



Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

March-April 2017

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... and more!



Visit the AFSS website
www.afss.com.au

Minister visits AFSS Port Lincoln office



On Tuesday, 7 March, AFSS Port Lincoln had the pleasure of receiving a visit from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Kyam Maher and Ministerial Adviser Amy Rust.

AFSS staff members gave Minister Maher all the details of the various programs that AFSS offers, and some of the issues Aboriginal families are experiencing in Regional South Australia.

Minister Maher was extremely interested and was keen to find out more, especially in regard to the Residential Care Service and the shortage of Aboriginal foster carers.

Staff were able to have a photograph taken with the Minister, who was given an AFSS beanie to commemorate the occasion, which he wore for a

photo opportunity while at the AFSS office.

Other Aboriginal agencies that the Minister visited on his short trip included Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service, Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council, Port Lincoln Children's Centre and Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service.

The Minister also visited Poonindie, Wanilla Forest and Kuji Aboriginal Arts Centre. The Community also held a BBQ dinner on 6 March at Mallee Park Football Club for community members to meet and speak with the Minister.

Pictured above from left to right outside the AFSS Port Lincoln Office: Shane Summer, Peter Tomlinson, Kyam Maher Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Glenys Nowak, Toni-Lee Miller, Michelle Brooks and Donna Carr.

A message from the Chief Executive

AFSS is pleased to have won the tender to provide the Aboriginal Gambling Help Service in Port Lincoln, and we are currently advertising for a Community Development Worker to deliver the new service. AFSS already provides Gambling Help Services in the Murray Bridge, Riverland and Port Augusta regions. See the story on page 5 to see what the program provides.

Our Community Safety and Wellbeing program is also going from strength to strength; watch out for the new Respect Sista Girls2 program.

Respect Sista Girls2 is designed for Aboriginal girls and women who want to use their cultural strengths to make positive changes in their lives.

The program's aims can simply be described as a journey of reflection, redirection and increased capacity to take control by making informed decisions and choices. Keep your eyes open for the times, dates and locations for the new program.

To ensure that we are able to provide the necessary support to our front line staff AFSS has found it necessary to recruit an additional team member in the Finance section of our Corporate Services team, and we are currently advertising to fill this new position.

It is certainly a time of growth here at AFSS. We are pleased to be able to offer an ever-expanding range of services and assure you that we maintain our focus and commitment to providing the best service possible to Aboriginal children, families and communities across South Australia.



Sharron Williams
Chief Executive

AFSS takes part in fun day at Nunga Tag Carnival

Christies Beach High School recently hosted the Southern Region Nunga Tag Carnival on 8 March. It was a day full of fun, sun, a jumping castle, lots of free goodies for the children and lots of running around!

AFSS was fortunate to attend the event and host a stall to promote Family Based Foster Care and all other AFSS programs.

The stall provided information to the community about the importance of family based foster carers and the continual need for additional carers. Illira (Placement Officer) and Tamara (Assessment Officer) who hosted the stall, were able to share with other stall holders and members of the community what is it to be a foster carer and



Above: The AFSS information stall, all ready for the start of the Nunga Tag Carnival.

helped to break down preconceptions about this important role. It was a great day for all who attended.

Connection to Culture – An Update from AFSS' Cultural Officers

It's April already and what an exciting adventure and learning curve it has been for AFSS' new Cultural Officers! They've been very busy working with AFSS Residential Services to develop Cultural Plans for all Aboriginal children residing in an AFSS Residential Service. The Cultural Officers have also been working closely with AFSS foster carers to facilitate individual and personalised Cultural Plans for the children in their care.

Barb and Leanne (AFSS Cultural Officers) continue to meet with community groups and organisations to build a strong network of stakeholders who can assist in identifying family and community connections for Aboriginal children and young people.

Importantly, the Cultural Officers have been networking with many individuals, groups and agencies who can provide cultural services, events and activities for all Aboriginal children and young people in foster care or in an AFSS Residential Service. Keeping Aboriginal children and young people connected to their language, culture and community is crucial for their health and wellbeing. See separate article on page 4 of this newsletter calling for Expressions of Interest.

The Cultural Officers have been liaising with Kura Yerlo, Zebra Finch Men's Group, Marra Dreaming, Warraparinga Cultural Centre, Neporendi, Nunkuwarrin Yunti, Tauondi Aboriginal Community College, the Office of the Guardian, Department for Child Protection, Elders Group, Camp Coorong and Narungga Aboriginal Progress Association to name a few.

As part of Connection to Culture for Aboriginal children and young people, the Cultural Officers have been working with AFSS Residential Services, putting together cultural activity plans for the school holidays. This has included spear making and throwing, painting, ceramic, jewellery making, bush food tours, dance, claymation, cultural day trips and cultural camps.

Other areas currently being looked at for group work with young people are music; this would include writing music/songs and playing an instrument, stage set up, drumbeat (beating drum and discussions), yarning and mentoring with Elders, cultural dance, music and language.



Above: AFSS Cultural Officers Leanne Witenko (left) and Barb Falla at the Apology Day event.

The Cultural Officers also work with the AFSS Metropolitan Foster Carer team and Time for Kids to deliver the cultural component of the Shared Stories Shared Lives package as part of foster care assessments.

AFSS' participation in the Apology Day event was a great success and included the AFSS Connection to Culture stand, promotional items and face painting.

The Cultural Officers also visited Raukkan community to meet with community members, the Raukkan School Principle Deb Fairey, Aunty Ellen Trevorrow at Camp Coorong and Raukkan Community Council. The purpose of the visit was to discuss options for cultural activities and tours for Aboriginal children and young people and making strong cultural connections with people and services on Ngarrindjeri country.

AFSS Cultural Officers are finding their work with communities is now being understood. This recognition in the community and with other stakeholders as to their roles within AFSS and in the wider community will help to ensure that through strong collaboration we can together ensure connection to culture for many Aboriginal children and young people in the out of home care system.



Connection to Culture - Expressions of interest

Does your organisation provide cultural services, activities or events for Aboriginal children and young people? Aboriginal Family Support Services is seeking expressions of interest from Aboriginal individuals, groups and organisations to place on our Connection to Culture Register.

The Register would be accessible by AFSS and many other organisations that provide Out of Home Care options for Aboriginal children and young people.

AFSS wants to make sure that Aboriginal children and young people are connected to their culture when they are separated from family. To do this, we need your help to make sure

there are plenty of options available for both AFSS and the broader Out of Home Care sector who are often looking for culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal children and young people.

AFSS Cultural Officers, Barb and Leeanne, would love to hear from you if you can offer:

- cultural workshops (art and crafts, music, dance, language)
- cultural camps
- cultural walks
- study options
- storytelling
- mentoring – for both boys and girls
- other cultural services.

If you can provide culturally

appropriate services and activities, we will ask you to provide some information about what cultural services you can offer, where and when you can offer them, who will be your contact person and your contact details, your ability to deliver activities and services across metropolitan Adelaide and some information about the costs involved in the provision of your services.

AFSS Cultural Officers look forward to the opportunity of discussing your services with you. Simply call them on 8205 1500.

In the meantime, visit our website to check out our developing Connection to Culture page at www.afss.com.au/connection-to-culture



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 & young people.

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 Donna Dixon donna.dixon@afss.com.au 8672 3066

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

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



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Together with the community

AFSS Gambling Help Service provides education and support to Aboriginal community members

AFSS Gambling Help Service recognises the need in the community to support Aboriginal people and their significant others, where gambling has become, or could potentially develop into a problem.

The program provides support, education and awareness about how best to help Aboriginal people in regional South Australia with issues around gambling.



Above: Meet the AGHS team – Norman Giles (Riverland), Bronte Warneke (Murray Bridge) and Charles Jackson, Port Augusta.

Identifying risk factors for clients.

We promote connectedness by:

- Targeting community services to raise awareness of gambling behaviours and associated risks
 - Providing education and awareness for family and friends of gamblers
 - Providing support and advice to family and friends of problem gamblers.
- We undertake community awareness and education to:

- Increase awareness of AFSS Gambling Help Service to community groups
- Promote culturally appropriate understanding

of gambling to hotels and clubs.

Would you like to find out more?

If you, a significant other or family member have problems with gambling, or know someone who is having problems with gambling, contact AFSS Gambling Help Service for a friendly and confidential chat.

We're just a phone call away:

- Berri, Norman (08) 8582 3192
- Port Augusta, Charles (08) 8641 0907
- Murray Bridge, Bronte 0418 499 649.

AFSS will be commencing a new Gambling Help Service in Port Lincoln in the near future.

AFSS recognises that education and awareness are fundamental in supporting Aboriginal people who have gambling problems. This can only be effectively achieved within the broader context of educating families and communities, agencies, clubs and hotels.

We aim to build resilience by:

- Educating individuals about gambling
- Advocating, supporting and referring service users

Funded through the Gamblers Rehabilitation Fund



aha|sa Australian Horseracing Association (AHA)



Government of South Australia Department for Communities and Social Inclusion





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.

Dealing with children's behaviours

Behaviours we see in children are really coping mechanisms that children have developed to manage their emotions and the distress that they feel inside. We're looking at some of these behaviours, explain why they are occurring and provide you with tips and information to cope with them. The material is taken from the "Iceberg Model" fact sheets, Dept for Child Protection.

Social Events

Social events can be extremely stressful for children in care. Children may lack knowledge of social norms and skills and may become emotionally overwhelmed by the excitement of the social demands of important social events. Social events need to be managed carefully so that children experience success.

Underneath the surface

Children who have been raised in an environment of abuse and trauma are often constantly watching activity going on around them. They have developed this strategy as a way of protecting themselves from potential threat, as they may have previously needed to fight or flee a situation at any given moment. Whilst they are no longer in these situations, they remain hyper vigilant (in a constant state of heightened anxiety) to their environment, for example they are over alert and pay close attention to people. Special events are often a time of high social contact and children are expected to behave in socially appropriate ways. Because of this, children often feel stressed

about the social situation and are not always able to cope with the stress that social contact requires. If there is too much activity going on around them, it may lead to information overload as they struggle to maintain an awareness of every potential threat. This can lead to the young person expressing their emotional stress in a variety of ways, for example anger, aggression, withdrawing etc.

Children in care often have difficulties with social skills and find it difficult to maintain contact with others, making social occasions very challenging. As well, their arousal level is high, and they have difficulty identifying and managing emotions. This means that they often misinterpret excitement as a feeling of stress, anxiety and/or fear, which in turn can lead to an escalation in problematic behaviour.

At the same time, many special events such as Christmas or birthdays may remind the young person of earlier times with their family. This may evoke many mixed and confusing feelings for the young person including anxiety, longing, loneliness and

fear. Anniversaries such as the anniversary of coming into care may be extremely distressing times for young people, as they feel abandoned and rejected by their family and may be reminded that their separation from their family is long term.

Strategies

Prepare the child. Talk with them about what is likely to happen during the event, who will be attending, and the duration. Try and avoid surprises as this creates a sense of uncertainty and fear in the child.

Keep events manageable.

Decide what the child can reasonably tolerate. Children with histories of trauma and broken relationships have experienced repeated failure and, without careful management, special events may be experienced as yet another failure in their lives. Limit the size and scale of the event to maximise the young person's chances of success. For example, try to plan the child's first special event, such as a party, to be a small gathering that will not be too overwhelming and less likely to trigger anxiety and subsequent behaviour problems. This will increase the child's confidence

and willingness to attend future parties. It is important to recognise that small successes are more beneficial for the child than large failures.

Limit the duration of the event. Children are most likely to succeed when the duration of the event is for a short period of time. For example, some young people may only be able to cope with birthday celebrations for half an hour before feeling a sense of stimulation overload leading to emotional dysregulation (feeling confused about their feelings and not knowing how to manage their feelings/calm themselves down). When children need to be involved in an event for longer periods of time it is important to be physically and emotionally available to them in case they require some assistance to calm down.

Reduce the number of presents given to the young person at one time. For

example, stagger the giving of gifts as this can create a very stimulating time for the young person. Remember that excitement can be a confusing and frightening feeling for some children, as it is easily misconstrued as anxiety.

Keep number of guests to a reasonable level. Large groups of people can overwhelm the child due to high noise levels which can create a sense of chaos. Being in a large group will also make it harder for you to focus on the child and recognise when they need help to manage their feelings. It may be necessary to explain to the child (and others) the reason behind limiting the size and or scale of events.

Avoid competitive games and engage in activities that are less stimulating. For example, if a child is going to be involved in a treasure hunt, it may be necessary for all the children to

take the treasure to one adult who will then divide the findings equally amongst participants. It is important to remember that children may not understand the rules of a game and feel a great sense of failure and humiliation if they don't perform well. The child may feel angry and cheated if they finish with less rewards than other children.

Limit sugary foods. Provide nutritious foods. If sugary food must be provided keep it to a minimum and offer it only at the end of the event. Explain the reasons for limiting sugary foods at events to the child.

Anticipate difficulties.

Familiarity with the child's history will help identify which times are likely to be difficult for them.

Monitor behaviour. Be aware that children are likely to be in a high state of arousal during special events. Intervene before they escalate by offering them some

Button batteries – hidden dangers for kids

Did you know that button batteries pose a real danger to kids? If a child swallows one, it can get stuck in their throat and burn through the oesophagus in less than two hours.

It won't necessarily block the airway and you may not even know it's there.

This can lead to serious injury and even death.

Twenty children go to hospital each week in Australia suspected of swallowing a button battery. They're really dangerous!

You'll find button batteries in many different items – watches, car remotes, thermometers, calculators, torch key rings, musical cards, TV remotes, fake

candles, kitchen scales, hearing aids and many more small items that need a battery to power them.

Symptoms

The symptoms for swallowing a battery can look like any other illness. They may include chest pain, coughing, vomiting, trouble swallowing etc.

If you think your child has swallowed or inserted a button battery (eg up their nose), action straight away, it's an emergency.

Remember ...

- Check your home for things that use button batteries
- Make sure all the compartments that hold button batteries in place in an item are securely locked or fastened.
- If you keep any spares, make



sure they're out of the children's reach.

- Keep batteries well away from lollies or medications.
- Check anything given to your kids for button batteries – they're often in small flashing toys and jewellery items.
- Throw the batteries away safely as soon as they are flat.
- Keep the Poisons Information Centre phone number handy and put it in your mobile phone – 131 126.



Save the Children International CEO visits Ceduna

The CEO of Save the Children International, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, visited Ceduna on Friday 31 March. Helle is renowned internationally for her bold leadership and her boundless passion to improve the world for children. She was the Prime Minister of Denmark from 2011 to 2015 and the leader of the Social Democrats from 2005 to 2015.

In the morning she officially opened the new Mothers and Babies House followed by a Tree Planting Ceremony in the garden to officially commemorate the opening as a symbol of new life. The Mothers and Babies House is an initiative of the Ceduna Services Reform. AFSS is part of the Ceduna Services Leadership Group and was assigned to lead a committee of dedicated members to create a model and source a lead agency which would then take over the establishment and running of the house. The need for a secure and supported home



Above: Helle Thorning-Schmidt (centre) cuts the ribbon to officially open the new Mothers and Babies House in Ceduna. Photo by Timothy Standing. Used by permission.

for mothers pre- and post natal was discussed at a meeting in mid 2015. After several meetings Save the Children Australia took over as the lead agency and was able to secure funding, with some funding also sourced through the Ceduna Services Reform. Much work has been done to establish the house, the model, procedures and staffing. AFSS is still part of the Mothers and Babies House advisory group. The first client has been utilising this new service in Ceduna since the beginning of April.

After lunch Helle presented information at the Ceduna Memorial Hall on Save the Children's work all over the world; they are currently present in 61 countries.

Save the Children Australia is focussed on making a real difference to children's lives. In the early evening AFSS was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss the progress towards this goal both locally and internationally in a small group.

The Corporate Services team hits the road!

The Corporate Services team, based in the Waymouth Street office, has put in a tremendous collective effort over the last six months or so during the set-up stages of the new Residential Services. They undertook a significantly increased number of tasks, including:

- ❑ purchase orders for ordering goods and furniture to fill the new houses
- ❑ invoices for payment of the many services undertaken around the 7 + 1 new houses
- ❑ arranging all the job advertisements and subsequent

bookings for interviews

- ❑ bookings for the induction training of the 120+ new staff
- ❑ creation of all the new staff members' Payroll records
- ❑ RAA, insurance, lease and Fleet records for 18 additional vehicles.

So, it was fitting that the team members undertake a road trip and actually visit the various service sites we operate right across Adelaide. It was a great way to let them see the fruits of their labour and for the staff to put faces to voices and names

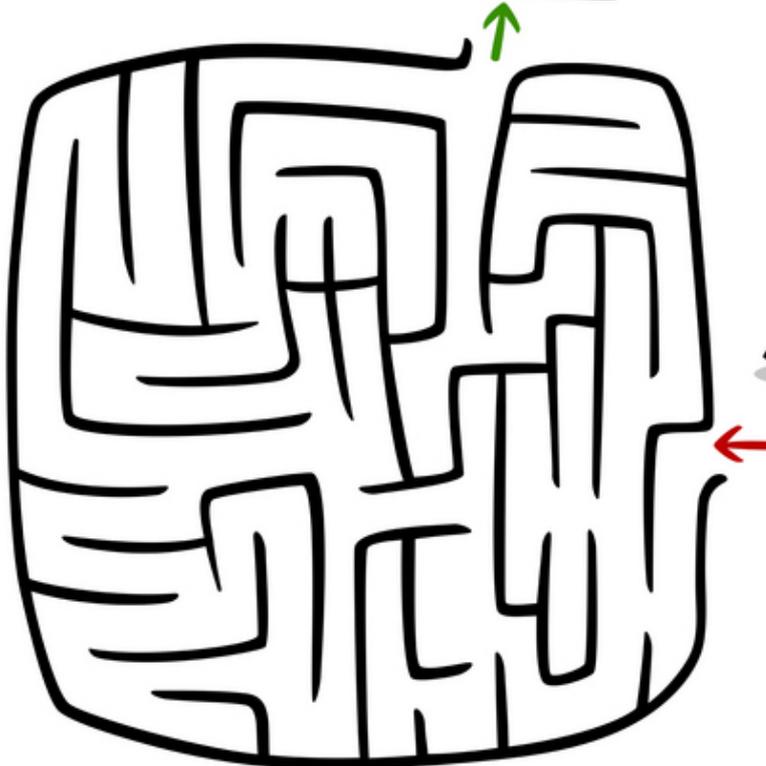
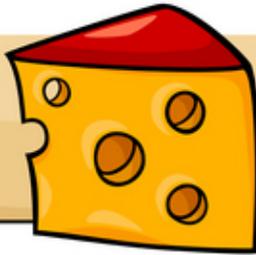
they often only communicate with via phone and email. The team was also able to see the sites that until then have mostly been names in our systems.

The team was greeted with hospitality and warmth at all locations and it also provided an opportunity for those staff to talk to the Accounts, Payroll and other support staff about their queries on their own turf.

A big thank you to the Corporate Services team – we promise the next six months won't be as busy (maybe!).

Just for kids

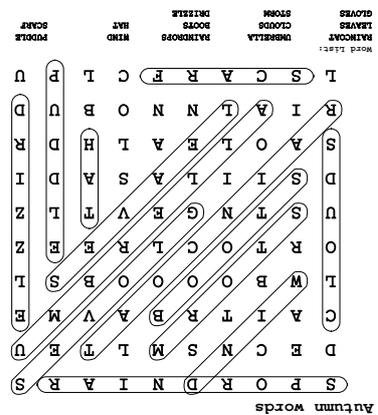
Get the mouse to the cheese!



Autumn words

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

Find the autumn words in the word find.
 Answers below.



Word List:

RAINCOAT	UMBRELLA	RAINDROPS	WIND	PUDDLE
LEAVES	CLOUDS	BOOTS	HAT	SCARF
GLOVES	STORM	DRIZZLE		



AFSS changes up a gear on the internet highway

AFSS is installing a new 20MBps internet line in our Head Office at 134 Waymouth Street, Adelaide. The old line was 10MBps. This doubles the speed of our internet connection, which will ensure our service remains at its optimum performance as the organisation heads into the future.

The street had to be dug up to bring the cable up the side of the building into the computer room on Level 2.

Reliable and fast communication is vital to us providing our service to Aboriginal communities in South Australia.

AFSS' internet and IT needs are ably met by Rob Phillips, one of our hard working behind-the-scenes team members whose time is spent ensuring that all things technical are running smoothly, which is vital to our organisation, particularly as we have offices located around the State.



Above: AFSS' IT wizard Rob Phillips is pictured with the equipment installed for the 20MBps line.

Supporting our foster carers: SA Shorts holiday draw ... and the winner is: Courtnee Hart

AFSS values and respects the wonderful commitment and care that our AFSS carers provide to Aboriginal children who are unable to live with their parents.

To show our appreciation of their hard work, we regularly hold a draw for all our carers with the prize being an SA Shorts weekend getaway voucher, which we hope provides a much needed and relaxing time away.

The most recent raffle was drawn by Sharron Williams, AFSS Chief Executive, and the winner is Courtnee (*pictured right*), who provides long term, emergency and respite care for children in the metropolitan area. Congratulations and thank you for your dedication, Courtnee. We hope the holiday provides you with an enjoyable and much-deserved break.



Winangay feedback and training

AFSS was fortunate to have Paula Hayden from Winangay Resources spend time in Adelaide on 4, 5 and 6 April for the purposes of providing feedback

and training on the Winangay Assessment Tool and current assessments in progress.

It was a great opportunity to work with our AFSS regional

staff who came to Adelaide and to also include staff from the Carer and Registration Unit from the Department for Child Protection with six staff attending.



Pictured left: Back row from left: Peter Dyer, Mecia Elliot DCP, Paula Hayden, from Winangay Resources Inc, Judy Spooner AFSS, Donna Dixon AFSS, Illira Wanganeen AFSS, Deb Merchant AFSS, Rebecca Buckley DCP, Jody Lynch DCP and Sally Buczko DCP.

Front row: Alicia Keilty AFSS, Toni Lee Miller AFSS, Jasila Jehangir AFSS, Jessica Backman AFSS.

New AFSS team members



Hi, my name is **Tama Daviess**. I am a new case worker within the Stronger Families team, based in Ceduna.

My previous work background is working with victims and children who have experienced family violence or sexual assault.

I have worked rural and remote for the past 12 years including Whyalla, Mount Gambier, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Lands, Leigh Creek and the surrounding Aboriginal communities before moving to Ceduna two years ago.

I am passionate about working in rural areas with families and particularly children, as I believe everyone should be able to access services and be provided with opportunities, including education and health.

I am currently studying my Social Work degree part time via distance education and am enjoying the diversity and broad range of subjects it covers.

I have two children, a girl aged seven and a boy aged five. In our spare time we enjoy camping, fishing and discovering the interesting flora and fauna which inhabit the West Coast.

I'm looking forward to working with a great team at Ceduna and be provided with the opportunity to work with families and assist them in making positive changes.



I'm **Kimberly Amos**. I am a Yankuntjatjara Arabana woman. I was born in Port Augusta and grew up in Oodnadatta. I have six children ranging from aged 21 to four, which has given me a really good understanding of children's development.

Over the last 10 years, whilst living in Oodnadatta, I worked in the following areas: Student Support Officer at the local school, Substance Misuse Worker,

Women's Coordinator, Jet Crèche childcare worker and facilitator for Women's Programs. I learnt and grew my knowledge from all of the above positions and I enjoyed every part of it.

I have recently joined AFSS Port Augusta and I work within the Stronger Families team as a Case Worker.

In addition to the above career pathways, I was recently employed for a short period of time with the Aboriginal Diabetes Study (SAHMRI) out at Davenport's Pika Wiya Clinic.

In all my employment I just know that I have a passion for helping people.

I'm looking forward to working, learning and bringing my experience and knowledge to the Stronger Families team and meeting you all.

AFSS foster care info stall at Cummins



On Friday 31 March Jessica Backman and Toni-Lee Miller, from Family Based Care Port Lincoln, held an information stall at the Cummins IGA to raise awareness of the need for foster carers in the local community. There was a free amazing Easter

hamper raffle and Amy Charnock and her lovely family (*pictured above*) were the winners from the many entries received.

A number of people wanted additional information on fostering and we hope to hear from them in the near future.





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/- ALRM Inc
27 Beatty Terrace
Murray Bridge SA 5254
Phone 0418 499 649

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



All about AFSS

This article was researched from the internet and put together by Port Augusta Stronger Families client, Phillipa Coulthard, for inclusion in the local Work for the Dole newsletter. It provides a great overview of AFSS' work for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

What is AFSS all about?

Aboriginal Family Support Service (AFSS) has been around for more than 36 years. AFSS was established in 1978 and it was once known as the Aboriginal Child Care Agency Forum Inc. (ACCA) and then became AFSS in 1988.

It was offering a wide range of family based programs, based on the Aboriginal community and community organisations which involved matters relating to child protection.

Before 1978, Aboriginal children were often removed from their families and communities without consent or consultations with the birth or extended family members.

Its key role was to look at the justice and provide the support, assistance and advocacy to Aboriginal children, youth and families. With the passing of the Children's Protection Act in the South Australian Parliament in 1993, the legislation required that Families SA should become involved with Aboriginal child placement issues and consult with the Aboriginal organisation before any decision or orders are made in relation to Aboriginal children.

The Aboriginal organisation is also known as a gazetted

organisation. The gazetted organisation undertakes an important role in ensuring the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle considers the importance of culture, country and connection for Aboriginal people.

What's AFSS doing now?

AFSS has grown into an organisation with over 150 staff.

The offices are located in Adelaide, Berri, Ceduna, Coober Pedy, Murray Bridge, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln.

The services include family based foster care and family reunification services (Stronger Families) and some services eg gambling prevention, are region specific.

AFSS focuses on working to make sure that Aboriginal children maintain their cultural links despite being separated from birth parent(s) and having a positive outcome where children are reunited with their families.



Why not visit the AFSS website, www.afss.com.au to find out more about the services that we offer to the community?