

COVID-19

In response to COVID-19, AFSS is following all directions as advised by the South Australian and Australian Governments and is taking all reasonable steps to safeguard and support our employees, clients and their families. A part of our response is to review the services provided in all non-essential program areas and to focus our support to those most in need.

As well as the information that AFSS provides, we encourage you to keep yourself and your families informed by regularly checking the updates provided by the South Australian and Australian Governments. Links are provided below:

www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

www.health.gov.au

www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/carers

AFSS will continue to provide the following essential services:

- Cultural Consultancy
- Emergency Relief (Coober Pedy, Smithfield and Mount Gambier)
- Foster Care Services (all areas)
- Residential Services (all areas)
- Stronger Families (Family Preservation, Reunification and Targeted Intervention - all areas)
- Youth Accommodation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Specific Homelessness Service (Adelaide)

Where possible, services will be provided via phone, video link and email.

The following services are deemed non-essential (workshops, forums, education and awareness programs):

- Aboriginal Gambling Help Service (Berri, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln)
- Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project
- Coober Pedy Youth Shed
- Community Safety and Wellbeing suite of programs (Circle of Security-Parenting, Respect Sista Girl 2, Seasons for Healing and Healthy Homes, Resilient Families)

- Connection to Culture (Cultural Officers)
- National Disability Insurance Agency ILC Project (Port Augusta)
- STAY (Service to Aboriginal Youth – Coober Pedy)

However, please note that phone and email support will be available for all clients currently participating in these programs.

To minimise contact and limit the potential spread of COVID-19, AFSS has:

- Implemented self-isolation protocols for all employees who have returned from overseas or interstate
- Ensured employees have enough information on which to base their decision making on keeping themselves and their clients safe
- Communicated with all employees to adhere to social distancing requirements
- Cancelled all proposed travel (intrastate and interstate)
- Ceased face-to-face team meetings where larger numbers of employees gather
- Implemented a strict cleaning regime across all sites, with additional cleaning services.

AFSS recommends that you seek updates about COVID-19 through the South Australian and Australian Governments websites listed above.

In these unprecedented times, AFSS will focus on keeping our employees, clients and their families safe. We will still be here to provide services over the phone, video link and through emails and when absolutely necessary, face-to-face (on a case-by-case basis).

Further changes to AFSS service delivery will be communicated as required, and on advice from the South Australian Government and Australian Governments.

We appreciate and acknowledge the anxiety and uncertainty that COVID-19 brings and we encourage you to take care of yourself, your families and your communities.

Sharron Williams
Chief Executive