



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

March - April 2018

Mount Gambier welcomes AFSS

Thank you Mount Gambier for the warm welcome we received from your community!

Warren Guppy, Senior Manager Metropolitan Services, and Charmayne Stenhouse, Manager Community Safety and Wellbeing (CS&W), spent two days in Mount Gambier on a fact finding mission to see what skills-based workshops are available for Aboriginal families and communities in the region.

They visited many services to talk about AFSS' CS&W suite of programs that have successfully been delivered to many communities across the State. First cab off the rank was the beautiful Burrundies Aboriginal Corporation, meeting with Cheryl Saunders and Robyn Campbell (CEO) who said there was a real need for AFSS to have a presence there and for the suite of workshops we offer, which would be great for families and communities.

Burrundies also offered use of their site and assistance in making it happen. On the tour both Warren and Charmayne were invited into the women's meeting



Above: Charmayne Stenhouse, Fiona Thompson, Angela Sloan and Warren Guppy in the lovely grounds of Pangula near the healing circles.

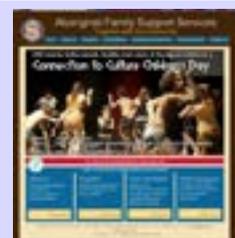
room where Elder, Aunty Valda Brennan, was teaching the wonderful craft of basket weaving.

The Department for Child Protection (DCP) team was just as welcoming; Tania Harrap (DCP Manager Limestone Coast), Cathy Heinrich (DCP Director), Les Bonney (Aboriginal Family Practitioner), Cheryl Smith (Care and Protection Worker), Ghenelle Brennan (Support Worker) and Cindy Gollan (Kinship Worker). All were eager to hear how well accepted CS&W workshops have been and the positive changes they have made to many families

in South Australia. They asked how soon AFSS will be back to start delivering as there is so much need.

At Pangula Mannamurna Inc (the Aboriginal health service) we met with Gary Button, Angela Sloan, Rowena Hammond and Fiona Thompson who were of the same mind as the other services we visited – they wanted AFSS to deliver the programs as soon as possible as they understand the need for early intervention workshops.

Continued on page 11



Message from the Chief Executive

Last month saw a change in the government of South Australia. AFSS congratulates Hon Steven Marshall in his new role as Premier of this State; he is also holding the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio and moving this back into the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Steven has been a long serving member on the board of Reconciliation SA, and his commitment to Aboriginal people is well known. We look forward to forming a very positive working relationship with him and with his new government to improve the lives of Aboriginal children and families in South Australia.

Warren Guppy, AFSS' Senior Manager, Metropolitan Services, and Charmayne Stenhouse, Manager, Community Safety and Wellbeing program, recently undertook a trip to Mount Gambier.

They were pleased to spend time with a range of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers, and share information about AFSS, in particular the programs that are run through Community Safety and Wellbeing.

There was consensus amongst the Aboriginal organisations and community members that the programs would be very beneficial for local Aboriginal people and we look forward to being able to provide this service in the Mount Gambier region in the near future.

As you will see in this newsletter on page 12, you are now able to purchase your Entertainment Membership through AFSS.

I encourage you to do so. This is a very popular program that can save you a lot of money if you enjoy eating out, travel and other forms of entertainment, as well as a range of local services. And who doesn't?

Each book sold through AFSS provides a financial benefit for our organisation, which will be used to support our vital work.



*Sharron Williams
Chief Executive*

And the winner is

Sharron Williams, AFSS' Chief Executive, drew our Annual Foster Carers' Short Holiday Raffle for \$1,000, and our lucky winner was Josie Miller from Family Based Care Metro!

Josie currently has two children in her care long term whilst working full-time as a teacher. As Josie is a very busy lady, we met her during her lunch break at school to present her with her prize.

Josie was really excited and her response was "Wow, I never win anything, thank you so much."

Josie is planning on using the prize to take the family on a holiday at Christmas.

Congratulations, Josie. We hope you have a relaxing, happy and well-deserved break.



2017 sees growth in Family Matters

Last year, 2017, was a crucial period of growth and consolidation for the campaign, including a highly successful national launch at Parliament House in November, an inaugural National Week of Action, expanded political commitment to the campaign's principles, and building on collaborative advocacy achievements at the COAG level via the Redfern Statement Alliance.

The 2018 Week of Action is from 14-20 May. Please visit the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au to keep up with the latest developments.

The pattern emerging from campaign research and developments to date is that there is ample opportunity, through the commitment of mainstream service providers to the six core principles of the campaign, including (via the Statement of Commitment), to:

- consolidate campaign membership through a concerted focus on internal organisational change
- provide peer to peer support through various communities of practice within the campaign and
- strengthen our consensus advocacy activities.

A core focus for Family Matters advocacy is, of course, to hold all relevant levels of government to account, and push for full compliance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement principle and a stronger link between policy frameworks and implementation in states, territories and at the Commonwealth level.



Pictured from left to right: Tanbee Sutton, local SA Ambassador; Senator Chris Ketter, Joanne Else, Family Matter SA Lead; and Leata Clarke, Co-Chair SA Family Matters.

Over the last year, Family Matters have been successful in garnering substantial political commitment across Australia; this includes very sound support from the new SA Liberal government and Federal Labor, with sign-on at the Ministerial level (or above) in every jurisdiction except WA, and the implementation of a co-designed generational strategy to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in Queensland.

Family Matters has also substantially increased its social media following on Facebook and Twitter over the last 12 months, and Family Matters now has about 2,000 individual supporters in addition to organisational membership.

Another key vehicle for political engagement, commitment and

accountability is, of course, the annual *Family Matters Report*. This year SNAICC engaged with each jurisdiction to obtain more detailed data on expenditure, policy and strategic commitments to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care. SNAICC is hoping to build on this accountability

mechanism year by year and develop the quality of data for the annual report via this and other collaborative mechanisms.



Special movie screening

Keep the date free for Family Matters' special screening of the film *After the Apology* on Monday 14 May at 6.30pm (CBD venue to be announced).

To find out more email joanne@childandfamily-sa.org.au



AFSS Aboriginal Gambling Help Service presentation schedule

Date and time	Location	Contact
Thursday 10 May 10.00am -12.00 noon Light morning tea provided <i>Gambling in the Workplace</i> Thursday 31 May 10.00am -12.00 noon Light morning tea provided <i>Stop the Chase</i>	AFSS Office 23 Denny Street Berri	Norman Giles Phone 8582 3192
Tuesday 1 May 10.00am – 12.00 noon Light morning tea provided <i>Deadly Choices</i> Tuesday 5 June 2.00pm - 4.00pm Light refreshments provided <i>Gambling and the Workplace</i>	Moorundi 4 Clara Street Murray Bridge	Bronte Warneke Phone 0418 499 649
Wednesday 16 May 1.30pm - 2.30pm <i>Problem Gambling</i> Light refreshments provided Wednesday 13 June 1.30pm - 2.30pm <i>Deadly Choices - Taking Control</i> Light refreshments provided	Port Lincoln Community Hub Lincoln Gdns Primary School Barley Rd Port Lincoln AFSS 3 Gloucester Terrace Port Lincoln	Anna Angus Phone 0428 329 972

Quiet achiever receives recognition

Nicholas Haines is a young Ngarrindjeri man who achieved his year 12 SACE in November 2017 at Parafield Gardens High School.

From year 10 through to year 12 Nicholas has also been involved with the South Australian Aboriginal Sports Training Academy (SAASTA). During his time with SAASTA Nicholas and the other students achieved their Certificate III in Sport and Recreation.

Nicholas also competed in the Power Cup. Aboriginal young people involved with SAASTA from all over the state travel to Adelaide to compete in a knockout football competition over four days. The grand final is played before the Port Power game in the Indigenous round.

In 2016 Nicholas's SAASTA team won. Although they didn't win in 2017 it was an amazing four days of celebrating culture, family and football.

At the end of the school year Nicholas was awarded the Emma Thompson Indigenous Achievement Award, for his commitment in achieving his year 12 SACE, his acceptance, thoughtfulness and kindness to other students.

Nicholas is hoping to gain a Carpentry Apprenticeship now that his time at school has finished. Another shining role model for our Aboriginal youth! Congratulations Nicholas.



AFSS – working to Close the Gap

AFSS Family Based Care (FBC) Metro team took part in Closing the Gap Day held at the Adelaide Showground, Wayville, on 22 March.

It was a free event organised by the Northern Health Network, which aimed to bring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, individuals and health care providers together to share information and promote Aboriginal health equality.

There was an abundance of live entertainment for all ages which included singing, stand-up comedy, music, a petting zoo, jumping castle, face painting, henna art and more.

Tauondi College provided a free lunch for the event which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

Staff attended from a wide range of agencies sharing information about their services.

Becky and Jasila from FBC (Metro) provided information and answered questions about foster care, as well as providing brochures and pamphlets highlighting the range of services that AFSS provides.

And of course our fantastic merchandise was a big hit with children and adults alike!



Pictured above and below: The AFSS stand provided plenty of information about our services, as well as our popular giveaways for the large numbers of community members who attended.



Local family enjoys fun at Desert Fringe's Mor Funny Stuff

On 3 March at the Yarta Purtli Cultural Centre, Port Augusta, Tesheena Ostermann and her children, Drethan 8 years, Shane 7 years and Gabriel 2 years all attended the Desert Fringe, part of the 2018 Adelaide Fringe Festival.

It was a ticketed event hosted by Irish comedian Martin Mor (*pictured right*). Performing for more than 30 years as a circus performer-turned comedian, Martin has had his own television show for the BBC.

Martin Mor: Mor Funny Stuff, included comedy, circus, storytelling, poetry and “stupid science”.

Tesheena and her children were able to attend thanks to the generosity of The Adelaide Fringe, who donated the tickets.

According to Tesheena, “It was a fantastic family event aimed at all ages as he included the audience in his act, and the kids thought he was great.”

After Martin finished his show he came into the audience and mingled with the crowd, and had his photo taken when people requested for selfies with him.



He gave out lollies to the kids and everyone said that if tickets were made available again they would definitely go next time.

Everyone stayed on after the act and enjoyed a sausage sizzle in the park. The atmosphere was warm and friendly, and it was good to see other families enjoying themselves with their children.

Tesheena would like to thank AFSS and the Adelaide Fringe for providing the tickets, as without their generosity this special treat would not have been possible.





tips and info for foster carers

bits 'n pieces is designed with our foster carers in mind!

Here you'll find some useful information and news that will help you in your vital role as a carer. We hope you find it interesting and informative.

Dogs and kids

In many families, dogs play a very important role as companion and friend, and are much loved family members.

In fact Australia has one of the highest rates of dog ownership in the world. However, it is important to be aware that there are risks associated with having children and dogs together, especially children under 5 years of age.



Children 12-18 months old are the most vulnerable age group to be attacked by dogs. It may be surprising to know that the dog most likely to bite a child is not a stranger's dog, but is a dog the child knows well.

The majority of dog attacks that require a child to be hospitalised take place in a child's own home or backyard, or at the homes of friends and neighbours.

Due to the size of young children, the most serious injuries are to a child's head and face, often leaving them scarred for life. Eye damage can also occur. Other injuries can be to the arms and legs.

What dog breeds can attack?

Any dog can pose a risk to children. Some dog breeds have been noted to be more aggressive than other breeds and have higher rates of reported attacks. However, there are also many cross breeds, so classification of dog attacks by breed is unreliable. It is important you look carefully at the type of dog you choose if you are planning to get a dog when you have young children.

There is a website that provides advice on selecting a pet for your family: www.petnet.com.au

You can also speak to your local vet or animal behaviourist.

The key message is that there are some breeds of dog that do pose a greater risk of attacking young children, but any dog can pose a risk if precautions are not taken to reduce the risk of young children being attacked.

When are dogs more likely to attack children?

Dogs are likely to attack a child if:

- Approached when eating
- Approached when sleeping
- Startled by sudden movements
- Woken suddenly
- Cornered and scared
- Jumped on and climbed over
- They have their ears or tails pulled, or are poked or hit
- They are looking after puppies
- They have been cooped up in a hot car
- They are unwell or injured
- They are not properly trained.

Preventing dog attacks and bites

The most effective way to minimise the risk is to always make sure that young children (your own, and other people's) are supervised around the dog; otherwise separate the dog from the children when supervision is not possible.

It is also important to always reinforce this when visiting relatives and friends. It is important to create dog-free zones for young children, and child-free zones for a dog.

The key message is supervise or separate

When to get a dog?

Parents are advised to wait until their children reach school age before getting a dog. When buying a dog, the RSPCA recommends matching your family's needs to the type of dog.

If you already have a dog, when you have children you need to make sure that you prepare the dog properly early in the pregnancy.

Familiarising the dog with the smells of the nursery and new furniture is important before you bring the baby home.

Then slowly and calmly introduce the dog to the smells and sounds of the baby.

Useful resources

The Dog and Cat Management Board of SA

Includes an on-line resource titled "We are family". Go to: www.gooddogsa.com/goodowner/we-are-family/

You are also able to get a copy from Kidsafe SA.

Also includes a host of other quality on-line resources.

Go to: www.dogscats.asn.au/site/page.cfm

Safety tips to teach your child at around 2 - 3 years of age

With dogs they don't know, tell them to:

- Always ask permission from the owner before slowly approaching an unfamiliar dog.
- Approach a dog slowly, with the back of the hand extended.
- Curl their fingers and allow the dog to sniff them.
- Stroke the dog gently on the chest, shoulder, or under the chin. Never pat it on the head.
- Avoid eye contact with the dog.
- Stand still if being approached by a strange dog. Do not squeal, run, or jump.

For approaching all dogs tell your child to:

- Avoid approaching dogs that are sleeping, eating, caring for puppies, unwell or injured, or in their beds or kennel.
- Always let a dog see you and sniff you before patting it.
- Never play with a dog unless supervised by an adult.
- Never yell at or surprise a dog, not even the family pet.
- Not pull a dog's tail or ears, or jump on, or kick a dog.
- Roll into a ball and lie still and quiet if knocked over by a dog.

Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS)

Provides quality on-line information. Go to: www.petnet.com.au/

For more information, contact:

Kidsafe SA Inc

Women's and Children's Hospital, 72 King William Rd, North Adelaide SA 5006

Phone: (08) 8161 6318, email: sa@kidsafe.org.au

website: www.kidsafesa.com.au

Article used with kind permission of Kidsafe SA.

Share your stories!

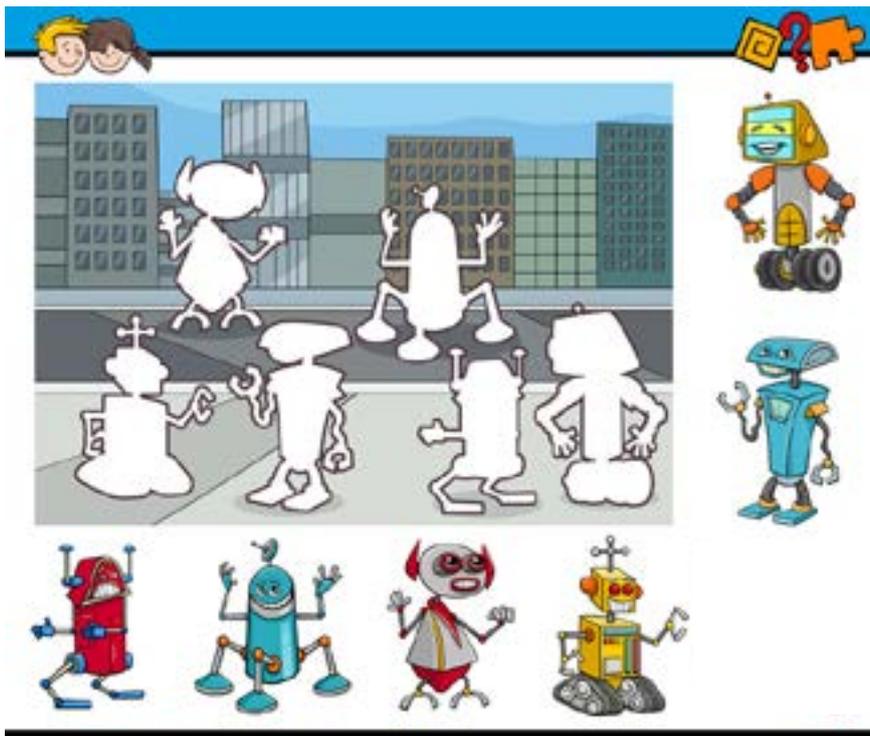
If you have any ideas or information that you'd like to share with other carers on these pages, such as things that you've found helpful, special events or activities that have worked well, we'd love to hear from you and publish your story (your identity will be kept confidential if you wish).

Simply write to Grace Nelligan, AFSS, 134 Waymouth Street, Adelaide SA 5000 or email grace.nelligan@afss.com.au. We look forward to hearing from you!



Just for kids

Find 9 differences!



Which robot belongs in which space?

Fill in this pattern using your favourite colours



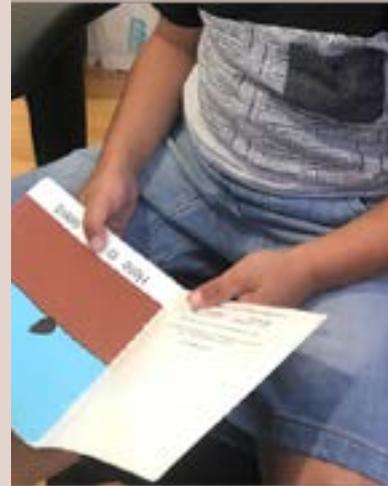


Around the houses...



One of our talented young people painted up his scooter to make it his own style (*left*). This project required a lot of skill and patience, and you can see the results. Well done!

Look at this young future leader getting stuck into his reading (*right*)! Reading promotes imagination, communication and takes you on many adventures. So let's get reading!



Last month a group of the young people in AFSS' residential care went to see Djuki Mala (*pictured below*) at the Fringe.

Djuki Mala achieved overnight success when Frank Djirrimbilwuy uploaded a video clip of the group dancing to "Zorba the Greek" on YouTube in October 2007.

We have some lovely photos and memorabilia from the night. Following is a review from one of our youth support workers.

"I personally thought that the Djuki Mala performance was an amazing experience, something I would love to see again. I enjoyed it immensely and felt it such a privilege to have been able to see such talent, humour and culture in one.

When we arrived, and while waiting to enter the show, the young people appeared quiet and

nervous. When the show started they became really excited and happy, focusing their attention straight away on the show.

All the young people from the different houses sat together and joined in with clapping, dancing in their seats and appeared excited.

After the show had finished they told the Youth Support Worker that they were happy that they decided to come and stayed for the whole event as they loved the show and shared that they would like to do more activities.

They waited in line to have their photos taken with Djuki Mala and asked to have their drink bottles signed as well. They stated that they loved the music all the way through the show and are looking forward to more activities just like this one

Overall we all loved the show."



Mount Gambier welcomes AFSS

Continued from page 1

We visited Pangula again on the second day to meet the whole team and to view the community room and the stunning Healing Garden. Program Manager Angela Sloan told the story of how the garden was first proposed and the purpose for which it can be used today and suggested this would be a great venue for many of AFSS workshops.

We also met with representatives from ac.care, Trish Spark, and Centacare, Sharon Lun, and it was great to share information about the programs we offer and how we might work together with ac.care and Centacare for the benefit of Aboriginal families in the Mount Gambier area.



Above: From left Cheryle Saunders, Robyn Campbell, Charmayne Stenhouse and Ken Jones at Burrundies.

All of the Mount Gambier services visited were very keen to support AFSS CS&W to meet their client's needs.

According to Charmayne, "Two things I learned from my

experience in Mount Gambier: They are extremely keen for AFSS CS&W workshops to be delivered there – and Warren knows everyone! Everywhere! It was like a reunion when we entered any of the services."



Foster Carers needed URGENTLY

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

You can be single or a couple, with or without children. And whether you're willing to provide emergency, short term, respite or long term care, we'd love to hear from you!

Contact:

Adelaide Peter Frankcom peter.frankcom@afss.com.au 8205 1500

Ceduna Michelle Naylor michelle.naylor@afss.com.au 8625 3466

Coober Pedy David Pietsch david.pietsch@afss.com.au 8672 3066

Port Augusta Deb Merchant deborah.merchant@afss.com.au 8641 0907

Port Lincoln Toni-Lee Miller toni-lee.miller@afss.com.au 8683 1909



Aboriginal Family Support Services Inc
Together with the community





Get your Entertainment Membership NOW to help Aboriginal Family Support Services raise much needed funds!

Help us raise funds for the support of Aboriginal children and young people by buying an Entertainment Membership from us. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time. Hurry, Entertainment Memberships sell out quickly.



ABORIGINAL FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES LTD

Contact: Elizabeth Wright Phone: (08) 8205 1500 Email: afss@afss.com.au

To order your Book or your Digital Membership securely online visit:

<https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/9x50254>

Alternatively, please complete your details below:

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Adelaide 2018-19 Edition \$70.00 including GST: # ___ Book(s) # ___ Digital Membership(s) \$ _____

Post my order \$12.00 TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Payment Type: CASH VISA MASTERCARD CHEQUE (made payable to Aboriginal Family Support Services)

Credit Card Number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date: ____ / ____ CVV*: _____

*CVV is the 3 digits on the back of your credit card

Cardholder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Welcome to the AFSS team!

My name is **Ashley Thelning** and I am a new case worker for Stronger Families Metro team. I have recently graduated from Flinders University with a Bachelor in Behavioural Science, Major in Psychology and Disability and Developmental Education.

I have spent the last year working as a support worker/mentor in disability service and emergency short-term care, and the last 2 years volunteering with the Department for Child Protection. It has been a great experience working on the other side of child protection and I look forward to continue working with families to achieve their goals in providing a safe home for their children.

My name is **Barbara Moore**. I have joined the Stronger Families Metro program as a case worker.

I have two adult children, three step children and two amazing little grandchildren. I am very lucky to be blessed with a wonderful family.

My second passion is training my two Border Collies in Agility at a state and national level.

I have worked in the youth sector with the Flexible Learning Option program for 15 years dealing with disengaged young people with complex needs.

I am passionate about working with families to achieve positive outcomes and working in partnership with services to strengthen families to be able to cope with the challenges they are facing and to build strong connections with community and culture.



I am enjoying working with the fantastic team at Metro to provide Family Preservation and Reunification and to keep children safe at home.

My name is **Glenys McLeod**. I am a mother of four and grandmother of three.

My background is in Children's Services. Since the mid 1980s I have worked in kindergartens, playgroups, schools and out of school hours care services, and long day care services as both an Early Childhood Educator and also as a Director.

I joined the AFSS Stronger Families team at Crossroads in October 2017 and have found the transition into a role as Case Worker to be a really interesting journey with so many new things to learn. Fortunately I am surrounded by a really supportive team so I feel very happy in my job.

Pictured above, from left, are Glenys McLeod, Barbara Moore and Ashley Thelning.



My name is **Joel Mercorella**. I am excited to take on the position of Lead Support Worker at AFSS.

I had previously been working at AFSS for just under a year as a permanent part-time Youth Support Worker, and I have also been a volunteer youth worker at my church for over five years.

During my time at AFSS, my heart for the children and young people in care has grown immensely and I look forward to continuing to make a positive contribution to their lives so that they can have a bright future.



Seasons for Growth Children and Young people's program



Tania Elliott (Training Facilitator) recently attended the Train the Trainer workshop for *Seasons for Growth*. The program is managed and supported by Good Grief Ltd, an Australian-based not for profit organisation and an initiative of the Sisters of St Joseph. The program is an award winning program run in Australia, New Zealand, Scotland, England and Ireland.

Seasons for Growth is a small group grief and loss education program for children and young people aged 6-18 years.

Seasons for Growth is based on the belief that change and loss are part of life, and grief is a normal response to these losses.

The program aims to promote

resilience, to enhance coping strategies and to develop life skills in children and young people.

Seasons for Growth has a sound curriculum structure and utilises a wide range of creative learning activities. It is a small group (4-7 participants), peer based program of eight structured sessions followed by a celebration session and a 'Re-connector' session for participants.

AFSS will be looking to explore the opportunities to run this program with community in the future.

Based on similar concepts, AFSS currently runs the Seasons for Healing program for adults. For more information on Seasons for Healing, please contact our Community Safety and Wellbeing team on 8254 1077.

Connection to Culture - Cultural Officers' regional visits

Throughout most of March Barbara Falla and Zane Watts, AFSS' Cultural Officers, travelled to each of AFSS regional offices; in Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Coober Pedy and Port Augusta.

The primary reason for these visits was to begin the creation of Cultural Plans for Aboriginal children and young people with an AFSS foster carer in those regions, or in an AFSS Residential Service (Ceduna and Port Lincoln).

In Ceduna they met with Katherine Micka (Manager AFSS Ceduna) and her team. In Port Lincoln they met with Angela Fee (Manager Port Lincoln) and her team. They were also able to spend time with one of the DCP

workers there. In Coober Pedy they spent time with Coober Pedy Manager Lisa McClure, David Pietsch and the rest of the team.

In Port Augusta they met with Deborah Merchant and the foster care team.

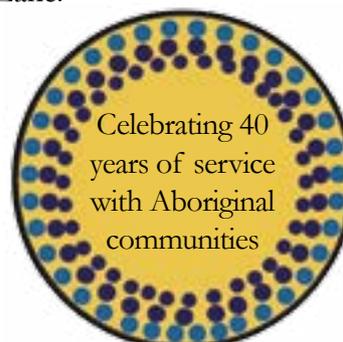
Everyone was very welcoming and helpful. Barbara and Zane met with many of AFSS' foster carers and some of the children in their care, while in Ceduna they met with the staff and children at the Ceduna Residential Service.

Barbara and Zane were able to gather much information that will help them to complete the Cultural Plans that they are working on, keeping the children

connected to their culture and families and assisting with any cultural matters.

Barbara and Zane would like to thank all the staff from the AFSS regional offices for their valuable assistance.

"We look forward to visiting the regions again to follow up on each child's Cultural Plan and to meet with the children and young people and their carers," says Zane.





Where to find us

Adelaide

134 Waymouth Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Phone (08) 8205 1500

Berri

23 Denny Street
Berri SA 5343
Phone (08) 8582 3192

Smithfield

39a Anderson Walk,
Smithfield SA 5114
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Ceduna

28 Poynton Street
Ceduna SA 5690
Phone: (08) 8625 3466

Coober Pedy

Lot 1991 Aylett Street
Coober Pedy SA 5723
Phone (08) 8672 3066

Murray Bridge

C/-Moorundi Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Health Service
2 Clara Street
Murray Bridge SA 5253

Port Augusta

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

Port Lincoln

3 Gloucester Terrace
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Phone (08) 8683 1909



Connection to Culture - Cultural Officers community involvement



AFSS Cultural Officers, Barbara Falla and Zane Watts regularly enjoy attending local Aboriginal community events, sharing information about AFSS and meeting community members and services providers. Below are details of just some of them.

12 February - Apology Day Breakfast at the Convention Centre

There was an early start to the day as guests needed to be seated by 6.45am. What a great breakfast at the Convention Centre!

The entertainment, speakers, poets and keynote speaker June Oscar, AO, Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, were all highlights.

13 February - Apology Day Event, Veale Gardens

Honouring the Stolen Generations – Learn, Share, Respect, Heal. Our Healing Journey Continues.

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's First Peoples. On 13 February 2008, the then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd made an Apology to Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the House of Representatives. Honouring the Stolen Generations, this year's event started with a peaceful walk from Tarntanyangga/Victoria Square to Veale Gardens. The walk was followed by a smoking ceremony, barbeque and activities

including story-telling, traditional healers, and performances from local singers and dancers (*see picture above*).

14 February - Lord Mayor's Morning Tea

Lord Mayor Martin Haese welcomed guests to the Apology Day Morning Tea, with Uncle Lewis O'Brien giving a Welcome to Country. It was a great morning for catching up and networking with other Aboriginal agencies. Special guest Toni Arundel spoke to those present about being part of the Stolen Generation and the issues she has faced on a personal level.

14 February - Living Kaurna Cultural Centre, Warriparinga
This Marion City Council Community event was attended by the Cultural Officers and the Family Based Foster Care team who enjoyed the sunshine at Warraparinga. There were lots of people to mingle with, including community groups and NGOs working in the southern area. There was much interest in AFSS' Connection to Culture and AFSS' Foster Care programs.