



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

November- December 2021

2021 Foster, Kinship and SCO Christmas Celebration

This year the Foster Care Services team organised the 2021 AFSS Foster, Kinship and SCO Christmas celebration to take place in the Adelaide Botanic Park on Saturday the 27 November. A huge effort went into organising the event and a big congratulations goes out to the Foster Care Services team (which was led by Amy), who delivered an excellent event and a fitting end to a big year.

Over 250 carers, children and young people attended on the day and were treated to AFSS show bags, delicious food from Aussie Ripper Roasts, coffee and hot drinks by Fresh Bean Adelaide, Face Painting by Jules from About Face - Painting, Balloons & More and Air Tattoos and Face Painting by Mad Hatterz

Parties. Affordable Marquees provided the infrastructure and did a great job.

The Hon. Rachel Sanderson MP (Minister for Child Protection) also dropped into Botanic Park to meet and chat with AFSS staff and carers. AFSS would like to acknowledge and thank the Minister for her attendance as a part of her busy day.

Of course, everyone was well aware when Santa arrived due to the excited screams and the scrambling from children and young people (as well as some of the grown ups). Santa and his helpers (Plum Pudding and Amy) ensured that all of the children and young people received their gifts.

Once again AGL and Variety -The Children's Charity were very generous in their support with Variety providing Adelaide Zoo Vouchers for all carers and the children in their care and AGL for providing gifts for the children and young people. AFSS appreciates the generosity from both AGL and Variety SA - The Children's Charity for their continuing support for AFSS Foster, Kinship and SCO carers.

AFSS also acknowledges the hard work from the Foster Care Services and Aboriginal Kinship Care teams who worked tirelessly towards the event, for helping to make the event go well on the day and for giving up their Saturday.



Pictured from left: Amy Magnusson (Assessment Officer), Maya Liddle (Assessment Administration Officer), Amy Cox (Kinship Liaison Officer) Rachel Dodd (Assessment Officer), Warren Guppy (Senior Manager Metropolitan Services), Brigitte Goepfert (Manager Kinship Care), Barbara Falla (Cultural Officer), Rebecca Hansch (Assessment Officer - Murray Bridge), Shae Williams (Carer Liaison Officer), Judy Spooner (Carer Liaison Officer), Becky Matthews (Carer Liaison Officer), Zoe Smith (Carer Liaison Officer) Kristie Matthews (Placement Officer).

A message from the Chief Executive

As we head well into the Festive Season, I would like to thank our amazing staff and Carers for all of your efforts throughout the past year. It has been another busy year here at AFSS, and I am continually amazed by everybody's resilience throughout.

It was wonderful to see our Carers and Foster Care team enjoy their Christmas celebrations again this year at Botanic Park. A well deserved end to the year. And it was nice to also to see the Hon. Rachel Sanderson drop in for the afternoon.

Our Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training is well underway and last month we completed sessions in both Ceduna and Metro. There have been plans in the making for a while for this to commence. This training is designed to help our Residential staff work in a trauma informed way, to further assist our children in care.

Overall, I would like to once again thank you all for your hard work throughout the year. I hope we can all get through this tricky time and I would like to wish everybody, including our staff, foster carers, board, partnering organisations, and the children in our care a wonderful festive season and a happy new year. I look forward to working with you all again in 2022.



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*



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(pictures continued on page 3)



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.

AFSS Christmas and New Year Operations 2022

All AFSS Offices across South Australia will be closed on the 3 days between Christmas and the New Year - 29, 30 and 31 December 2021.

AFSS Head Office and Port Lincoln Offices will remain open with limited services available.

Our Accommodation Services including residential and homelessness services will remain open and will be operating business as usual.

All on call services (Foster, Kinship and Specific Child Only) will also continue to be available at all times during the closure.

In the event of an emergency not related to our on-call services, you can contact:

Aboriginal Family Violence Helpline	1800 800 098
Child Abuse Report Line	131 478
Crisis Care	131 611
Lifeline	131 114
SAPOL	131 444

AFSS is Seeking Foster Carers across the Riverland

- Are you passionate about the future of Aboriginal children and young people?
- Are you supportive and understanding?
- Can you help keep young people safe and connected to their culture and community?



AFSS is looking for people just like you, who want to play their part in caring for Aboriginal children and young people.

Please Contact AFSS:

Nicole Barber ✉ nicole.barber@afss.com.au ☎ **8582 5503**



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Current and New Staff Updates



Tayla Groves, MSO, Metro.

Hello everyone, my name is Tayla Groves. I have joined the AFSS team as a Management Support Officer located in Waymouth Street. I will also be working closely with the Therapeutic Services team which I am very excited for! Prior to securing my current role I enrolled in the Indigenous Apprenticeship Program and was lucky enough to secure a job at Department of Defence, DST at Elizabeth. I ended up working at DST in a few different roles for three years, I am grateful for that opportunity as I believe it was a great stepping stone for my career. I applied for this job for a different career path and to try something new! I also want to be able to help the Aboriginal community in any way that I can and I am very grateful I have been given this opportunity. I live at home with my Mum, Dad and younger brother however, I spend just as much time at my partner Kai's parents' house. We are building a house together in Murray Bridge but due to the timber shortage we won't be in the new house

until around Christmas time next year. I also have three older sisters, one of whom actually works at AFSS as well! In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my partner and friends whether that be going out for dinner, at the beach or going camping down on the Murray River. I look forward to meeting you all and making a positive impact within my team.



Evgenia Skaftourou, Carer Liaison Officer, Foster Care Services.

Hi everyone, my name is Evgenia but you can call me Jenny. I recently joined AFSS as a Carer Liaison Officer in Foster Care Services. I'm from Greece and I moved to Adelaide 6 years ago. Prior to taking up this role, I have been a Youth Worker in Residential Care at AFSS and I have worked as a Support Facilitator in a social skills program for children with ASD. Last year I finished social work at Flinders University and my passion is to support people, help them to grow and achieve their goals. I would like to thank AFSS for welcoming me and looking forward to meeting you all.



Jasmine Chabban, Case Worker, IFS Northern Metro.

Hi, my name is Jasmine and I am excited to join the IFS Northern Metro team as one of their Case Workers. I have a double degree in Psychological Science and Human Services and previously worked as a Youth Worker in Anglicare's Independent living program. In my spare time, I enjoy working out, going to the beach with friends and trying new restaurants and cuisines. I have always had a passion for working with both young people and families and feel very privileged to be given the opportunity to be a part of AFSS, where I hope to make a meaningful contribution. I look forward to meeting everyone and getting to know you all better.



Natalie Baker, Accounts Officer, Metro.

I'm Natalie Baker; I am excited to have started at AFSS in the role of Accounts Officer. I come from a background of

bookkeeping and I have run my own business for the last 12 years, which definitely included a lot of highs, lows and challenges. It taught me so much more than just being a bookkeeper and business owner!

I've been married for 15 years and a mum of two boys, 23 and 11 years old. Both my boys and husband are soccer fanatics - all three of them play. Me...well I'm more of a sideline supporter!

I also have two male fur babies. Axel our very, very energetic 7 year old Hungarian vizler, and Buddy, our 12 year old jack russel cross.

As a family we enjoy spending any spare time we have at our shack at Caloote Landing. Our little piece of paradise, on the river, near Mannum.



Janelle Tsagatos, MSO, Metro.

Hi everyone, my name is Janelle Tsagatos and I have recently joined the AFSS team. I will be the new MSO taking over from Lyn at Waymouth Street. I previously held this position while Lyn was on long service leave and thoroughly enjoyed the role. I am a Queensland girl who moved to Adelaide with my husband in 2013. Still trying to get used to this cold weather. I previously was employed at the QEC Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Legal Services for 12 years then I got married. I have been doing short term contracts around Adelaide for the past 5 years and in between these contracts I volunteered at Gepps Cross Salvo's. I am very happy to be in full time employment. My hobbies and interests are sewing and reading crime novels. I love to quilt and have recently taken to sewing masks.



Winnie Warrior, Manager, CS&W.

Hi my name is Winnie Warrior, I am the new manager of the Community Safety and Wellbeing team based at Smithfield.

I am a 54-year-old Kurna woman with 5 children and 7 beautiful grandchildren. I come from a bloodline of strong Aboriginal women which has made me extremely passionate and motivated in working to improve education, justice, child protection, health, as well as social and emotional wellbeing needs for our most vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I have worked for the Department for Education for 30+ years in various roles so I have a comprehensive

understanding of government and non-government systems. I am very passionate about improving outcomes for Aboriginal people and their families and helping them to fulfil valuable roles within their communities. I have always been particularly interested in the impact of the justice system on Aboriginal young people and our women and recognise the importance of support across the justice continuum.

I have strong cultural links to the Kurna, Narungga, Ngarrindjeri and Ngadjuri communities, where I have gained considerable respect and acceptance within these communities.

I bring the knowledge to assist staff in gaining a clearer insight into how best to approach situations in a culturally safe and sensitive manner.

I always strive and work tirelessly to achieve the best positive outcomes for our Aboriginal families and their children within the South Australian community. This has been proven through being nominated for various awards and recognised for the contributions that I have made in Aboriginal peoples lives.

I look forward to meeting you all at some point in time.

If you would like to check out AFSS current job opportunities please follow this link below:

www.afss.com.au/employment



Community Safety and Wellbeing (CS&W) Facilitators - out and about!

During 2021, the facilitation team was able to get back to facilitating! With COVID-19 restrictions impacting on delivery last year, the facilitation team has had a close-to-normal year in their delivery.

The team has permanent staff at AFSS Smithfield, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Mount Gambier offices.

Approaching the end of 2021, the facilitation team now has 7 facilitators across the 3 sites with active recruitment for new staff in Smithfield and Port Lincoln taking place.

The team has successfully delivered programs across the state. A total of 43 education programs have been delivered across Berri, Ceduna, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Whyalla and also across greater metropolitan Adelaide. The team has also delivered programs to Aboriginal inmates at Mobilong Prison and Mount Gambier Prisons (which were a resounding success).

COVID-19 saw the facilitation team adapt to new ways of delivering, including experimenting with Zoom (with some courses being delivered exclusively through Zoom only). Additionally, some clients have had catch up sessions for missed programs delivered online. This allows the facilitators to be more flexible in their approach and it is a useful tool in the facilitation toolkit.

Many participants have attended programs consistently and have been provided a certificate on completion. For some participants, this may be the first certificate they have achieved, and so it is a special feeling for them. For others, these certificates are important for their engagement with other services, allowing them to prove their commitment to their family.

The ongoing development of two new programs is almost finalised, these hopefully will be delivered in the coming year. These programs have been created specifically to meet the needs and requests from Aboriginal communities across South Australia.



Respect Sista Girl 2



CS&W Ceremony



Seasons for Healing Whyalla



House of Hope



Mobilong Prison Murray Bridge

10 years - what an achievement!

November 21, 2021 was a fantastic milestone for our Receptionist/Admin Officer, Elizabeth Wright (or Lizzie, as we all know her). Lizzie reached her 10 years service on that day and AFSS would like to publicly acknowledge her milestone.

Lizzie is often our first point of contact for anyone making contact with AFSS, whether by phone or in person - she is our "Director of First Impressions". For most staff recruited in the Metro area, Lizzie was probably the first person at AFSS who they met face-to-face, when they came in for their recruitment interview.

Lizzie is a staunch Sydney Swans supporter, which we suppose we have to tolerate but her passion is unailing! She is also just as passionate and determined in trying to help community members who call us looking for assistance. Unfortunately AFSS can't do all things for all people, so Lizzie tries all sorts of avenues to suggest to callers where other services and supports might be available, where we are unable to assist.

Pictured above is Lizzie receiving her 10-year Certificate of Acknowledgement from Peter Shattock, Senior Manager, Corporate Services.



Aboriginal Kinship Care Pilot

Well it is official, the AFSS Aboriginal Kinship Care Pilot program has completed its first year of a 2 year program. Together with KKY and Martinhi, the 3 agencies are delivering a state-wide, culturally responsive service model that provides support, training, advocacy, referrals and culturally safe assessments to Kinship Carers.

It is great news that Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) have been given the responsibility to support Aboriginal Kinship Carers. Since the beginning of the pilot all 3 agencies have exceeded their placement targets.

More than 60% of AFSS Kinship Carers reside in country locations, including Port Augusta and Port Lincoln (noting that AFSS also supports Kinship Carers in Berri, Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Koonibba, Mount Gambier, Port Pirie and Whyalla). AFSS country Kinship teams are working hard to give our rural and remote Kinship Carers the best service we can possibly provide.

AFSS has created a Kinship Care Booklet which aims to provide Kinship Carers with information and resources to better equip Kinship carers with the information and guidance required to provide Kinship care and to work in partnership with AFSS and the Department for Child Protection.

AFSS Aboriginal Kinship Care team would like to thank all Kinship Carers across South Australia for the amazing care that they provide to Aboriginal children and young people. We would like to wish them and their families a happy and safe festive season.



Congratulations to our NDIS Navigators

Congratulations to Shana-May and Ricache for being awarded full scholarships to complete Certificate IV in Indigenous Leadership through the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre (AILC). Shana-May and Ricache have both shown interest in pursuing careers in leadership and both decided to apply on their own merit to receive their scholarships. They were successful along with four other Indigenous women to be awarded the scholarships nationally and they are the only two from SA.

The Certificate IV in Indigenous Leadership is based around cultural safety and Aboriginal Governance which will equip Shana-May and Ricache to:

- Learn a broad range of leadership styles and demonstrate their application to a range of different situations and contexts.
- Become familiar with their own strengths, capabilities and personal communication styles.
- Be provided with opportunities to apply their own leadership skills, course learning and experiences in their professional and personal lives.
- Develop further knowledge and a practical understanding of how to work collaboratively with others.
- Apply one's own leadership vision and values to become a more effective leader.
- Strengthen and develop highly effective leadership skills.
- Strengthen personal confidence and interpersonal communication.

They are in very good company, as Senator Lidia Thorpe, Uncle Ivan Copley (AFSS Board) and Daniella Borg (Reality TV star) are all graduates of AILC.

We look forward to following their journey over the next 12 months and seeing how they implement their newly mastered skills in their work.



Behind the scenes with the ABC

AFSS NDIS 'Be With Me' Navigator Ricache Van Grosen and Manager NDIS Olivia King, were lucky enough to be filmed by the ABC in an interview about the work they have been doing here at AFSS. Make sure you keep an eye out and watch the ABC, they will be broadcasting it very soon.



AFSS attend the Office of Problem Gambling Communities of Practice Forum

On 10 November AFSS attended the Office for Problem Gambling's Communities of Practice Forum held at the Education Centre in Hindmarsh. Warren Guppy (Senior Manager Metropolitan Services), Alban Kartinyeri (Gambling Support Worker (Berri) and Russell Coulthard, Gambling Support Worker (Port Augusta) represented AFSS at the Forum and participated in the day's activities. A Welcome to Country by Cliff Wilson (Kuma Kaaru) was well received. This was followed by a diverse range of presentations including Matthew Browne (CQ University) who presented findings from a survey of adults' attitudes, beliefs and behaviours towards sports betting; the sharing of a personal story from a participant who had lived experience of gambling and its impact on their life; consideration of the findings of an evaluation of Uniting Care Wesley Bowden's 'Unplugged' program for parents and young people; a heart-warming presentation from the Vietnamese – Peer Support Program; and a presentation from RASA about their story telling approach to working with Aboriginal communities around gambling harm minimisation. The Commissioner for Consumer Business Services, Dini Soulio, provided an update to the Forum about his work in the regulatory space and the OPG and Adelaide United launched their Here for the Game campaign. The OPG's facilitation of the Forum was excellent and well done to Ruth Ambler, Rory Spreckley, Tanya Strub, Helen Christopher and Adam for their great efforts towards what was an excellent Communities of Practice Forum.



10 Years Service for Angela Fee

On the 5 November, Glenn Kerrigan, Senior Manager Regional Services and Katharine Micka, Manager Ceduna, linked in via the new Webex to present me (Angela Fee, Manager Port Lincoln) with a certificate for my 10 years of service with AFSS. Glenn and the staff had been planning this presentation for the last month and rewarded me with a beautiful lunch and gifts.

The 10 years has flown past and I still feel very lucky today to be a part of this organisation and community.



Thearaputic Crisis Intervention Training in Ceduna



Pictured from left: Barry Shannon, Vijesh Mathew, Peta Read, Olivia Greatbatch, Mica Obst, Katharine Micka and Kieren King.

Ceduna Residential Services staff attended almost a full week of training from 11-15 October. Tania Elliott, AFSS Training Facilitator flew in from Adelaide and Angela Fee AFSS Manager Port Lincoln Office drove to Ceduna. Tania and Angela co-facilitated the excellent and very relevant training. The first day staff participated in Maybo training, which is designed to give staff skills to redirect and guide children and young people when required. The rest of the week was spent in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention training, which is a trauma informed approach to help staff prevent a crisis. The main techniques presented were:

- to be able to prevent and/or de-escalate a potential crisis situation with a child or young person
- to be able to safely and therapeutically manage a crisis situation and to be able to process with children and young people to help improve their capacity to regulate their emotions and use positive coping strategies.

Staff were able to practice all of these techniques with each other. The last day was spent with a practical and written assessment. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the training and are going to practice the various techniques on a regular basis at staff meetings. Thank you Tania and Angela from all of the staff in Ceduna.



Therapeutic Crisis Intervention - Metro

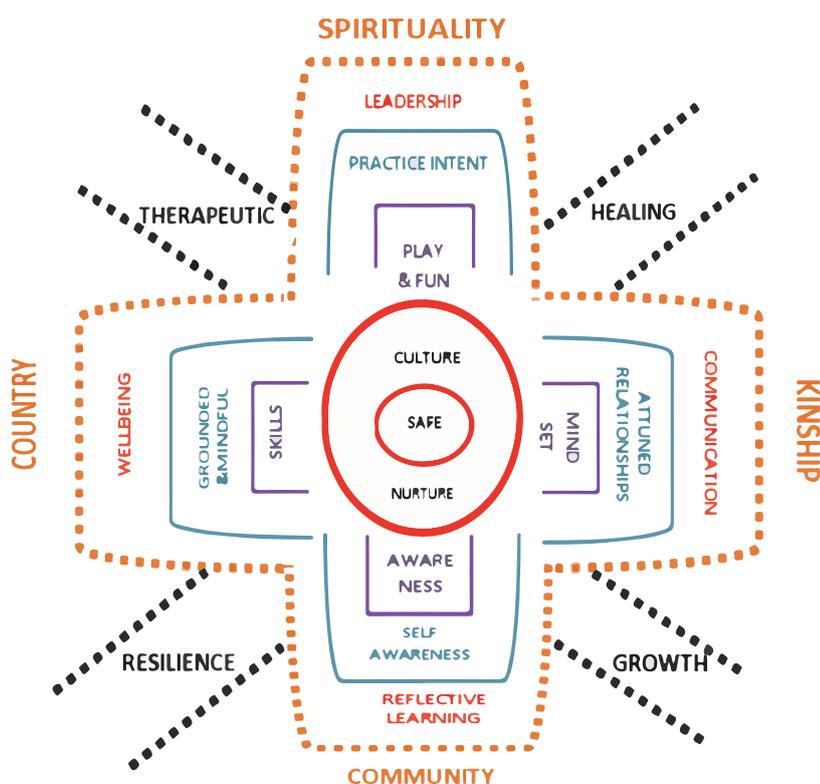
AFSS training facilitators have delivered three TCI trainings since October in the Metropolitan area. Each TCI training has been three days in length. The trainers involved were Laura Chamings, Susie Crisa and Nick Ward. AFSS has been planning a rollout for some years in TCI and we have finally started and completed three groups. There have been 39 people in total that we have trained in the last three months.

TCI is about working therapeutically in Residential Care, it delivers valuable content around how to work in a Trauma Informed Care practice and how to de-escalate children and help them learn and grow from their experiences so they learn to co-regulate when heightened in the future.

It's been great to get our residential staff off the floor and into a training space that is so valuable and important for the work that they do. (See pictures on page 15)

AFSS Practice Approach in Residential Care

AFSS' Practice Approach is Culturally Safe and Trauma Informed and brings together all the work we do with children and young people. Threaded throughout the 5 key elements are 3 key themes, Cultural Responsiveness, Therapeutic Approach and Healing.



The approach is developed around 5 key elements.

1. Broad context: country, spirituality, kinship, community
2. Organisation: leadership, reflective learning, wellbeing, communication
3. Practitioners: practice intent, attuned relationships, self awareness, grounded and mindful
4. Children and young people: play and fun, mindset, awareness, skills
5. Care, Community and Environment: Culture, Nurture, Safe.





Where to find us

Adelaide
134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
☎ 8205 1500

Berri
23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
☎ 8582 3192

Salisbury
4 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 81826567

Salisbury
20 Ann Street
Salisbury SA 5108
☎ 8281 3440

Smithfield
39a Anderson Walk
Smithfield SA 5114
☎ 8254 1077

Cross Road
503 Cross Road
South Plympton SA 5038
☎ 8351 2661

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 5291
☎ 8723 6110

Murray Bridge
67 Adelaide Road
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

Port Pirie
23 Norman Street
Port Pirie SA 5540
☎ 0473 870 980



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

Aboriginal Family Support Services

COLOUR FUN RUN

Port Lincoln

When: Friday 14 January 2-4pm

Where: Foreshore near playground

We will supply the colour, safety glasses, white t-shirt and masks. You need to wear a hat, shoes (optional) and trousers/shorts.



The event will be COVID Safe

For more information please contact:

Anna Angus ✉ anna.angus@afss.com.au ☎ 8683 1909

Registrations are preferred

