKenzie
Cultural Officer

What a fantastic event. This was the largest SNAICC Conference to date, with an excess of 1200 people attending. There were a total of 65 concurrent sessions over 3 days. We had the welcome reception on Tuesday, conference dinner Wednesday and the community stands on Thursday. It was such a full and exciting schedule. It was fantastic to see what other organisations and agencies have been doing in similar fields and to take away ideas and contacts for future reference. SNAICC is about networking, to further develop Aboriginal and non Aboriginal people in the best possible practice outcomes for Aboriginal children. Looking forward to SNAICC 2021 on the Gold Coast!

Barbara Falla
Cultural Officer

I am very thankful to have had the opportunity to attend the SNAICC 2019 conference. It was amazing to see what a lot of people are doing out in the community. I attended a session where the presenters were from Port Lincoln and Port Augusta. The work they have been doing with Aboriginal children and their families is absolutely amazing. I did attend a panel session and during that session I did feel very uncomfortable, but afterwards when I was away from the session, I had time to reflect and think. It definitely gave me a better understanding of how Aboriginal people have to face racism in everyday life. No wonder they are still upset and angry.

Helen Laxton
Executive CE Assistant



SNAICC Conference 2019 - Staff Reviews



What a great way to spend the week! I think South Australia did themselves proud with the venue and the overall running of the event. I found myself very honored to work at AFSS. Throughout the conference, we put together a variety of presentations, on some very relevant topics. And hearing everybody singing Sharron's praises and recognizing the work she has been doing in the field, was also great. It really conceptualized how well regarded AFSS is on a national level. I most enjoyed the key note sessions - especially the panel discussion. Isaiah Dawe was a stand out for me and really shifted my mind-set about the support structure we provide children. He highlighted how we can add further emphasis on long term hope and goal planning and transform this into a future generation of successful adults who have resided in care.

Olivia King
Manager Residential Services

The 2019 SNAICC conference, which was held in Adelaide this year, was the first I have attended. I was absolutely blown away by the opening and closing plenary sessions which were held each day and consistently impressed by the quality of speakers and representatives who shared their knowledge and experiences with all of us. I was personally moved by the presentations and panel of discussions given by Dr. Moana Eruera, June Oscar AO and Isaiah Dawe. I had the absolute privilege of chairing several of the concurrent sessions throughout the conference. I was moved by the passion and strength in which all of the sessions were conducted. I learned many practical things that I can draw from within my own work at AFSS, such as how to effectively source stakeholders and funders, how to liaise with the government on a local, state and federal level, different program development strategies, as well as how to incorporate healing and meditative practices. I think the part that surprised me the most, was how much I felt part of a community. Although we are all different and come from various corners of the country, I established many friendships and felt extremely valued. We are all fighting the good fight and I felt respected for my part in the fight.

Shelly Belmont
Outreach Officer - YAATSISHS Program



From Left: Susie Crisa (Training Officer) Barbara Falla (Cultural Officer, Connection to Culture) Rosie Reschke, Tania Elliot (Training Facilitator) Jodi Hutchinson (CS&W Program Facilitator) Kathy Rigney (a.c.care), Warren Guppy (Senior Manager Metropolitan Services), Shirley Young (Two Worlds Consultancy), Brigitte Goepfert (Project Officer - Child Protection Reform), Lesley Saunders (CaMHS)



Talking with people is one of the things I do the best - so speaking to the conference visitors as they walked by at the AFSS stall, was an easy thing for me to do. While my job can be challenging at times, I find the environment thoroughly enjoyable. So being able to relay that to people in a positive manner was great! It's fantastic to see and hear from so many people about the fabulous work they have been doing in their own communities and how the focus has been shifted from cure to prevention.



Leonie Sutherland
Cultural Consultant

Participating in the SNAICC Conference 2019 was a very humbling experience. Some of the sessions I participated in included Aboriginal specific child development tools, reflective practice, trauma responses, as well as the plenary sessions and panels, which enthusiastically promoted the wonderful services and practices across Australia to meet the needs in the community. It was a wonderful opportunity to reinforce the importance of cultural connections and authority, and offer network opportunities. I was challenged and inspired by so many programs and wonderful people, and will take the opportunity to follow up on the ideas and resources available.

Tania Elliot
Training Facilitator

This was my first time attending the Conference. It was a wonderful experience to be a part of the AFSS team and to have been given the opportunity to be involved. While working at the AFSS Stall, I met many delegates and visitors who expressed such a genuine interest in the services AFSS provides and also our success stories to date. I found the workshops to be very insightful, particularly the 'Culturally Safe Trauma Informed

Approaches' workshop. I learned a lot from the two sisters who spoke about their experience with childhood trauma. They both had two completely different narratives and responses to the situation. But have effectively used their own experiences and stories, to help support other Aboriginal women who are going through the same thing. I really enjoyed the dinner which was a great opportunity to meet more of the AFSS Staff and relax and have fun in the photo booth. Thanks for this wonderful experience!

Pauline Mann
Family Violence Worker

As the Project Officer for the Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project, attending the SNAICC conference, I felt, would provide me with the opportunity to hear about the various struggles and successes that other organisations around Australia were having, when it came to Child Protection. I was lucky enough to have been able to support my team mate, Barbara Falla (Cultural Officer) with her presentation on AFSS Cultural Plans. And through this, I was able to incorporate some powerpoint slides on the Child Protection Reform Project. Chairing some of the concurrent sessions definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone, but also allowed me see things from a whole different perspective. The Welcome reception and dinner provided a great outlet to network and also to contemplate the day's events. All in all, SNAICC presented a wonderful conference, with a lot of information and food for thought. Now moving forward, I am able to use this valuable information in the work that I do for AFSS.

Brigitte Goepfert
Project Officer - Child Protection



AFSS Support Worker Laura Pemberton attends French Woods Festival

From June, through to September this year, I had an amazing opportunity to work at the French Woods Festival of the Performing Arts Summer Camp (FWF) in Upstate New York. I worked as a horseback specialist activity counsellor; (teaching 7 to 18 year olds daily), taking care and being responsible for 33 horses and as a bunk counselor for 12 children (aged 10 to 12) for 13 weeks - working 24/7 in a rustic/traditional camp environment. I also had the task of supervising and leading children in their daily activities, teaching English and Western style riding to around 50 children, providing positive behaviour management methods to help children throughout their daily routine and using initiative to find fun and creative ways to keep children

learning i.e. Horse care was an activity where campers were able to learn to groom a horse/or pony for an hour. My experience over the summer was extremely rewarding. Working with children and staff from a variety of different cultural backgrounds, and being a part of a team that felt like family, is a lifelong memory I will keep forever. I had the best summer and gained some valuable life experiences, life long friends and I am extremely grateful I was able to share part of Australia with FWF. I am also thankful that AFSS allowed me to have this time off to work to attend.

Laura Pemberton - AFSS Support Worker



Minister Rachel Sanderson Visits the Houses

In early October the Minister for Child Protection Rachel Sanderson visited another one of AFSS residential houses.

She was greeted by young people who were very enthusiastic to offer her cake, strawberries and other treats for afternoon tea.

As part of her engagement with AFSS young people, the Minister plants a tree at each visit. The young people select a plant of their choice and look forward to planting with the Minister.

During this visit they planted tomatoes, lettuce and other vegetables together.

The children were very keen to hear some gardening tips from the Minister, who showed them which plants should be planted next to each other to get the best growth!



From left: Rachel Sanderson (Minister for Child Protection), Dave Jenkins, (Support Worker)

Carers Luncheon - Port Lincoln



From left: Chris Prestage and Latoya Saunders.



(Nana) Veda Betts and Marlene Wilson.



Marlene Wilson (Carer)

On 24 September, AFSS staff, DCP, CentaCare and carers, came together for a beautiful lunch held at the Boston Bay Winery. The setting was lovely and the views of the bay were incredible. Elder (Nana) Veda Betts started with Acknowledgment of Country, followed by Nick Nesci (Manager of DCP) and Director Fiona Ward (Deputy Chief Executive of DCP) who acknowledged the hard work and dedication carers show in their voluntary roles. It was a lovely afternoon had by all. AFSS would also like to thank McDonalds for donating over \$400 worth of coffee vouchers to the carers.

AFSS Participate in Foster Care Sector Stall at the Royal Adelaide Show

On Monday 2 September, the AFSS Foster Care Services team were a part of the Foster Care Stall, at the Royal Adelaide Show. It was a great day engaging with the public. We had some wonderful conversations with families who were already carers. We also had quite a few enquiries from families who were very interested in becoming carers. We had lots of beautiful pictures drawn by children while their parents chatted with us. These were then placed on display around the stall. It was a great day had by all being out in the community.



From left: Becky Matthews and Bridie Valentine (Carer Liaison Officers)





Frank Gavranich Celebrates 10 years with AFSS

Frank Gavranich started working with AFSS as a Youth Support Worker on 13 August 2009.

Throughout his ten years, Frank has helped with the development of more than sixteen young people and trained many new permanent part time and casual employees. Frank is admired for his passion and caring approach with young people and has always maintained a child focus. Last but not least, Frank has been one of the most reliable and approachable team members at the house and is always willing to help in any way he can. Without a doubt, Frank is a great example of commitment to his work and the young people who he has supported over the past 10 years.

Fundraising for Beyond Blue

In September Susan Richards, Senior Manager of Residential Services and team members Rebecca Draysey, Kate Walker and Annie Steven, walked 30km as team "Fifty Shades of Pink" in their third Coastrek for Beyond Blue.

The team were inspired to do the coastal walk from Victor Harbor to Goolwa after realising how much suicide and mental health had affected their lives.

Team members said, 'We sat down and wrote a list of all the people we know who have taken

their own lives and we thought there might only be six or seven, and then we got to about 30 people and we were so shocked.'

Each team member wore the names of the people they have lost to suicide during Friday's walk.

The team described the walk as an amazing experience and a chance for the team to honour their loved ones.

"Fifty Shades of Pink" raised over \$10,000 for Beyond Blue and would also like to thank Sharron Williams, Helen Laxton and AFSS for their support during this time.



Just for KIDS



Crossword puzzle on **colors**

green red purple black white pink
brown grey blue orange yellow

d	x	q	v	m	q	v	n	d	i	q
o	n	s	t	p	u	r	p	l	e	n
g	r	e	y	a	m	q	w	k	v	t
x	j	u	c	k	y	s	h	c	f	s
p	h	g	t	v	e	p	i	n	k	c
t	t	r	e	d	l	b	t	c	l	b
w	n	e	d	o	l	i	e	d	v	l
o	g	e	b	r	o	w	n	x	p	u
n	i	n	u	c	w	q	h	d	z	e
z	p	c	e	z	a	b	l	a	c	k
r	o	r	a	n	g	e	o	m	u	n

New Staff Updates



Sachina Maharjan, Case Worker, New Dreams Program, Smithfield.

Hi, my name is Sachina Maharjan. I have recently joined the New Dreams team at Smithfield, as a Case Worker.

I am a caring professional and my experience to date includes working as an assessment line worker with The Salvation Army, a nursing assistant with ACH Group, and a bilingual guide with Settlement Service International. My experience also includes working with street children, children who live in slum areas and also women and children living with HIV/AIDS in Nepal.

I have a Diploma in Community Services from TAFE NSW and Masters of Social Work from St. Xavier's College in Nepal.

My education and work experience in Social Work has given me the opportunity to work with people experiencing disadvantage from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

I am an active listener with a caring nature and a positive personality. I believe my natural ability and

experience working with people from a diverse cultural and linguistic background, will be a valuable asset to the AFSS New Dreams Team.

Besides work, I love spending time with my husband and my 3 year old daughter, Joyce. Likewise, I love to do yoga, travel and read books in my free time.

I feel very thankful to have obtained this position with AFSS, New Dreams. I enjoy working within a community environment and I look forward to getting to know my team and seeing what New Dreams can achieve in the future.

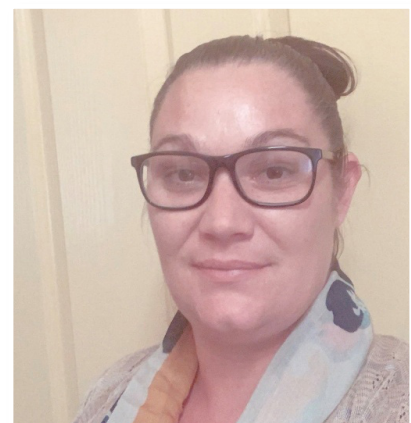


Alex Yeeles, Case Worker, TIS, Cross Roads.

Hi, my name is Alex Yeeles. I gained employment with AFSS in July 2019, as a case worker for the Targeted Intervention Service Program, Cross Roads. In 2015, I completed an undergraduate degree in Psychological Sciences. This led me to complete my Masters in Social Work, where I graduated in July 2018. Although I have previously worked in aged care, my passion has always been focused primarily around child protection and I have

worked in this space for a little over 2 years. I feel extremely grateful to have obtained this position with AFSS. As I already come from a child protection background, I have known of AFSS for quite some time and have always admired the organisation's strong commitment to providing Aboriginal people with therapeutic services, along with social justice.

My team members at the Metro office have been incredibly welcoming and I have already learnt so much thus far. I look forward to continue to work with the organisation and I am excited to see what the future holds and what opportunities may arise.



Leah Smith, Case Worker, Stronger Families, Port Augusta.

Hi my name is Leah Smith, I'm excited to have recently joined the Stronger Families Team in Port Augusta as a Case Worker. I have worked in the Community Service sector within the Port Augusta region for around 6 and half years and am looking forward to continuing to make positive changes within the Port Augusta community at AFSS.

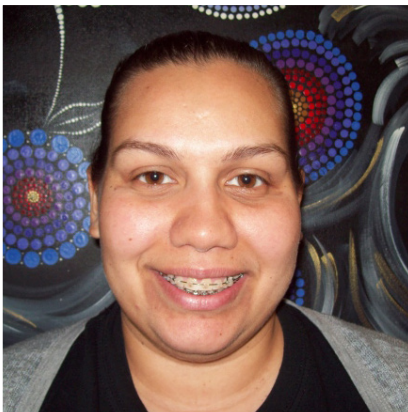




Kirsty Press, Case Worker, Stronger Families, Port Augusta.

Hi, my name is Kristy Press and I have recently joined the Stronger Families Team in Port Augusta. My passion has always been working with children, whether it is in Education, Residential Care or coaching Calisthenics.

I am thrilled to be given the opportunity to work alongside families to support them to stay safe and connected.



Tashani (Shani) Morton. Assessment Administration Officer, Foster Care Services.

Hi, I'm Shani, I have joined the Foster Care Services team as an Assessment Administration Officer. I was born on Kaurna land, I grew up in Arrernte country and I come from the Kambuwal and Euhlayi sovereign Nations. My work experience has been extremely diverse and no two positions have ever been the same. Previously, I

have worked in early childhood education and also the care industry (both metro and remote areas.) I also have experience in administration and logistics. I have only just begun my journey in discovering what I am passionate about. But what I do know is, my heart is at its fullest and happiest, when I am helping people to achieve.

I look forward to starting the next part of my journey with the AFSS team.



Darren Harris, Carer Liaison Officer - Foster Care Services - Metropolitan Services.

Hi my name is Darren Harris, I'm a proud Aboriginal man from the Eastern Arrernte and Miming Nation and was born in Darwin, Northern Territory. A year ago, I moved to South Australia to pursue a career in film making and to also continue developing my skills working and advocating predominantly throughout the Aboriginal community of South Australia. My professional background is primarily based around youth and community services, as well as working with the Department of Education. I am a leader, a voice and a strong believer in working together and respecting my elders, to practice the continuity

of our cultural bounds and gifts as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I am also a great support person when it comes to mental health, and believe it only takes one person to change someone's life by the simple act of listening. As a wise man once said "you can't listen if you're talking". We all need to listen and learn when it comes to mental health.

I thank Aboriginal Family Support Services greatly, for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to learning from their unique and holistic approach and seeing how this contributes to my career development.



Nicole Wilson, Case Worker, Stronger Families, Metro.

Hi my name is Nicole Wilson, I have previously worked in disability and mental health at LWB and have just graduated as a social worker. I have previously volunteered at DCP and Reconciliation SA, as I have a special interest in child protection and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I am so grateful to have been so warmly welcomed to our amazing team and I am honoured to be part of such an inspiring organisation. Thank you for having me!



R U OK DAY - Morning Tea at AFSS



1. Ask



2. Listen



3. Encourage action



4. Check in

What is R U OK Day?

R U OK Day was initiated to inspire and empower people to meaningfully connect with others around them, and to start a conversation with anyone who may be struggling with life. It is something that anybody can do, you don't need to be an expert to reach out - just a good friend and a great listener.

Are You OK day at AFSS

On Wednesday 9 September, AFSS metro celebrated R U OK Day with a morning tea. Being a workplace focused on mental health and knowing the stresses that can accumulate when dealing with issues relating to trauma, it is still very easy to oversee the wellbeing of ourselves and our colleagues. At work we tend to focus primarily on the business itself, and forget about issues relating to mental health. Today was about stepping outside the square and learning to identify people's behaviour at work and using different techniques to help people if they are not quite OK. One of the exercises we were asked to do, was get into small groups and have a discussion regarding each others ideas on mental health. We were all asked to choose an animal and form a

line from smallest to largest, using our own judgement as to where our animal would fit on the size-scale. It was quite amusing to see which animal people identified themselves with, and a quick way to lighten up the situation and separate everybody from their normal groups.

Here are some of the responses to the questions our employees were asked to talk about

What does well-being mean?

Having a purpose in society, feeling good about yourself, eating a balanced diet, feeling peaceful, exercising, managing pain, having fun and being sociable.

How do you manage your wellbeing at work?

Recognising when you are feeling stressed and being pro-active about it, having colleagues to debrief with, remembering you are not alone, having a good work life balance and using leave to have time away.

How do you, or have you offered any support to your colleagues?

Being open and assisting people with solutions, showing an understanding and listening, not rushing conversations, noting a change in people's behaviour and

being device free while talking.

What do we do well at AFSS and what could we do better to support wellbeing in the workplace?

Firstly, the fact that we make an effort to incorporate such an event like R U OK Day is a great start! Fruit on Tuesdays, little things like handing around lollies on Fridays. We could make improvements by having similar events to R U OK Day, board games in the lunch room (scrabble etc), initiating regular staff catch ups and maintaining a culture of constant caring.





AFSS FOSTER CARER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

You are invited to join us on



- **Saturday 7 December**
 - **10.30am - 3.00pm**
 - **Tusmore Park**
- (Stirling Street Tusmore SA 5065)**

There's plenty of room to run around, play in the playground or explore the creek. The park has a covered 30cm deep wading pool, tennis courts, and plenty of shade.

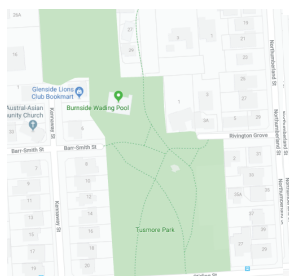


BBQ lunch is provided!

PLUS there will be a special visit from Santa and his helpers!

Please RSVP to your Carer Liaison Officer by Friday 1 November 2019.

Please also advise numbers and dietary requirements.



Please note the care and supervision of children remains with their carers and families.

Remember to be SunSmart!

Sponsored by AGL employees



Types of Foster Care

In Care - An Overview

In Care is when a child or young person is cared for by a person - known as a carer - other than their parents and lives in a place other than the child's usual home. Foster Care is a way of providing a safe and secure home for a child or young person who cannot live with their own parents. Foster carer families open their hearts and homes to children and young people, generally without any prior connection. Care can be for different lengths of time. AFSS supports and promotes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle and will continue to advocate for children to return to family, kin or community whenever possible. At times this will even be in the event that connections are found later in a child's journey in care.

Kinship Care

Kinship Care is a way of providing a safe and secure home for a child or young person who cannot live with their own parents. Kinship carer families open their hearts and homes to children and young people who are related through family or have an existing relationship with the family or community. This is the preferred care option because it maintains the child or young person's existing connections to family, community, culture and country - especially in relation to



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

Specific Child Only

Specific Child Only Care is a way of providing a safe and secure home for a child or young person who cannot live with their own parents. A specific child only (SCO) carer is a person that the child has a significant existing relationship with who is not a relative or kin of the child.

Emergency Care

Emergency carers care for children when their safety is at immediate risk. For this reason, emergency carers are often called on at short notice. The child stays for a short period (sometimes only one night) while a care plan is developed and a longer term placement can be found.

Respite Care

Respite carers provide planned care for a child for a short period, typically one or two weekends a month. Respite carers provide crucial support for the child's parents, guardians or regular foster carers, by giving them a break. Respite carers give the child an opportunity to experience a different home environment and provide an opportunity to forge meaningful relationships outside of their foster home, as they share new experiences with other positive influences in their life.



Short Term Care

Short-term care can be provided for any time frame - from 2 weeks to 2 years - always with the aim of meeting the child's unique needs and best interests. Children come to require short-term care at a time of family crisis for a variety of reasons and short term care is an opportunity to provide a stable and nurturing environment with carers who accept them and their families. During this time all options are being explored and supported for the child to return safely home to their families. This is also known as reunification.

Long Term Care

For some children, reunification with their birth family is not an option, due to safety reasons and other challenges. In these instances, either long-term specialist or long-term general care is arranged until the birth family's circumstances change or until the child is 18-years-old. Careful consideration is given to the particular needs of the foster child to make the best match possible with their foster carer or



foster family. Carers who provide long term care commit to parenting children toward adulthood and provide them with stability and permanency. They experience all the challenges and rewards of guiding a child as they grow and develop. Long Term Care doesn't always mean that a child will definitely be in your care until 18 especially if a suitable family or kin option is later found for the child.

Specialist Care

Specialist foster carers care for children and young people who have complex emotional and behavioral needs. This can include children and young people who have suffered trauma and abuse, or who have disabilities or special needs. Specialist carers receive additional support and undertake specific training so they can best support these children.

Long Term Guardianship (specified person)

As an approved carer, you can now seek long term guardianship of a child that has been in your care for more than 2 years. This means that you would become the legal guardian, not the Chief Executive of the Department for Child Protection.

Commercial Care

Commercial care is provided at any suitable commercial premises such as private rental house or unit, hotel room and is staffed by carers who work shifts on a 24 hour, 7 day per week roster.

Residential Care

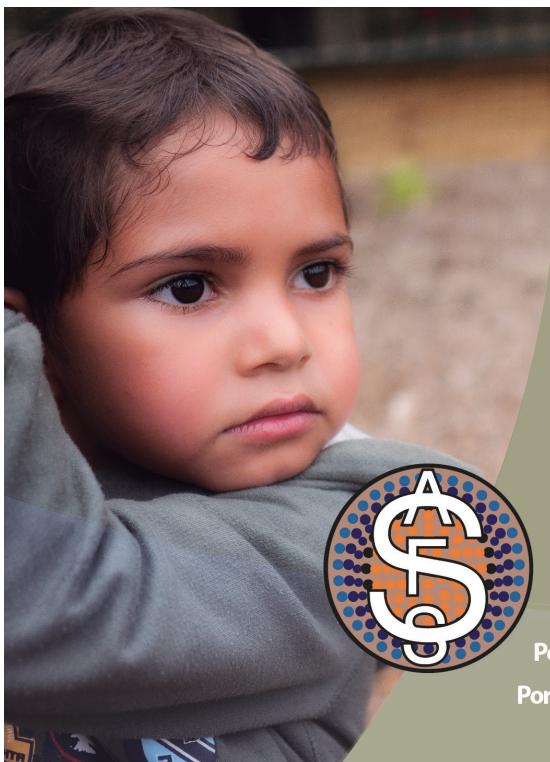
Residential Care provides placements in facilities or houses with a number of other children who are also in care. Employees are trained to work with children

and young people whose specific needs are best addressed in a highly structured environment and they are responsible for creating and maintaining safe, therapeutic, homelike environments. Residential care is staffed by DCP, or non-government employees, on a rotating, 24/7 roster.

Guardianship Family Day Care

In 2017, the Department of Child Protection implemented the Guardianship Family Day Care response, which provides short term family-based care to children under 6 while seeking kinship or foster care placements. This is another option for young children in an emergency situation, but it is only used when no foster or kinship carer can be located.

To find out more about becoming an AFSS foster carer, please contact one of our team members below.



FOSTER CARERS URGENTLY WANTED!

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

Please Contact

Adelaide: Peter Dyer peter.dyer@afss.com.au 8205 1500

Ceduna: Michelle Naylon michelle.naylon@afss.com.au 8625 3466

Coober Pedy: Amanda Zelenko amanda.zelenko@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





Where to find us

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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

Mount Gambier

Pangula Mannamurna
191 Commercial Street West
Mt Gambier SA 5290
Phone: 0499 889 729

Murray Bridge

4a, 17-19 Adelaide Rd
Murray Bridge, SA 5253
Phone: 0418 499 649

Port Augusta

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

Port Lincoln

21 Washington Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Phone (08) 8683 1909

Homelessness Conference Program - 2019

Now in its sixth year, the 2019 Homelessness Conference Program, explored and evaluated practical and future homelessness policy at local, national and international levels. This year's theme, Preventing Homelessness, examined the various ways that those working in the public, community and private sectors, can collaborate more effectively to prevent homelessness in South Australia. This conference also provided an opportunity to hear updates on the Adelaide Zero Project.

The Conference was opened by a moving and powerful Welcome to Country, given by Rosemary Wanganeen (Cultural Advisor, University of Adelaide and CEO, Australian Institute for Loss and Grief) The conference presenters and panel members included nationally and internationally acclaimed key service providers, policy and decision makers, and academics such as, Leslie Wise (Portfolio Lead, Strategic Communications) and Jake Maguire, (Principal, Community Solutions, USA), Dr John Falzon, (Senior Fellow, Inequality and Social Justice) and The

Hon Michelle Lensink (MLC Minister for Human Services)

20 minute interactive sessions, called mini presentations, provided opportunities for discussion, learning and exchange of ideas. I personally attended three of the mini sessions which I found to be incredibly informative, useful in practice and of which provided me with lots of innovative and challenging ideas.

Ending homelessness: From wicked problem to grand challenge. Presented by Maria Palumbo (CEO, Junction Australia) and Dr. Tracey Dodd (Research Fellow, University of Adelaide).

A Label For the Streets: Street wear combating Youth Homelessness and Hardship. Nick Pearce (Co-Founder and CEO, HoMie - Homelessness of Melbourne).

Prevention of Homelessness: What the Research is Telling us. Chris Hartley (Research Fellow, Centre for Social Impact) and Jacqui Jones (The Constellation Project, Lead PwC).

Shelly Belmont - Outreach Officer YAATSISHS Program

The posters contain the following text:

- Signs that there may be a problem:**
 - Changes in behaviour: Stops doing things they used to enjoy, Changes in eating or sleeping, Doesn't take care of themselves, Doesn't take care of work/school, Doesn't take care of other things, Doesn't take care of children, Doesn't take care of family events.
 - Emotional: Irritability, Frustration, Anger, Worry, Sadness, Guilt, Shame, Loss of interest, Depression.
 - Physical: Headaches, Stomach upsets, Fatigue, Weight changes, Loss of energy.
 - Relationships: Family violence, Relationship breakdown, Arguments, Blame.
 - Time: Can't stop thinking about gambling, Can't stop gambling, Can't stop gambling, Can't stop gambling.
- Problem gambling and mental health:**
 - There is a strong link between problem gambling and mental health issues. Gamblers often have a range of psychological, social and economic circumstances. Dev. gambling problem can often be very difficult for every person with a gambling problem and 10 others (eg significant partner, experience serious consequences, financial difficulties, relationship and family breakdown, emotional and mental distress, Loss or employment or missed opportunity with study).
 - More than four times more likely to be hospitalized for mental health issues.
 - Heavy 2-3 times more likely to be hospitalized for mental health issues.
 - Problem gamblers have a higher rate of physical illness (eg heart disease, hypertension, diabetes, depression, anxiety and other stress related symptoms).
 - Gambling can affect physical health. However, the impact and prevalence of physical illness is not as high as people think. Insurance, mental health, depression, anxiety and other stress related symptoms.
- The odds are NOT in your favour!**
 - So - what are the odds with different sorts of gambling?
 - Keno: Winning First Division (Spot 8, playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 1,380,687
 - Super 66: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 1,000,000
 - The Pools: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 1,000,000
 - Instant scratchies: Winning First Division with \$1 high tier (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 1,000,000
 - Trackside picking: at random, a tractor in a 13 horse race Odds of winning 1 in 1,715
 - Powerball: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 7,674,600
 - Oz Lotto: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 8,111,711
 - Black Rhino: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 1,380,687
 - Top Pool: (81 Bet per line) Odds of winning 1 in 9,745,625
 - Lotto: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning 1 in 14,519,600
- Gambling can be a lot of fun, but when it starts to take up too much of your time and thinking, you may have a problem!**
 - Gambling is designed to take your money.
 - You may sometimes have a win, but it's never going to be a way to earn an income. The odds just aren't in your favour.

