



# Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

November - December 2020

## Merry Christmas



On behalf of the Board, CE and everybody here at Aboriginal Family Support Services, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year! This year has brought many unexpected challenges and we thank you all for your effort and commitment throughout this time.



### Christmas Donations for Residential Services

On Wednesday 10 December, Camilo Castro, one of AFSS residential workers, dropped off a very generous donation of gifts for the children in Residential Care, which was donated by his Church! Thank you so much, we look forward to wrapping them up and seeing the children's faces when they open them on Christmas Day!

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## A message from the Chief Executive

As we head closer towards the end of the year, I would like to thank all of our staff and foster care families for their amazing efforts throughout the past year. Their resilience and courage during this COVID-19 Pandemic has been amazing, and it really does show everybody's commitment towards keeping our workplace and children in care, as safe as possible.

Our services such as Home Visits, Residential Care, Homeless Accommodation, training and program delivery and visits to our sites, are all classed as public activities under the latest Emergency Management Direction. So therefore, with the current return of COVID-19, we have been taking extra precautions to ensure that all sites have a COVID Safe Plan.

Aside from COVID-19, there have still been some great things happening here at AFSS! Recently we opened our office in Mount Gambier, and I would like to give a warm welcome to Cheryle Saunders, who was appointed the new role of Manager at this site.

It is also great to see some of our foster carers in Port Augusta, receive NAIDOC Awards for their long-standing efforts as carers. And despite the COVID-19 restrictions, it is also fantastic to see some people getting involved in some of the NAIDOC activities that took place across the state.

Overall, I would like to thank you all again for your hard work and wish everyone, including our staff, foster carers, board, partnering organisations, and of course the children in our care, a wonderful festive season and a happy new year. And I look forward to working with you all again in 2021.



*Sharron Williams  
Chief Executive*



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# NAIDOC Week 9-13 November 2020



AFSS hopes that everyone had a chance to participate in some activities for NAIDOC week, which was held 9-13 November this year. It is a time that we all come together to celebrate and acknowledge the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia. It is celebrated not only by Aboriginal communities, but Australians of all walks of life,

This year's slogan **Always Was, Always Will Be**, recognises that First Nations people have occupied and cared for this continent for over 65,000 years. We are spiritually and culturally connected to this country. This country was criss-crossed by generations of brilliant Nations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were Australia's first explorers, first navigators, first engineers, first farmers, first botanists, first scientists, first diplomats, first astronomers and first artists.



## NAIDOC Celebrations - Port Augusta

On Thursday 12 November, during NAIDOC Week, AFSS staff held a stall at the "One Community Together" Family Fun Day event, on the Foreshore in Port Augusta. Information provided was around services and programs which are delivered by AFSS and there were also lots of fun giveaways for community.



*Pictured from left to right: Sarah Willis, Darlene Allen, Deb Merchant, Leonie Baxter, Fiona Stanley, Kerry Dadleh, Margie Stuart.*



*Pictured: Margie Stuart and Sarah Willis.*

On Friday 13 November of NAIDOC Week, staff took part in the usual March, with only the virtual Ball to complete a great week of events. With COVID restrictions in mind, all who were present, came together and enjoyed the positive atmosphere of this year's NAIDOC celebrations in Port Augusta.

## NAIDOC Awards in Port Augusta

AFSS Port Augusta would like to congratulate foster carers Cynthia and Tim on winning a DCP North Region Inaugural NAIDOC Week Award. They were recognised for their ongoing commitment and dedication to caring for children and young people in care. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do!





# AFSS collaborates with Royal Commission to ensure the voices of Aboriginals living with Disability are heard

**AFSS has been cooperating and collaborating with the Royal Commission to ensure the voices of Aboriginal people with Disability in SA are heard. We have supported clients and provided written testimonials on our concerns. We have also been present to provide evidence at public hearings.**

Wiradjuri artist and lifelong disability advocate, Uncle Paul Constable Calcott, has depicted the Disability Royal Commission story in a spectacular work of art titled Respectful Listening.

'Respectful Listening' depicts the story of The Disability Royal Commission, translated into a traditional style of art and symbols used by many of Australia's First peoples to share information and stories for thousands of years.

This story is made up of seven people who are Elders and or respected members of their own communities. These seven people, the Commissioners, come from different community groups including Australia's First People, people living with disability and the LGBTIQ+ community.

Together this group carry a message, depicted as a message stick for the Royal Commission. This group of Elders will travel across many language groups and communities, depicted as multiple circles connected across many areas of the country. The blue colours representing the salt water

coast and islands, the colour red for the desert regions, the green the hinterlands and the yellow for the coast they will travel through.

The entrusted Elders will travel through these areas and nations, gathering stories of Violence, Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation from people with disability, their family members, carers and Elders.

The U shape in the painting represents a person and the shape we leave behind in the sand after we've been sitting and yarning. The U shape with another smaller u shaped inside of it represents an Elder, someone with knowledge and standing in their community protecting and supporting other members of their community.

A person with a disability is also represented by the U shape, however, the shape representing them is slightly shorter on one side to show that a person with a disability may leave a different

shape in the sand, leaving their own unique mark on the world.

At the end of their journey, these seven Elders will take these stories that have been entrusted to them and present them to a group of government representatives. These representatives will use the information from all these stories to suggest changes, to make sure people with disability and Elders are cared for, supported and respected in the future.

You can share your experience with the royal commission:

by telling your experience and story in writing, over the phone, in a video or audio recording as submission or in a private session with a Commissioner.

Anybody can make a submission. A submission can be submitted in any way you feel comfortable



– by telephone, email, video or through The Disability Royal Commission website.

Tell The Disability Royal Commission about your experiences in your own words – it doesn't matter if you don't remember everything. If you have a support person, advocate or trusted person, they can also help you to prepare your submission.

You can tell The Disability Royal Commission about your experiences in your own language. They will provide interpreters and translators.

If you need information in your own language about making a submission, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**. Ask to be connected to **07 3734 1900**. Otherwise you can call The Disability Royal Commission on **1800 517 199** to talk about your submission options or to make an appointment.

Reproduced from the Royal Commission website: <https://disability.royalcommission.gov.au/share-your-story/first-nations-people/resources-first-nations-people>

If you have any questions or are interested in using AFSS as an NDIS provider once we are set up to provide services please contact Olivia King

[Olivia.King@afss.com.au](mailto:Olivia.King@afss.com.au)

0499 966 614

## Aboriginal Kinship Care Pilot

Well it's official! AFSS Aboriginal Kinship Care Pilot is off and running. AFSS, KWy and Incompro have started to deliver a state-wide, culturally responsive service model that provides support, training, advocacy, referrals and culturally safe assessments for Aboriginal kinship carers.

It is great news that Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO's) are being funded by DCP to support Aboriginal kinship carers. Since October, AFSS has received 9 referrals for Kinship households with 60% of these located in regional areas including Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier. AFSS regional offices are working hard to support these kinship households.

As a part of providing culturally safe assessments AFSS employees have been trained in the Winangay Kinship Care Assessment Tool and the Winangay Kids Say cards. We have been lucky enough to have Paula Hayden, from the Winangay Team, come to Adelaide on several occasions working with the culturally safe tool, to empower kinship carers through the assessment process.

The Kinship Care Team looks forward to 2021 and wishes everyone a happy holiday.

### Winangay Kids Say Cards





# Current and New Staff Updates



*Nicole Halsey, Positive Behavior Support Worker.*

Hi everyone! My name is Nicole Halsey and I'm the Positive Behaviour Support Worker in AFSS Residential Services. I've been working in Residential Services since 2017, where I started as a Youth Support Worker. I'm passionate about therapeutic care and making the environments of our Residential Services reflect the individual needs of the young people who live there. I have used my qualifications and experience in Psychology (Bachelor of Psychology – Honours, 2016; Child and Adolescent Sleep Clinic 2014-2018; and Flinders Insomnia Clinic 2016/17) and Behavioural Therapy (Flinders Early Intervention Research Program 2013 – 2017) to provide in-house behaviour support to the young people in our residential service. I've been lucky enough to transition into the role of Positive Behaviour Support Worker this year and I look forward to building the PBS program into the AFSS suite of services. During my personal time I like to go slow; I play with my cat, Lenny, and do artworks in paint and sculpture.



## Philip celebrates 10 years of service with AFSS!

On 24 November, we were very pleased to celebrate Philip Holland's 10-year anniversary at AFSS. Philip is our Manager, Human Resources and over that time, has provided AFSS with a huge amount of support, guidance and advice. His additional role of Return-to-Work Coordinator has also seen him work with staff in helping them return to their workplace after incidents and accidents, as well as managing all 3 of our triennial Assessments for our Quality Accreditation.



*Pictured here is Philip (left) receiving his Certificate of Acknowledgement from Senior Manager Corporate Services, Peter Shattock.*

## FUNDRAISING WITH *entertainment*

We know that COVID-19 has changed our lives dramatically in the last 6 months and we are all taking extra precautions. However, this could be a good opportunity to support local business, as well as AFSS, by purchasing or renewing your Entertainment Book. While we are relatively safe here in SA, if you are waiting to eat out for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, or maybe thinking of a takeaway feast, the Entertainment Book provides discount options at a wide variety of eateries, accommodation and provides fun activities for both adults and children and many more delights.

Memberships are now 100% Digital.

Please click this following link:  
<http://admin.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/9x50254>



**\$69.99/year  
membership**



*Cheryle Saunders, Manager, Mt Gambier.*

## AFSS Arrives in Mount Gambier!

AFSS is excited to announce the appointment of Cheryle Saunders as AFSS Manager in Mount Gambier. Cheryle started with AFSS on 10 November and kicked off her employment with AFSS by participating in a 3 day Foster Care Services Forum.

Cheryle's experience includes being a Reunification and Community Engagement Officer at a.c.care, various roles at DCP (Mount Gambier) including an Access Officer and Social Worker, the Homework Centre Coordinator at Burrandies and most recently the Community Services Manager at Pangula Mannamurna.

Cheryle's role will be to establish and further grow AFSS' footprint in Mount Gambier including the establishment of Residential Services, Foster Care Services, Aboriginal Kinship Care and Community Safety and Wellbeing.

AFSS is co-located with the Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation at 68 White Road Compton and we thank Burrandies' Chief Executive Officer, Robyn Campbell, for providing AFSS with some great office space in what will be an excellent partnership.

Previously, AFSS CS&W Facilitator Damien Ralphs was co-located at Pangula Mannamurna but left in late 2019 to return to Adelaide prior to relocating interstate. We thank Damien for his great work in beginning the establishment of an AFSS presence in Mount Gambier.

If you want to know more about AFSS Mount Gambier and some employment opportunities, please give Cheryle a call on **0438 142 064**.



## Foster Carers Wanted in Mount Gambier

Are you passionate about the future of Aboriginal children and young people?

- Are you supportive and understanding?
- Can you help keep young people safe in culture and community?

AFSS is seeking foster carers in the Mount Gambier area. We are looking for caring people just like you, who want to play their part in keeping Aboriginal children and young people safe within their community, and who can also provide a safe and loving home.

Fostering could be the greatest challenge you'll ever undertake, but the rewards can be many.

And AFSS is here to help you every step of the way. The team at AFSS will stand with you, to guide you through the registration process, and support you once you become a foster carer.

For More Information, please contact:

**Cheryle Saunders**  
**Manager Mount Gambier**  
**[Cheryle.Saunders@afss.com.au](mailto:Cheryle.Saunders@afss.com.au)**  
**0438 142 064**  
**[www.afss.com.au](http://www.afss.com.au)**







# Around The Houses



## Malaki's Lego Story

I love lego. I have been building lego since I was 3. My favourite lego set is the Rexelsior, from the Lego Movie 2.

## Malcom's Lego Story

I wanted to build a lego tower because Malaki's looked great. It took me 2 days to build. And my lego builders cost me \$100 dollars.



## Ceduna Residential Service Lockdown Activities

During the "circuit breaker" lockdown the children and young people were busy with activities. They played in the back yard, played board games together and had fun in the kitchen cooking biscuits and other yummy things. They made beautiful flowers out of tissue paper and coloured them with texta. They also made hand printed pictures, Christmas stars and other craft activities.





# Independent Living Skills Outreach Program (ILSOP)

Youth Accommodation Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Specific Homelessness Service (YAATSIHS) Independent Living Skills Outreach Program (ILSOP) provides one to one support to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (between the ages of 15 and 25). It is a wrap around support service where the client is at the centre of all we do.

The program provides waitlist and outreach services to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are on the YAATSIHS Waitlist or have been in YAATSIHS accommodation and have transitioned, or are transitioning, to independent or alternative living arrangements.

All clients will be encouraged to participate in the Independent Living Skills Outreach Program and will also be supported with crisis support, including services such as crisis referrals, re-establishing network relationships, independent living skills and basic emergency support such as food and hygiene packs where available.

The Independent Living Skills Outreach Program:

- Helps to teach life management skills to empower young people to take more responsibility and control over their lives
- Provides case management and support through early intervention, post crisis support, outreach and waitlist support
- Recognises that for many Aboriginal young people who have led a transient or homeless lifestyle, lived in remote communities or never lived out of home, their first independent accommodation requires significant supports to be in place
- Aims to make the transition successful by engaging clients in a range of activities including independent living skills and self care knowledge to reduce the likelihood of returning to a transient lifestyle or emergency accommodations
- Aims to put a stop to the revolving door that can sometimes take place in young people's lives.

As a homeless service for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, we acknowledge that many young Aboriginal people come to AFSS homeless accommodation service having experienced generational trauma. ILSOP can assist young people to access appropriate services to manage their trauma and also help to introduce and integrate routine activities into their daily living.

The ILSOP is designed to give young people control over the direction of their lives, with AFSS supporting them all the way. The program has been set up to meet the individual needs and requirements of the young Aboriginal people we work with.

The YAATSIHS model for Case Management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation and advocacy for options and services to meet an individual's needs, with a special emphasis on ensuring decisions are made in consultation with the client and their wishes regarding culturally specific identification and service engagement.



*AFSS ILSOP worker Shelly Belmont completing a cooking session with Brett D.*

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To find out more please contact:

Nicholas Ward - Manager YAATSIHS ☎ 0409 993 444 ✉ [Nicholas.Ward@afss.com.au](mailto:Nicholas.Ward@afss.com.au)

Shelly Belmont - Outreach Officer ☎ 0408 354 721 ✉ [Shelly.Belmont@afss.com.au](mailto:Shelly.Belmont@afss.com.au)



# Just for KIDS

## Christmas Day Word Search

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

CANDY  
CANE  
CAROLING  
CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER  
HOLLY  
LIGHTS  
MERRY  
  
MISLETOE  
NORTH  
POLE  
PEACE  
PRESENTS  
REINDEER  
SANTA CLAUS  
SLEIGH  
  
SNOWMAN  
STAR  
STOCKING  
SUGARPLUM  
TREE  
WREATH

## Happy Holiday Season from the Foster and Kinship Care Team

With the year coming to an end and the holiday season very close, we at the AFSS family would like to thank all of our foster carers for their commitment to caring for children throughout what was a very challenging year. We wish you and your families a holiday season full of love, laughter and happiness!

We trust the Christmas season will fill your home with joy, love and laughter. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in 2021 - **Kathi**

To all the wonderful carers with AFSS. Thank you for everything you have done, have a great Christmas, be safe, share your happiness with family and friends. Welcome 2021 with open arms - **Mark**

May the Christmas season fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with laughter. Merry Christmas - **Becky**

Merry Christmas to all of our foster carers. Thank you for everything you have done this year. It is always a pleasure seeing how you have guided and supported every child in your care to flourish and thrive. Have a happy new year! - **Bridie**

Merry Christmas to all out wonderful foster carers. May your day be filled with love, laughter and happiness. Our best wishes for 2021. See you all next year! - **Judy**



# AFSS Foster Care Services Forum - 10, 11 & 12 November



*L-R Top: AFSS Managers - Cheryle Saunders (Mount Gambier), Glenn Kerrigan (Regional Services), Warren Guppy (Metropolitan Services), Katharine Micka (Ceduna), Darlene Allen (Port Augusta), Peter Dyer (Adelaide), L-R Bottom: Ang Fee (Port Lincoln) & Lisa McClure (Coober Pedy). Note: Brigitte Goepfert (Manager Aboriginal Kinship Care) left the forum to complete a kinship assessment – that's dedication for you!*

AFSS was fortunate enough, in between COVID-19 restrictions, to convene a 3 day, face-to-face Foster Care Services Forum (10, 11 & 12 November) for AFSS Managers who have a role in the delivery of foster, kinship and specific child only (SCO) services. AFSS is now able to recruit, train and support carers right across South Australia with the exception of Kangaroo Island and the APY Lands! AFSS now provides foster care services from key locations including Adelaide, Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Murray Bridge, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln (noting that we also provide these services in surrounding towns and communities).

The Foster Care Services Forum focused on consolidating our work practices in the carer space to incorporate and embed the significant changes that have taken place in child protection.



*Camera shy AFSS Managers hard at work!*

This included an excellent session with Rachel McCulloch, Manager Carer Assessment and Review Unit (CARU) from DCP and Jodie Castel (Team Leader, CARU) who were generous enough to spend a morning with AFSS Managers fine-tuning the requirements around carer assessments, household modifications, approval processes and care concerns.

The growth of general foster care services, the increase in specific child only carers and the roll-out of the Aboriginal kinship care pilot

across all AFSS regions has required a rethink on how we do business successfully and consistently - it's also created new learning and developmental opportunities for AFSS Managers and our employees as we navigate these new changes.

AFSS Foster Care Services team are currently supporting 175 foster, kinship and SCO households across South Australia. Between them, these generous and fantastic carers provide care for 230 Aboriginal children and young people.







# Community Safety & Wellbeing, Emergency Relief, New Dreams and Staying Safe - Challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020 continues to be an unpredictable year! From the beginning of the pandemic early in the year, to a time of 'almost normal', to the current Parafield cluster, the CS&W, New Dreams and Staying Safe teams have shown their resilience, flexibility and adaptability in this unprecedented time.

The teams have increased phone contact with clients, including calling their entire client base at the beginning of the Pandemic to 'check in' and to help guard against social isolation, as well as providing strategies for entertaining children while spending increased time at home. Referrals for all programs continue to flow through with program employees supporting clients where possible, and referring to other agencies when necessary.

Homelessness is a significant and complex issue presenting in the community at this time. Emergency relief has also been provided, with a change in process - emergency relief can now be provided through a phone call - reducing the need for clients to physically attend an AFSS office. Employees have actually found this new method an improvement! The CS&W team has been significantly impacted as they generally provide face-to-face training in a group setting. The

initial response to COVID-19 was to postpone all groups. For some participants, they were able to engage with zoom delivery, and a number of clients were able to gain certificates for their training as a result of this approach.

CS&W facilitators used some of their time - due to engagement restrictions - to engage in various up-skilling opportunities, developing new programs, and otherwise strengthening their ties with other agencies.

During the recovery period, the face-to-face delivery of programs began again in metropolitan locations as well as Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Ceduna, Whyalla and Port Lincoln.

Since the Parafield cluster, groups that were in progress have had to be postponed. If these programs are unable to resume face-to-face, zoom delivery will be the main option, although CS&W are optimistic that we can finish the year with some graduates in a group setting.

For New Dreams and Staying Safe, they have adapted well to changing conditions, avoiding face-to-face contact with clients when appropriate, and choosing to meet clients in outdoor settings where possible.

New Dreams Case Workers were able to continue to provide

services to families through phone contact during periods of lockdown - noting that digital media options - as advanced as they are - cannot replace physical interactions, particularly at times of crisis and sudden change.

Some clients were able to accept the sudden change quite easily; others struggled and reported sudden increases in anxiety and mental health concerns. It was also reported that in the most recent lockdown, some families were not in a position to buy food and AFSS responded through the provision of Emergency Relief to help families get through.

On a positive note, two families involved in New Dreams have been offered properties by SAHA and are looking forward to some stability for them and their children.

The Staying Safe team has been operating for two years and has some great success stories with families making positive changes in situations where they are, or have been, exposed to domestic violence and at risk of having their children removed. The success of Staying Safe relies heavily on client engagement - normally face to face - and on solid partnerships with external services to create long lasting positive changes for clients.

AFSS has made attempts to be creative in increasing client engagement using phones, emails,

zoom, teams and other forms of technology. Despite these attempts, client engagement with AFSS programs decreased. Of great concern was that many women did not feel safe to reach out to services because the perpetrator was inside the house due to COVID-19 general and lockdown restrictions, unable to go to work, etc. And clients did not want to take the risk of contacting support services.

The impact of COVID-19 has been felt by the most vulnerable in our community - but the real impact is yet to be seen. General observations by the teams include increased child removal, increases in substance misuse, family violence and food shortages. AFSS was able to mitigate some of these concerns through Emergency Relief and by visiting at-risk clients while adhering to COVID-19 protocols.

To sum up, the last 12 months has been a challenge for the CS&W, New Dreams and Staying Safe teams, but they have risen to the challenges presented and found solutions to working in ways that have supported our clients with the options available to us.

## Community Safety and Wellbeing

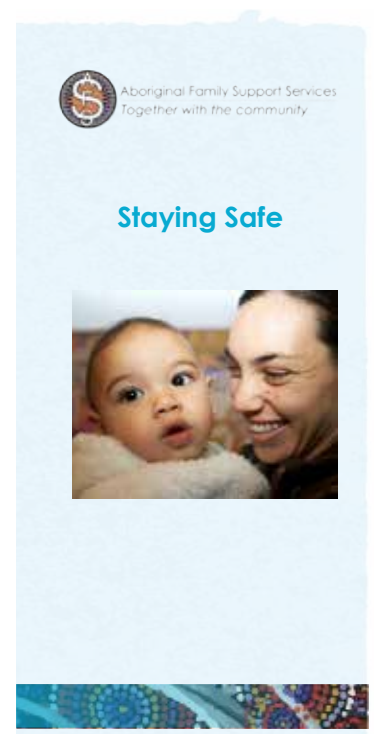
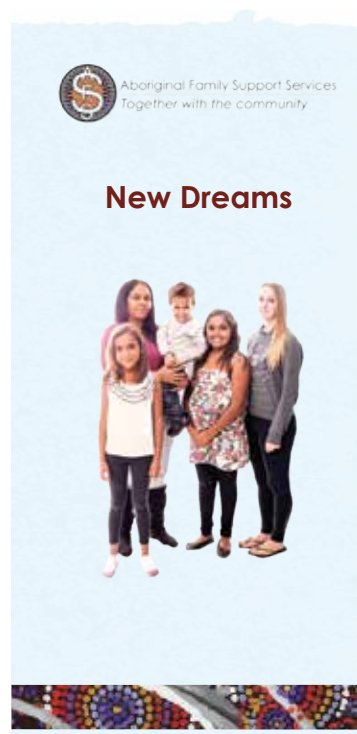
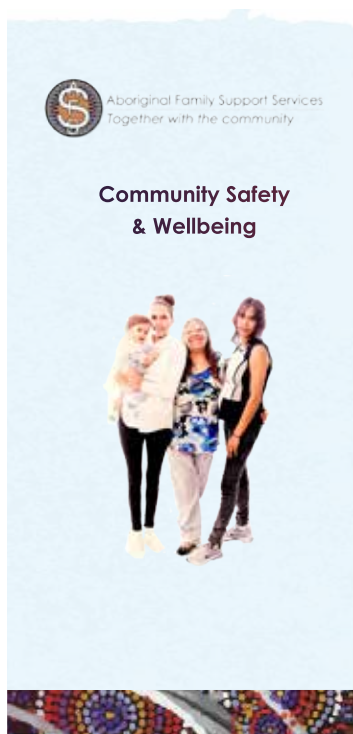
The CS&W suite of programs equips families with the skills and knowledge they need to deal with life's challenges. Structured programs are delivered by skilled Facilitators with a focus on grief & loss, connection to culture, nutrition, health, wellbeing, routines and rules and parenting.

## New Dreams

AFSS New Dreams provides Aboriginal women and their children who have already escaped from family violence an opportunity for a fresh start and support as they move towards stable housing, education, training and employment whilst supporting their efforts to ensure their children are fully participating in school.

## Staying Safe

Staying Safe supports families in Adelaide experiencing, or having previously experienced, family violence. There is a focus on a Safety Plan and working with clients and their children to keep them safe from harm in order to reduce the likelihood of all forms of abuse and violence.



# And that's a wrap for AFSS at Port Lincoln - 2020



*Pictured from left: Anna Angus, Toni-Lee Miller, Chloe Warren, Glenys Nowak, Corey Slade, Angela Fee and Alison Cunningham.*

2020 in Port Lincoln has flown by! With the COVID-19 pandemic, staff have had to adjust to working from home and learn new skills, such as the ability to navigate video conferencing (ZOOM and Microsoft Teams) and for the older staff this wasn't an easy task!

For several years AFSS has been involved with the Port Lincoln Community Street Garden initiative, initiated by Australian Red Cross as part of the Food For All Network. The garden project has seen business and organisations grow produce in an effort to increase food security in Port Lincoln. Community are encouraged to harvest the produce grown.

Bunning's Port Lincoln donates flower and vegetable seedlings on a regular basis to the project. Glenys and Anna decided to brighten up the entry way into our office this year and have managed to grow a beautiful

display of flowers which are enjoyed by staff, clients and community.

In Foster Care Services, they had to think outside of the box in what it would look like supporting our carers during the year. But we managed to maintain our communication with our carers, DCP and other relevant agencies and services via Zoom and phone.

The Foster Care Services team welcomed Chloe Warren to the program this year, transferring from Residential Services and she has picked up the role like a champion.

In conjunction with Centacare and DCP, we were able to put together a COVID-19 safe annual Christmas Party for the foster and kinship carers of Port Lincoln which is to be held on 15 December 2020 at Glen Forest Tourist Park (check out the next newsletter for pictures).

We are also happy to announce that in December one carer household successfully travelled to

Queensland to support two children transition into Kinship care.

Overall AFSS carers have displayed great resilience and grit during the year and have been supporting each other throughout the year.

Community Safety and Wellbeing continued to deliver Circle of Security-Parenting programs, Corey felt that it was one of the most challenging programs he has been involved in over the past three years.

The 8 week program with all the technical challenges due to COVID-19 stretched out to nearly 3 months until successful completion by each of the participants.

It was the participants urging AFSS to re-convene online that kicked them all into a steep learning curve.

All the participants were experiencing life changing challenges in their respective families' lives both immediately before and during the program. So many group yarns and activities, check-ins, one to one Zooms, reflections, personal changes, serious decisions, laughter and tears later. This inevitably forged memorable friendships and trusted support into the future amongst all.

One of these participants' young daughters said 'You're a different Mummy, and so much more fun!'

Port Lincoln opened their second Residential Service in February 2020, which has seen the staff number grow and we welcomed an extra 10 employees to our team, totalling 32 employees from all program areas.



Aboriginal Gambling Help Services managed to deliver some community activities at the beginning of the year; this was in partnership with Uniting Country, which resulted in a referral to the program. The client was experiencing multiple issues and quite like peeling an onion, many layers had to be peeled away to enable the client and the worker to understand the issues which had led the client to risky gaming behaviour. Having this understanding of the issues and applying a holistic care approach has been very successful to date, the client is working toward his set goals to achieve his full potential. This period however, has shown us how resilient we all are and for many, particularly with the closure of venues, time to reflect and re-evaluate priorities in life.

Stronger Families Program welcomed a new Case Worker, Allison Cunningham to the program in February; the program had been without a Case Worker for many months. Allison has fitted in extremely well and is a real asset.

During the year, the team had to creatively modify how they supported clients many of whom are working to be reunified with their children. The program kept in regular contact by phone and often spoke with clients on their front porch due to social distancing. With all the challenges we faced this year, the Port Lincoln Team would like to wish everybody a Safe and Happy Christmas Holiday, we look forward to working with our community in the New Year.

## AFSS team member recognised for his contribution to the Aboriginal community

AFSS Senior Manager Metropolitan Services, Warren Guppy, was recently recognised by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield Council (CoPAE), through its Aboriginal Advisory Panel, for his many years of valued work for and with South Australian Aboriginal communities.

He received the award for *Recognition of a non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Person, Group or Organisation for their Contribution to the Community* at Council's Annual Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Awards last month.

A resident of the CoPAE for 25 years, Warren has worked for the Aboriginal community ever since he gained his degree almost 30 years ago, starting as ALRM's Manager, Information and Monitoring Unit, where he was concurrently Executive Officer of the state and national Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committees, working with Tauto Sansbury on the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Warren was Tauto's right hand 24/7, supporting Tauto through the investigation of 18 deaths in custody. Warren never flinched from supporting Tauto through this harrowing work.

After nine years Warren became Adelaide City Council's Reconciliation Officer, building strong links with the Kaurna community. He mediated many positive outcomes, including negotiating a successful outcome following the unearthing of Aboriginal remains within the ACC area.

Ten years ago Warren moved to AFSS as Senior Manager, Regional Services, before he took up his current role.

Congratulations Warren! You're a quiet achiever and inspirational role model for non-Aboriginal people working for community. We're pleased that you're a long standing member of the AFSS family.





## Where to find us

### Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
☎ 8205 1500

### Berri

23 Denny Street  
Berri SA 5343  
☎ 8582 3192

### Smithfield

39a Anderson Walk  
Smithfield SA 5114  
☎ 8254 1077

### Ceduna

28 Poynton Street  
Ceduna SA 5690  
☎ 8625 3466

### Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street  
Coober Pedy SA 5723  
☎ 8672 3066

### Mount Gambier

68 White Road Compton  
Mt Gambier SA 5290  
☎ 8725 6200

### Murray Bridge

4a, 17-19 Adelaide Rd  
Murray Bridge SA 5253  
☎ 8532 1790

### Port Augusta

8 -10 Victoria Parade  
Port Augusta SA 5700  
☎ 8641 0907

### Port Lincoln

21 Washington Street  
Port Lincoln SA 5606  
☎ 8683 1909

# AFSS Christmas Period Operating Hours



## Offices Open

With the exception of public holidays on the 25 December & 28 December 2020 & the 1 January 2021, it is business as usual at the following AFSS locations:

- Adelaide Head Office
- Port Augusta
- Port Lincoln

## Offices Closed

The following AFSS offices will be closed from Thursday 24 December 2020 and reopening on Monday 4 January 2021:

- Berri
- Coober Pedy
- Ceduna
- Murray Bridge
- Smithfield

## On Call Services

On call services for Foster Care Services and Residential Services remain available at all times through the relevant contact details provided to Crisis Care.

## Residential Services

It is business as usual with AFSS Residential Services across both regional and metropolitan locations.

## Youth Accommodation Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Specific Homelessness Service

It is business as usual with AFSS Homelessness Services in Adelaide.

## Crisis Helplines

Matters that fall outside of the above arrangements but require an emergency response are to be directed to Crisis Care, SAPOL or the appropriate emergency service:

Ambulance	000
Crisis Care	131 611
Fire	000
Police	000
Police	131 444 (non-urgent matters)

You can also refer to SA Government's Crisis help lines for a complete list of emergency help lines:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/crisis-helplines>

