



ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES Newsletter

July - August - 2025

NAIDOC WEEK March & Family Festival

A place of warmth, wisdom, and welcome, the Elders Marquee at this year's NAIDOC celebrations was a true highlight - a space where generations came together in the spirit of culture, connection, and community.

On July 11th, our AFSS Foster Care Metro and Kinship Care teams - alongside dedicated staff, managers, and Board Members from across the organisation - gathered to host a special NAIDOC Day Lunch, honouring and celebrating the vital role our Elders play in shaping and strengthening our communities.

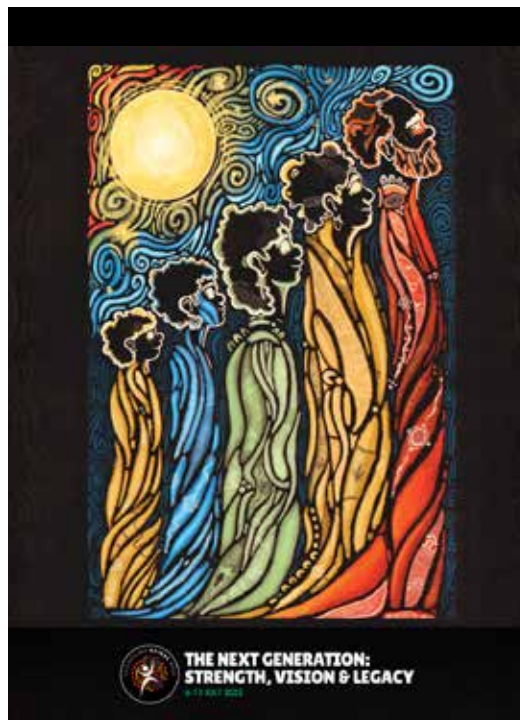


The atmosphere was vibrant and filled with joy. Laughter and storytelling flowed throughout the day, as delicious Yiros featuring chicken, lamb, and kangaroo were shared among Elders, families, and community. Our AFSS information stall was a hive of activity, offering opportunities for yarns, sharing service information, and inviting interest in becoming Foster Carers.

For the children, lucky dips brought extra excitement, adding a joyful energy that captured the essence of NAIDOC - a celebration of culture, care, and connection across all generations.

Guests were also treated to a beautifully catered morning tea by Block Ya Dot, featuring native-infused biscuits with Davidson's Plum, Wattle Seed, and Lemon Myrtle, and muffins made with Lemon Myrtle and Wattle Seed - a true celebration of Aboriginal flavours and food sovereignty.

We were proud to be joined by AFSS Board Members, who spent time yarns with Elders and acknowledging the deep cultural significance of the day. Their presence



underscored our shared commitment to walking alongside our Elders with respect and gratitude.

A heartfelt thank you to all AFSS staff who worked behind the scenes to prepare the space, serve food, and ensure everyone felt welcomed and supported. Your dedication helped create a beautiful and respectful space that honoured the spirit of NAIDOC and our ongoing journey together.

Moments like these remind us why we do what we do - to stand with our community, uplift our culture, and walk forward with pride, guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the hope of our young ones.

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A message from the Chief Executive

The past few months have been a wonderful reminder of the strength and spirit of our AFSS community. Across South Australia, our teams have worked hard to create spaces where families and children can come together, celebrate culture, and feel supported.



From NAIDOC Week to Children's Day, and through our many local programs and events, we have seen communities gathering in joy, pride, and connection. Each of these moments – whether big or small – reflects our shared commitment to walking alongside families and building strong futures together.

I am especially proud of the way our staff, carers, and partners continue to show up with heart. Your efforts bring real change, not only through the services we deliver, but also through the safe, welcoming spaces you create for children, young people, and families.

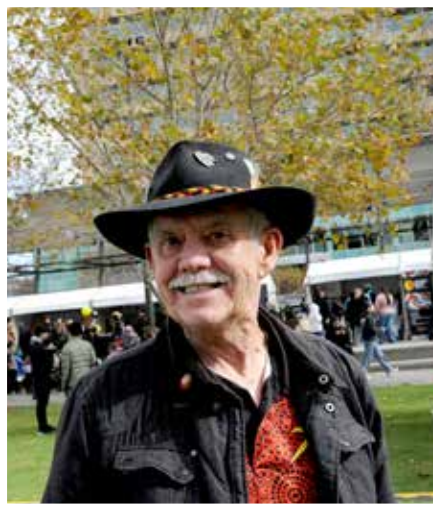
As we look ahead, I know we will keep building on this energy and continue to celebrate culture, support families, and strengthen community across the state.

Thank you for everything you do to make this possible.

Sharron Williams
Chief Executive



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NAIDOC in the North

On July 9 the CS&W Team attended the NAIDOC in the North celebrations at the John McViety Centre in Daveron Park. Although the day was wet and windy – it did not dampen the atmosphere of the event.

The CS&W team attended alongside the 'AFSS Elder Care Team' and shared the same stand. There were many opportunities to network with services across Adelaide including early childhood services, government bodies and new service providers.

There was a bouncy castle for children and various fun activities for everyone including lots of free food available throughout the day for everyone. The Aboriginal community were treated to lots of cultural dancing on the stage outside as well as traditional didgeridoo music.

'Animals Anonymous services' entertained young and old alike with their native animals. There were lots of prizes on offer as well as freebies for all to take home and lots of fun activities for the children to do too. There were smiles all round.

This event was a wonderful way of meeting the community, promoting AFSS CS&W services and catching up with faces from the past as well as new workers in other services.

The CS&W team had the pleasure of meeting with Laura from the NIAA at the event and she is planning to visit the team later in the year in the Wingfield office. The team look forward to updating her when she visits.





Metro South Team out in Community for NAIDOC Week!

A big shout out to our incredible AFSS Metro South Team for their time, energy and commitment at today's community event. It was a chilly one, but the warmth of community spirit was strong as always!

Our team proudly hosted a vibrant and welcoming stall, thanks in no small part to Jas, whose efforts in coordinating, organising and planning made it all possible. Thank you for your hard work behind the scenes!

Throughout the day, we had many meaningful conversations, built valuable connections with other organisations, and most importantly, connected with our community. Events like this remind us of the strength and resilience of our Mob, and the importance of being present and available in these spaces.

“

It's such a privilege to work alongside this amazing team every day, as we continue walking beside the children, young people, and families we support.”

Social Worker, Reunification Metro South.

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**THE NEXT GENERATION:
STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY**
4-13 JULY 2025



NAIDOC in the Mall

A powerful celebration of culture, community, and connection.

On the 8th of July, Senior managers Shane Catterall, Ebony Marshall and Kylie Degenhardt along with AFSS staff members Belinda Black and Hannah Reid met up with deputy Chair of AFSS Board, Alex Houthusyen (Hill) at the NAIDOC in the Mall event which was held in Gawler Place Rundle Mall, a powerful celebration of culture, community, and connection.

The day commenced with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by Robert Taylor, grounding us in respect for Country and the generations who have cared for it. We were also moved by a stunning portrait exhibition that beautifully honoured the themes of Family and Culture, reminding us of the strength that lives within our communities. Finally, the music today was provided by Rob Edwards

This year's NAIDOC theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy," calls on us to empower the voices of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It invites us to reflect on the enduring legacy of our Elders, celebrate the vitality of culture, and commit to walking together toward a future built on truth, strength, and unity.





AFSS Staff Attend Ngarrindjeri Language Sign Unveiling at Murray Bridge Hospital

On Wednesday July 9, Senior Manager of Therapeutic Services, Ebony Marshall, had the privilege of joining AFSS team members Nicole Rhodes and Ilana McIntyre, alongside Aunty Pauline Walker, Tayla Groves (RMCLHN Aboriginal Project Officer and proud ex-AFSS staff member), and Morgwyn Canaway (Community Corrections Manager), for the unveiling of interactive Ngarrindjeri language signage at the Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

At the heart of this powerful initiative is a large totem pole standing proudly at the hospital's entrance, accompanied by 15 plaques placed thoughtfully throughout the hospital. Each plaque features Ngarrindjeri language, English translations, and QR codes linking to audio recordings by Ngarrindjeri staff from RMCLHN - including Tayla - providing correct pronunciation and a deeper connection to Country.



This project reflects a meaningful step toward creating culturally safe and welcoming spaces for Aboriginal people accessing health services, while also supporting non-Aboriginal staff and community to learn and appreciate the richness of Ngarrindjeri language and culture.

This initiative beautifully reflects the 2025 NAIDOC theme

The Next Generation: Strength, Vision, Legacy:

Strength – shown through the continued preservation and celebration of language

Vision – honouring the dreams of our Elders and walking alongside our emerging young leaders

Legacy – building strong cultural foundations for generations to come

You can listen to the full playlist and learn more about the Ngarrindjeri language by visiting: Interactive Ngarrindjeri Signage - YouTube.

We honour the voices of our ancestors and empower the next generation to speak them proudly.

NAIDOC Week at Coober Pedy & the YOUTH SHED



During NAIDOC Week, the AFSS Youth Shed in Coober Pedy hosted a fun-filled Sports Day and a family Bonfire Night, attended by youth, children, and community members.

Sports Day featured soccer, Frisbee Golf, football, kite flying and more, with pizza for lunch at the town oval. The Bonfire Night included a BBQ, kangaroo tails cooked by Janice Walker (CPAS), and classic campfire treats like marshmallows, s'mores, corn, and spuds. Perfect weather and sparklers ended the night on a high.



Thank you to our sponsors: BHP, Complete Personnel, NIAA, AFSS STAY, and the Youth Shed Program. Community members are already looking forward to next year!

NAIDOC Week at Mt Gambier

AFSS Mount Gambier Staff proudly participated in the 2025 NAIDOC Week celebrations. On Monday we joined the Mayor for morning Tea followed by a smoking ceremony and a NAIDOC March through Mount Gambier. The march ended at Pangula Mannamurra Aboriginal Corporation where community members shared a lunch and the NAIDOC Awards were presented.

Our staff were honoured at the NAIDOC Awards for all they do for community. AFSS Mount Gambier received the NAIDOC Innovation Award 2025 for our innovative approach to community engagement and partnership building which has strengthened local cultural events and has empowered the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families across the Limestone Coast.

One of AFSS lead Community Events is the NAIDOC Community Breakfast. We were honoured to host the Community Breakfast, bringing people together in the spirit of connection and celebration.

After having to postpone due to extreme weather the previous week, we were thrilled the skies held out this time - allowing us to enjoy a successful and heart-warming day together.

Our Elders Tent offered a peaceful space for creativity and connection, with a blank canvas available for painting or weaving. Guests enjoyed homemade cakes and slices, and each Elder received a take-home bag filled with thoughtful goodies.

Rapid Relief kept the BBQ sizzling, generously serving free bacon and egg rolls alongside a range of refreshing drinks.



Out on the oval, fun games and activities were set up for children of all ages to enjoy. To top it all off, a goodie bag station was set up so each child could take home a special treat, wrapping up the day with smiles all around.

The local fire brigade set up a playful activity where children could aim and spray the fire hose to knock over cones - an absolute hit!

SAPOL brought the thrill with siren lights flashing and let the children hop inside the police vehicle to explore all the fascinating buttons and controls.

The ambulance crew also welcomed curious little visitors, offering a hands-on look inside the vehicle and explaining how it helps keep people safe.

Planning is now underway for Children's Day on August 6th, where we'll be partnering with our local service providers to deliver another meaningful event for our community.



First Picture: Suzanne Pratt (Scanlon) and Glenys Nowak with the SAPOL crew at the kids disco. Second Picture: Art by Kinship Carer Jillian Larking. Third Picture: NAIDOC march Left to Right Kasey Mckenzie, Rebecca Kairns, Mandy Drummond, Lyn Flanagan and Simon Noack. Fourth picture: NAIDOC Ball Left to right, Melissa McNab, Suzanne Pratt (Scanlon) and Chloe Warren. Fifth Picture: Suzanne Pratt at the Mallee Park Football Cook Out event.

NAIDOC Week Celebrations in Port Lincoln

AFSS was proud to stand with the Port Lincoln community in celebrating NAIDOC Week 2025, honouring the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The week kicked off on Friday, 4 July with the annual NAIDOC March. Community members gathered in unity, walking with pride through the streets of Port Lincoln in a powerful show of cultural strength and solidarity.

On Wednesday, 9 July, the much-loved Cook Out event took place. Due to severe weather forecasts, the celebration was moved indoors to the Mallee Park Football Club. Despite the change in venue, the event was a resounding success, offering warmth, good food, and a strong sense of community. This was a welcome change from previous years where attendees braved the cold outdoors.

A highlight of the day was a creative art activity led by AFSS Kinship Carer Jillian Larking. Her beautiful collaborative project drew participation from all ages and will soon be proudly displayed in the AFSS Port Lincoln office.

The week continued with the Kids' Disco on Thursday, 10 July, where AFSS joined in a night of music, dancing, and joy. It was a vibrant, energetic event that brought smiles to many young faces.

To cap off the week, several AFSS staff members attended the NAIDOC Ball on Saturday. It was a night of celebration, recognition, and community connection, with everyone dressed to impress.



AFSS Mount Gambier recipients of Pangula Mannamurrna Aboriginal Corporation

NAIDOC Innovative Award 2025

AFSS since its inception in 2021 to the district of Mount Gambier has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting Aboriginal families across South Australia. The Mount Gambier Office identified a gap in how local events celebrated Aboriginal culture. Dawn the Community engagement Officer brought together ACCOs and government agencies to collaboratively celebrate NAIDOC Week and MABO Day. What started as a small initiative has now expanded to include eight ACCOs and government partners working side by side to make these events truly inclusive and community led. In 2022, AFSS also led the reintroduction of National Aboriginal Children's Day celebration. Once again ACCOs and government services came together to honour and celebrate 'My Dreaming, My Future'. These annual events continue today, with AFSS proudly leading the way. Their innovative approach to community engagement and partnership building has strengthened local cultural events and empowered the voice of Aboriginal families across the Limestone Coast.



AFSS Mt Gambier Staff from left: Kylie Lovett, Briony Little, Dawn Cardona, Melissa O'Neil and Judith Maniapoto-Rickeus.

Celebrating Our AFSS Mob This NAIDOC Week

This year's NAIDOC Week was a powerful reflection of our shared pride, purpose, and cultural strength. Across each event, the dedication and heart of our AFSS teams shone through.

We're proud to celebrate a few outstanding members of our AFSS family who were formally recognised for their inspiring contributions to community and culture:

Jacob Lovett, former Youth Support Worker, received the **Education Award** in recognition of his passion for empowering young people through education. Jacob continues to lead with integrity and cultural strength.

Our Mount Gambier office was awarded the **Innovation Award** for their incredible work strengthening cultural connection and collaboration across the Limestone Coast. This recognition is a testament to their leadership and culturally responsive approach.

Jeanette Cowan, former Case Manager at AFSS Whyalla, was honoured as the **2025 NAIDOC Whyalla Elder of the Year**. Jeanette's ongoing service, advocacy, and care for community is deeply respected and inspiring.

We're deeply grateful – your ongoing dedication and cultural pride help shape a stronger AFSS and more connected communities.





AFSS Family Group Conferencing team Celebrate NAIDOC at Gawler Family Fun Day!

On Friday 18 July, AFSS Family Group Conferencing staff Maya Little, Kristee Matthews, and Kylie O'Connell represented AFSS at the Gawler NAIDOC Family Fun Day 2025, bringing their creativity and cultural pride to this vibrant community event.



They also played a key role in the Nunga Brick Road, organising a fun activity stall with showbags, a hired badge machine, and custom badge templates. The preparation paid off as kids loved the chance to "take or make" their own badges - choosing from pre-made designs or creating their own to be made into badges on the spot. A highlight was a little fulla who proudly made an Aboriginal Flag badge with the words: "Black, loud, and proud."

Additionally, the AFSS team attended the Department for Correctional Services' NAIDOC event - a great opportunity to connect and represent our work. While we couldn't find a full team photo, the images we have capture the day's spirit perfectly.

Thank you to everyone involved. These hands-on activities create lasting memories and strengthen our cultural connections.

Girls Group Cultural Painting Days

A Journey of Connection. Culture. and Creativity

What began as a simple interest in dot painting has blossomed into something truly special for the young women involved in our TRAX (Therapeutic Reconnection Adventure experiences) program.

When the girls first expressed a desire to explore dot art, the idea was immediately shared with Lizzie. Lizzie, who would normally be working in administration, embraced the opportunity to share her cultural knowledge and experience. With strong support from Ed and our wider AFSS team, Lizzie has become an invaluable guide in helping our girls connect through culture and creativity.

The TRAX program has long been intentional about fostering connection among our young women through outdoor activities like hiking, kayaking, and horse riding. These shared experiences have laid the foundation for deeper conversations, and now, painting together has become a new way for the girls to bond, express themselves, and explore their cultural identities.

Working closely with our Aboriginal youth workers, team leaders, and AFSS staff, we've created a safe and welcoming space for the girls to come together. Here, they're encouraged to share their stories, reflect on their journeys, ask questions, and grow with the guidance of strong women around them.

So far, we've held two Dot Art sessions, and the results have been nothing short of inspiring. The girls have produced stunning artworks, each canvas telling a unique story. They've brought along share plates for the group, adding warmth and hospitality to the space. The simple act of sitting together and painting has opened up meaningful conversations about culture, what's known, what's still being learned, and what each girl is curious about.

Last week's session was especially powerful. The atmosphere was calm and focused, with music playing that many recognised from their Nannas' homes, chosen by one of the girls, setting the tone for the day. Some young women were so immersed, they completed more than one artwork by day's end.

With a gentle and encouraging presence, Lizzie has helped the girls take their first steps in painting. Her words, "That's a good start, you know how to do it, it's in you, you just gotta start," resonated deeply. That encouragement was all it took for one young woman

to begin her first-ever dot painting, a powerful moment of self-belief and cultural expression.

Our staff play an essential role in making these days a success. Whether it's supporting transport, creating a sense of safety, or simply being present, their commitment allows our young people to fully engage and feel supported throughout the day.

The conversations sparked during these sessions have been rich and far-reaching, talks of future art days, learning how to weave, and spending time on Country. Our team is listening, deep listening, to what the girls are asking for and where they are in their cultural journeys.

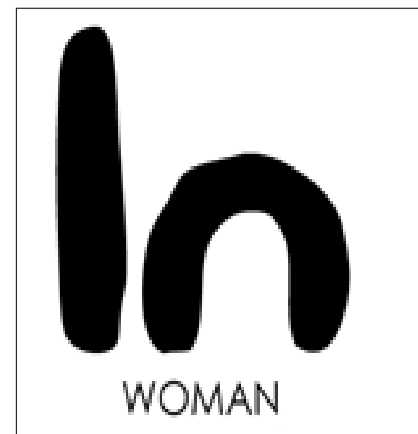
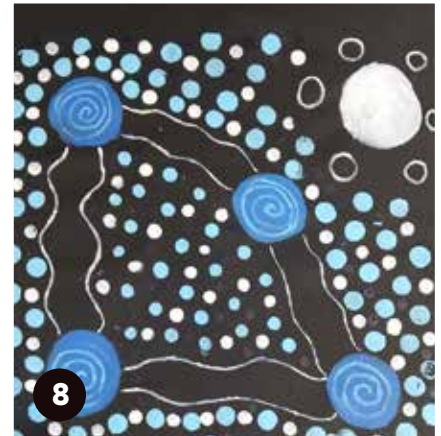
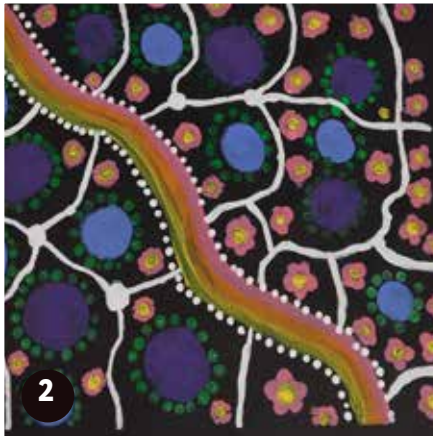
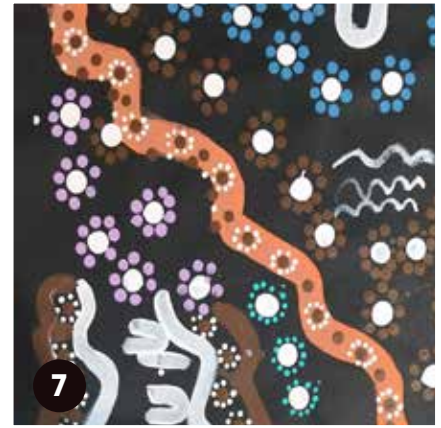


We are committed to continuing and expanding these opportunities, through art days, cultural camps, and day trips. TRAX remains focused on supporting cultural identity and belonging by creating space for young people to explore, learn, and connect.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff who advocate for our girls, walk alongside them, and ensure their voices are heard, loud and proud. We are privileged to do this work, and with that comes the deep responsibility of supporting the next generation of strong, culturally connected leaders.

And finally, an enormous thank you to Lizzie. Your presence in the room creates a cultural safety that cannot be replicated. Your calm, approachable nature opens space for conversations that matter, conversations that might not otherwise happen. After just one session, word spread quickly, and staff were already asking when the next would be.

We're excited to see where this journey takes the girls.



Art from top left

1. Lizzie's art
2. Shaneal's art
3. Latoya art
4. Shani's art
5. Suni art
6. Alanni's art
7. Shani's art
8. Ayisha's art



Renee Andrew - Cultural Training Facilitator.

My name is Renee Andrew (née Coulthard), and I'm excited to step into my new role as the Cultural Training Facilitator here at AFSS.

I am a proud Adnyamathanha/Kuyani woman from the beautiful Flinders Ranges. Although I have lived most of my life on Kurna Country, my connection to my Country remains strong and continues to be a vital part of my day-to-day life.

I've joined AFSS from the Department for Child Protection, where I worked as an Aboriginal Training Facilitator, delivering training across South Australia. My background includes frontline experience in various sectors - education, youth work, and domestic violence services in Adelaide's northern suburbs. I've also had the privilege of delivering training to health professionals across the country before moving into DCP.

Alongside my professional work, I'm also a full-time carer and a proud mum to six children, which keeps life busy and full.

I'm really looking forward to developing new professional development training packages and engaging with staff right across AFSS. I hope to get out

to as many offices as I can and meet you all in the training space soon.

A big thank you to the deadly team at Waymouth Street for the warm welcome over the past month - it's been greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to working with you all!

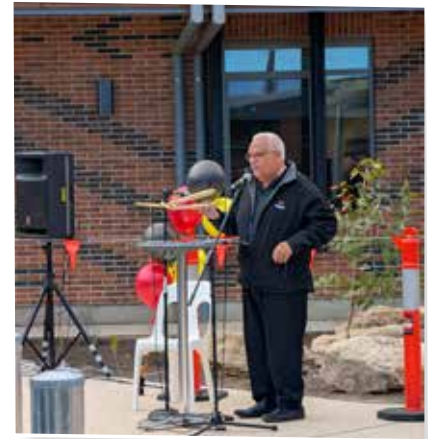


Noelene Wills, AFSS Board Member.

I am a Kurna and Narungga woman, a mother of three, and a grandmother of four.

Throughout my working career, I have been dedicated to advocating for and supporting the Aboriginal community. My experience includes working at Kalaya Children's Centre, serving as an Aboriginal Training Support Officer at TAFE SA - Aboriginal Access Centre for 12 years, working at the Glenside Rural and Remote Mental Health Inpatient Unit as the Aboriginal Cultural Consultant, with CAFHS as an Aboriginal Cultural Child and Family Support Consultant (ACCFSC). Currently, I serve as the Aboriginal Family Liaison Officer at Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Additionally, I am currently a board of directors member at Aboriginal Family Support Services.



AFSS Murray Bridge attend opening of Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service

On Friday 22nd August 2025, AFSS was honoured to attend the grand opening of Moorundi Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service's new multi-million-dollar health clinic in Murray Bridge. The event marked the realisation of a 23-year community vision, with Moorundi leaders, staff, Elders, and community members gathering to celebrate this historic milestone. The new facility, located on Adelaide Road, brings together services previously spread across multiple sites and is designed to reflect the three pillars of care: cultural and country, spiritual and mind, physical and body.

The centre offers expanded allied health services, Elders and youth programs, and purpose-built spaces that reflect the community's strength, resilience, and self-determination.

AFSS would like to congratulate Moorundi on this achievement and looks forward to continuing our partnership in supporting Aboriginal children, families, and communities.



AFSS Connection to Culture Children's Day 2025 - Metro

On Friday 1st August, AFSS proudly hosted our annual Children's Day celebration at St Clair Recreation Centre - a vibrant event attended by over 600 children and carers. We were privileged to begin the day with a powerful Welcome to Country by Jack Buckskin, a proud Kaurna and Narungga man, whose words grounded us in culture, connection, and respect for Country.

Activities included face painting, jumping castles, a silent disco, henna tattoos, and more - the standout moment was the unveiling of a beautiful artwork honoring the late Barbara Falla, founder of Children's Day. Special thanks to Board Member Donna Henry and Curtis Falla (Barbara's son) for their heartfelt words, which added depth and meaning to the celebration.

We were also honoured to welcome The Hon Katrine Hildyard MP, Minister for Child Protection, whose presence reinforced the importance of culturally safe care and community-led support for Aboriginal children.

Adding to the celebration, we enjoyed a special performance by Tilly Tjala Thomas, a proud Nukunu singer-songwriter from the Fleurieu Peninsula. Since finishing school in 2020, Tilly has earned multiple awards, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Musician of the Year, and released her debut EP, Sanctuary. Her music brought incredible energy and pride to the event.

This year, we were joined by the Guardian for Children and Young People's mascot, Nunga Oog, who spread plenty of joy (and free hugs) before he head off to Mt Gambier for some country air to take part in their Children's Day celebrations.

A huge thank you to our Foster Care Metro and Kinship Care teams for their incredible planning and dedication over the past 12 months, and to all AFSS staff whose contributions made the day so special.

To every child who joined us - your little footsteps are leading to big futures.







CONNECTION TO CULTURE
**CHILDREN'S
DAY 2025**



AFSS Mt Gambier Celebrates National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day with Community

AFSS Mount Gambier proudly led the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day community event on Wednesday 6 August 2025.

The day began with a warm Acknowledgement of Country, setting the tone for a celebration of respect and culture. DCP's PAC Cindy spoke about the significance of Children's Day, reminding everyone of the importance of honouring our children and celebrating their place at the heart of community.

In partnership with the City of Mount Gambier, the Berin Reconciliation Group, and local service providers, the event brought together 22 engaging activity stations. The atmosphere was vibrant, with laughter, conversation, and creativity filling the space.

A highlight was the presence of Nunga Oog, who travelled from Adelaide to join the celebrations. The playful character was a hit with the children (and plenty of adults), sparking joy and providing treasured photo opportunities.

Over 100 children took part in activities including face painting, donut decorating, a photo booth, badge making, weaving, and bush hand sanitiser making. Each station offered not just fun, but a chance to connect with culture, creativity, and community spirit.

Feedback from families, community members, and service providers was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the inclusive, welcoming atmosphere and the variety of activities. All expressed their enthusiasm to return in 2026 to celebrate our children once again.





AFSS Port Lincoln Celebrates

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day

On Monday, 4th August 2025 the Lincoln Cinema hosted students from Lincoln Gardens Primary School, Port Lincoln Primary School, Port Lincoln Special School, and Saint Joseph's students and staff gathered to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day. This year's theme, 'Little Footsteps Big Future', came to life as students enjoyed a screening of the film *Windcatcher*. The *Windcatcher* isn't just a great story; it's a big step forward in representing Aboriginal people in the arts, with Lennox Monaghan a young proud Bundjalung boy playing the lead role of Percy Boy Collins. This movie was a great way for our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to see representation of culture in movies. The film captivated young minds with its powerful storytelling and stunning visuals. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to reflect on the importance of culture, identity, and community.

Each student received a small popcorn and a drink, making the event even more enjoyable. The lively atmosphere was a reminder that this day was not just about a movie - it was about coming together and building understanding and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. It was a celebration of the bright futures for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, with each small step, we move closer to a stronger, more united community.

AFSS would also like to acknowledge Lincoln Cinema for the work they did to help create this special day and for all the schools who got involved and helped celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day sparking conversations around the day and the history behind it.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this unforgettable day. Little Footsteps, Big Future!



Where to find us

Adelaide
134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
☎ 8205 1500

Berri
23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
☎ 8582 3192

Ceduna
28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
☎ 8625 3466

Coober Pedy
Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
☎ 8672 3066

Mount Gambier
20 Elizabeth Street
Mount Gambier SA 5290
☎ 8723 6110

Murray Bridge
67 Adelaide Road
Murray Bridge SA 5253
☎ 8532 1790

Noarlunga Centre
1A Hannah Road
Noarlunga Centre SA 5168
☎ 8186 4000

Paralowie
254 Kings Road
Paralowie SA 5108
☎ 8281 5440

Port Augusta
8-14 Victoria Parade
Port Augusta SA 5700
☎ 8641 0907

Port Lincoln
21 Washington Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
☎ 8683 1909

Port Pirie
23 Norman Street
Port Pirie SA 5540
☎ 8632 2227

Salisbury
4 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 8182 6567

Kilkenny
5/10 - 14 Regency Road
Kilkenny SA 5009
☎ 8297 5708

Whyalla
19B Darling Terrace
Whyalla SA 5600
☎ 8644 0116

Wingfield
1 Corner South & Grand
Junction Road
Wingfield SA 5013
☎ 8281 3440

Coober Pedy STAY Program &



The year may have started quietly in Coober Pedy, but the Youth Shed and STAY program soon picked up pace, offering a vibrant mix of activities that brought local young people together through fun, learning, culture, and connection.

Easter Holiday Magic

The April school holidays were a hit, starting with a visit from the Easter Bunny who delivered chocolate eggs and big smiles. Kids decorated colourful bags to collect their treats before diving into activities indoors and out. Inside the Youth Shed, there were cubby houses, movies, Wii, fuseball, ping pong, and 8-ball. Outside, they joined scavenger hunts with Pastor Dave, kicked the footy, and even spotted some curious four-legged neighbours from across the road!

Sports Days Building Stronger Bonds

The School Holiday Sports Days at the Oval are quickly becoming a much-loved tradition. With footy skills led by Fr Paul Crotty, soccer and group games with Pastor Dave, and team activities like kite making, jump rope, and handball, these days offered plenty of fun while helping young people build trust, teamwork, and confidence.

Life Skills & Cooking

Practical skills were on the menu too, with kids learning to bake delicious scones from scratch. These sessions give young people confidence in the kitchen while building everyday life skills in a relaxed, supportive space.

An Unforgettable Basketball Experience

A major highlight was the visit from the Adelaide 36ers, made possible thanks to BHP. The professional team ran clinics at the school and community courts, where kids practised drills, played games, and learnt new techniques. They went home with signed

posters, stickers, and singlets – but most importantly, with a big boost of inspiration. It was wonderful to see younger girls taking on one-on-one games and older girls confidently showing their skills.

Gratitude to Our Partners

These opportunities wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our partners: Complete Personal, RSAS, NIAA, Coober Pedy Youth Shed, STAY (DHS), Coober Pedy Area School, District Council of Coober Pedy, Adelaide 36ers and BHP, Bikes SA, and Umoona Community Council. Your support helps create safe and enriching spaces where young people can thrive.

As we look to the rest of 2025, the Youth Shed and STAY team remain committed to providing fun, meaningful programs that build memories, friendships, and skills that last a lifetime.

