



# Aboriginal Family Support Services Newsletter

July - August 2018

## Celebrating Aboriginal children

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day 2018



*Pictured above: Sharron Williams, AFSS Chief Executive, and Hon Rachel Sanderson, Minister for Child Protection, visit some of the information stalls at the Children's Day celebrations.*

AFSS joined in the celebrations held across the country for National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day on 3 August. This was the third Children's Day event that AFSS has coordinated.

It was a time for families, carers and community to come together and celebrate the strengths and culture of Aboriginal children. And what a great time it was, held once again at Tauondi Aboriginal Community College.

Although the weather wasn't as good as we would have liked, it didn't dampen the spirits of the many children who attended.

Each year the event's success grows; this year there were over 35 stalls providing information to families, carers and community, and all the activities provided fun with a child-focussed theme.

Entertainment was ably provided by Robert Taylor on didgeridoo (yidaki), Moogy Sumner and the Tal-Kin-Jeri dance troop, Ringo Rigney and the Kineman Karma Band, interstate performer Larry

Brandy, Aboriginal story teller, and of course the beautiful children from Kura Yerlo – Minya Kati Room.

AFSS staff were incredible and worked tirelessly to ensure that Aboriginal kids, families and carers celebrated Children's Day in style.

This year was a milestone for SNAICC; the theme for Children's Day 2018 was *SNAICC – Celebrating Our Children for 30 Years*.

The Minister for Child Protection, Hon Rachel Sanderson, enjoyed meeting the children, who couldn't wait to tell her all about the day and what they had been doing.

The Minister also took the opportunity to talk with many of the adults who attended the event, chatting with stall holders, staff from other non-government organisations, parents, carers and family members.

All in all a great time was had by all, and AFSS looks forward to putting on an even bigger and better celebration in 2019.



## A message from the Chief Executive

It has been a particularly busy period for us here at AFSS.

As well as our usual activities we have been pleased to take an active part in two of our major Aboriginal celebrations – NAIDOC week in July and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day in August.

We were blessed with glorious weather for the NAIDOC March and Family Fun Day, this year held at Tarndanyangga, where AFSS staff once again hosted the Elders' Pavilion, as well as having a stall sharing information on the importance of foster carers; we were pleased that on the day a number of people registered their interest in taking on this important role.

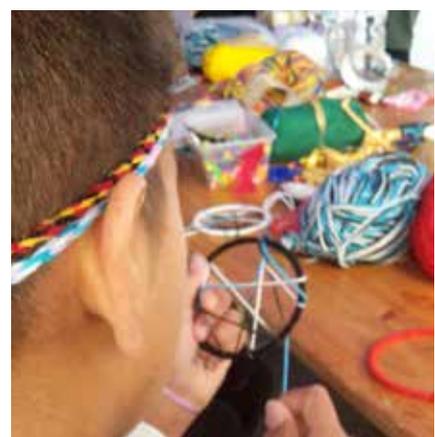
We were once again delighted by the great turnout at our Children's Day celebrations held at Tauondi College on 3 August. Congratulations to all the AFSS staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the day was a huge success.

The inclement weather didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended and a great time was had by all.

We were pleased to welcome the Hon Rachel Sanderson, Minister for Child Protection to this year's event (see story on page 1).

As we celebrate 40 years of service with the Aboriginal community this year, it is timely that we will be launching our Strategic Plan for 2018 - 23. Stay tuned for more information in the next AFSS newsletter.

Sharron Williams  
Chief Executive



## Children's Day Fun

AFSS' Aboriginal Children's Day 2018 celebrations provided plenty of fun and activity for all the kids who attended, from glitter tattoos, Farmer Darcy's Petting Zoo, dream-catcher-making, face painting, a bouncy castle and more!

# AFSS hits the trail with Operation Flinders team

On 18 June this year, five Aboriginal male students, along with support staff Jon Fatt-Clifton from the Coober Pedy Area School and David Pietsch from AFSS, boarded a bus bound for Yankaninna Station in the northern Flinders Ranges to take part in an Operation Flinders exercise. Shanaka from the school kindly drove us over 3,000kms so that we could attend.

Our team, *Tango 2*, led by Josh (Team Leader) and Phil, consisted of Dwayne, Christopher, N'Ky, Shakiel and Max.

Over the next eight days, we were confronted with physical, emotional and psychological challenges in the isolated and harsh environment of the Flinders Ranges.

The days were sunny but the temperature plummeted to below zero at night. Our drink bottles froze when left outside! Activities included daily cross country hikes, abseiling, team building activities, bush survival skills, navigation and first aid skills, an understanding of Aboriginal culture and the history of the Flinders Ranges.

The Operation Flinders program seeks to build students' confidence, resilience and people skills through positive experience and achievement.

It was an opportunity for participants to reflect on their lives, to consider what's going well, what the challenges are and what's important in life.

It allowed us an opportunity to identify personal goals and strategies to achieve them, even when there are obstacles.



*Pictured above: The Tango 2 team and their support crew took part in the challenging exercise amidst the rugged beauty of the Flinders Ranges.*

Our team carried backpacks containing sleeping/camping equipment, water and a limited supply of food.

Each day involved a cross-country hike to a designated night camp. Each camp had limited facilities to support the team and rations for dinner, breakfast the next morning and rations that were carried in our backpacks for lunch.

A supply of water, camp equipment and cooking gear was located at these camps.

There were no showers although bush toilets were provided at some locations; other locations required the team to dig their own toilets! *Tango 2* pulled together well, all contributing to camp duties including cooking, cleaning, collecting firewood and digging toilets.

Once the program commenced, participants were expected to complete it. There was no opportunity to opt out. Despite being exhausted, having sore legs and shoulders and blisters,

our team persevered and hiked over an amazing 100km in eight days. This included climbing the property's three key topographical features including the notorious Mt Rose. This is rarely achieved by any team.

On our final morning, our team was issued with sets of dog tags acknowledging the achievement of each member.

Dwayne and Christopher also received additional awards recognising their efforts within the team and their own personal development. Well done *Tango 2*!

Through undertaking the program, new participants are able to gain credit towards their Year 12 South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE).

Our Operation Flinders exercise was a valuable and meaningful experience for all involved. The efforts of Operation Flinders staff to provide a well coordinated and life changing experience was greatly appreciated.





Port Augusta



Port Lincoln



Ceduna



Adelaide



Cooper Pedy



Murraylands

**Because of her we can** was the theme for this year's NAIDOC which was celebrated with pride by our communities around South Australia. Check out the following stories to find out more about NAIDOC happenings in 2018.

## 2018 NAIDOC celebrated across AFSS regions

### Adelaide

The sun shone down on everyone this year and after the NAIDOC march, attended by a large crowd, everyone spent lunchtime and early afternoon enjoying great food, great company, and the sounds and sights of great Nunga entertainers.

AFSS Adelaide staff were pleased to once again host the Elders' Pavilion at the Family Fun Day, this year held in Tarndanyangga (Victoria Square). The Elders' Pavilion provided all who attended the event with the opportunity to sit down and enjoy a cuppa and scones, pies and pasties in comfort, and have a chat with friends old and new.

A large number of organisations also provided information about their services, including AFSS, where giveaways and information was shared with Aboriginal community members and others who attended to enjoy the NAIDOC celebrations.

AFSS was pleased to have the opportunity to talk with

# 2018 NAIDOC celebrated across AFSS regions

people about the vital roles that foster carers play in the lives of Aboriginal children who are unable to live with their birth families and the importance of keeping them connected to culture.

A number of people expressed interest in becoming foster carers. AFSS also offered a free raffle, with a large goodie basket as the major prize, won by Helen Kassman-Reid. Minor prizewinners were Katherine Moore and Willie Yannick. Congratulations to the prize winners.

## Ceduna

Ceduna AFSS staff Michelle and Carly were a part of the Ceduna NAIDOC Committee for 2018 and this year's theme was very significant to all.

There were many events happening throughout the week, including the church service held at Koonibba Community Church, followed by a BBQ lunch and Ladies' and Kids' Football Match. The NAIDOC March, the Flag raising Ceremony and Welcome to Country were also part of the celebrations. This was followed by a Bush Tucker cook-up and Fun Day at the Sports Complex. A Golf Day Competition with BBQ lunch and mentors to help with the beginners was a fun event for all.

There was also a quiz night, Elders luncheon with Elder of the Year awards.

The Kids Fancy Dress night saw a great turn out of parents and children, where Helen Dunn from AFSS was one of the judges. Everyone was amazed at

all the beautiful and creative costumes that the kids and parents had put together.

The Far West Aboriginal Women's Council hosted a Women's High Tea and over 20 awards were presented to women for their dedication and strengths throughout the years.

Thursday a Kids Sports Day was held followed on Friday by the Youth Ball and Saturday the Adult Ball.

The weather was great throughout the week and we are all looking forward to NAIDOC in 2019.

## Coober Pedy

Malu tails under the stars was the highlight of this year's NAIDOC in Coober Pedy, when community came together to watch our young people showcase their talents in dance and singing.

And what a beautiful night it was to celebrate!

The youth ball was also a very enjoyable event, where local Aboriginal youth had the opportunity to put on their best threads, glam up and dance the night away.

## Murraylands

Sunday 8 July started with a smoking ceremony with Cyril Trevorrow and Harley Hall (didge musician/artist) on the grounds of the Ramblers Football Club in Murray Bridge.

The major football match (Points v Rovers – young unmarried fellas v the married fellas).

This was a friendly match and was won by the Points team (young fellas) by about 2 or 3 goals – it looked like a couple of 10 year old boys were playing for them too.....!!!

This year we had a number of netball matches, which included a range of ages competing in the event.

*Continued on next page*



*Pictured above: The Deadly Nannas treated the crowd to a great performance, singing songs in Ngarrindjeri and rap.*



# 2018 NAIDOC celebrated across AFSS regions

*Continued from previous page*

All participants received medallions and were proud to wear them all day.

The Elders three-course lunch was catered this year by *Personal Chef* and the teenage grand children took the orders and delivered the meals to the Elders. They all wore special aprons with this year's theme embroidered onto them. Steve Sumner Snr (CEO, Moorundi) gave a delightful and informative speech, introducing the Moorundi teams and new programs available to the Elders they will be closely working with.

Many people remarked that they thoroughly enjoyed their day out and guessed there were over 300 people there for the day.

The local Mobilong Rotary Club cooked up a storm with their BBQs for the community with meat supplied by the Southside Village Butcher, McCues' Bakery and Thomas Foods Int.

Monday 9 July was a beautiful morning and it was great to see lots of young children attend the bridge walk from Eastside, going down the main street of Murray Bridge and finishing at the local council offices where the Ngarrindjeri NAIDOC awards were being presented.

Morning tea was announced

and the Elders were invited in first, then the community joined them, welcomed by the Mayor of Murray Bridge, Brenton Lewis.

Everyone was encouraged to take part in the fun day activities at Ninkowar where the Lions Club of Murray Bridge cooked a BBQ lunch for everyone. The giveaways were aplenty, with agency stalls promoting their services to the community.

This year we had a small petting zoo for the children with goats, ducks, chickens, sheep, pigs as well as Animals Anonymous with their reptile display including a tawny frogmouth, baby crocodile, bearded dragons and blue-tongue lizards. This was the busiest stall, apart from the face painting and DJ Vance, working so well with the children.

We were also treated to the dulcet tones of the *Deadly Nannas*, who sang songs in Ngarrindjeri and rap, and everyone enjoyed singing along. A great time was had by all.

## Port Lincoln

It was a last minute dash to organise NAIDOC in Port Lincoln this year. But as always the community came together and pulled off the week with no issues. In partnership with Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Services, West Coast Youth Services, Barngarla,

Port Lincoln Community Council, Port Lincoln High School and AFSS a range of events was organised.

The week got into a swing with the NAIDOC March on Monday 9 July, with the official opening by Emma Richards and Elders, followed by the Fancy Dress Kids' Disco at Mallee Park on Tuesday. The Elders' lunch, for those 65 years and more, had a great turn out on the Wednesday.

The Wombat Pit Cookout on the Thursday took everybody by surprise as it did not rain this year.

To finish the week off, the NAIDOC Cabaret, held at Mallee Park Football Club on the Friday night was enjoyed by young and old.

Pictured on page 4, Toni-Lee Miller AFSS FBC support worker; Jo Clark, West Coast Youth Service CEO; Donna Carr, AFSS CSW facilitator; Chris Presage; AFSS carer and West Coast Youth Services Case Worker, enjoyed the NAIDOC celebrations.

## Port Augusta

The NAIDOC March was well supported this year in Port Augusta and a special thank you to all AFSS staff who helped and participated in the march and events held in Port Augusta during the week.

There was great support from agencies and a large community contingent and young people attended and participated in all the events – the food stalls were all very well supported.

The designers and painters of the AFSS banner this year were Melissa Wilson and daughters Poppy and Violet with Maxine Turner. You can see their deadly handiwork in the photo on page 4.



# Murray Bridge AGHS Workshops

Date and time	Location	Contact
<b>Tues 2 October</b> 10am - 12noon <i>Deadly Choices</i> Light refreshments provided	Ninkowar 1 Wharf Rd <b>Murray Bridge</b>	Bronte Warneke  Phone 0418 499 649
<b>Tues 6 November</b> <i>Gambling and the Workplace</i> Light refreshments provided	Ninkowar 1 Wharf Rd <b>Murray Bridge</b>	
<b>Tues 4 December</b> <i>What am I really gambling with?</i> 10am - 12noon Light refreshments provided	Ninkowar 1 Wharf Rd <b>Murray Bridge</b>	

**Aboriginal Family Support Services Gambling Help Service**

**Signs that there may be a problem**

**Behavioral clues:** Stop doing things they used to enjoy; Changes partners of sleep, eating or sex; Doesn't do as they say or misses occasions; Doesn't have care of themselves, or garage, work, school or family tasks; Uses alcohol or other drugs more often; Doesn't care for the children properly; Misses family events; Three or more days of gambling of the line; Changes friends (particularly with loans); Has health, stomach and bowel problems; Has trouble gambling; Doesn't want to spend money on gambling; Can't stop thinking about money to gamble or pay debts; Fights over money with others.

**Emotional clues:** Withdraws from family and friends; Feels nervous or is shy, or has difficulty paying attention; Misses things and suffers outbreaks of anger; Constantly feels guilty about financial losses; Complains of boredom or restlessness; Is depressed and/or suicidal.

**Money clues:** Is secretive and has kept up about money; Takes on extra jobs, but you don't see any extra money; Always short of money; Asks for money to gamble or pay debts; Hides bank and credit card statements; Borrow money through credit cards.

**Time clues:** Often late for work or school or events; Comes to work unprepared or late.

**Problem gambling and mental health:** There is a strong link between people with a gambling problem and mental health issues. Gambling can also be a sign that a person may already have a mental health problem and requires help. Anyone can develop a gambling problem, it doesn't depend on age, gender, cultural background, education or socio-economic circumstances. Developing a gambling problem can often be very quick. For every person with a gambling problem, between five and 10 others (not significant gamblers, children) also experience serious consequences, including: Financial difficulties; Relationship and family breakdown; Emotional and mental distress; Loss or employment or missed opportunities; Difficulty with study.

**Problem Gambling Myths and Facts:** A problem gambler may gamble often or not very often. Frequency is not as important as the impact of the gambling. Psychological, emotional, financial or health problems of their loved ones. Children will often pick up on the stress and tension. They will also be affected if there is no money for things like food or school items. Children have been shown to be at higher risk of developing self-harm behaviours, drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, depression.

**The odds are NOT in your favour!** So - what are the odds with different sorts of gambling?
 

- Black Rhinos: Getting 5 Black Rhinos on Black Rhinos Machine (Top Prize) \$1 bet per line. Odds of winning - 1 in 9,745,425
- Lotto: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 8,145,000
- Oz Lotto: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 45,379,420
- Powerball: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 74,747,400
- Keno: Winning First Division (spot to playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 8,911,711
- Keno: Winning First Division (Spot 9) Odds of winning - 1 in 1,388,487
- Super 6: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 1,000,000
- The Pools: Winning First Division (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 2,740,481
- Instant scratchies: Winning First Division with \$1 High Tier (playing 1 game) Odds of winning - 1 in 1,000,000
- Trackside picking, of mares, or jockeys in a 13 horse race Odds of winning - 1 in 1,175

## What is the AFSS Aboriginal Gambling Help Service?

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

AFSS also recognises that education and awareness are fundamental in supporting Aboriginal people who have gambling problems by:

1. Building resilience
2. Promoting connectedness
3. Awareness and education.

To find out more, visit the AFSS website, [www.afss.com.au](http://www.afss.com.au) or ring the Aboriginal Gambling Help Service staff member in your region:

- Murray Bridge - Bronte Warneke, 0418 499 649
- Berri/Barmera - Norman Giles, 8532 3192
- Port Lincoln - Anna Angus, 0428 499 649
- Port Augusta - Megan Devlin, 8641 0907

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Government of South Australia  
 Department for Communities and Social Inclusion



Aboriginal Family Support Services  
Together with the community

AFSS Community Safety and Wellbeing team is pleased to offer

## Seasons for Healing

### Do you

- Need a space for conversation and reflection?
- Need help in dealing with your feelings of hurt, pain, grief and loss?



*Then maybe*

*Seasons for Healing is just what you need*

This education-based program uses the seasons as a way of supporting you and helping you to understand and handle your feelings.

It is run in small groups, for people who are all going through the same thing – dealing with grief and loss.

### Do you think Seasons for Healing would be helpful to you?

If you answered yes, please contact us to register or to find out more. You may also be referred to AFSS by another agency.

AFSS' Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitators run the program and provide a culturally safe and confidential environment for all participants across South Australia.

**Please email [csw@afss.com.au](mailto:csw@afss.com.au) or contact AFSS CS&W team at:**

Smithfield  
39A Anderson Walk  
Phone (08) 8254 1077

Coober Pedy  
Lot 1991 Aylett St  
Phone (08) 8672 3066

Port Lincoln  
3 Gloucester Tce  
Phone (08) 8683 1909





## June Oscar visits AFSS Coober Pedy

It was great to welcome June Oscar to Coober Pedy earlier this year.

June Oscar, AO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, and her team from the Australian Human rights Commission visited AFSS Coober Pedy and ran sessions with women and girls to hear what is important for them in their community.

The theme was *Wiji Yani U Thangani – Women’s Voices (Securing Our Rights Securing Our Future)*.

The morning session saw about 30 women attend to discuss issues in Coober Pedy and in the afternoon 12 young girls from Coober Pedy Area School took part in workshops about what their needs are in Coober Pedy – what they need to succeed in their future.

*Pictured above, June Oscar and some of the young workshop participants.*



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



# Ceduna AFSS celebrates Children's Day

The SNAICC 30 Year Celebration of Children's Day 2018 was held at the Ngura Yadurirn Children's Centre in Ceduna this year, on Friday August 3. The Children's Centre is one of a number of Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting in South Australia, focussing on supporting Aboriginal families with young children.

With a good turnout of both children and parents, everyone had a fun time. It was a lovely day and thankfully it didn't rain on the fire pit!

The large Gecko-dressed mascot was supervised by interested young ones testing out his tail. Activities included painting and craft, basket weaving and animal making, lots of play in the



jumping castle and just as much eating. Traditionally fire roasted kangaroo tails in the outside fire pit, wombat with damper and scones, jam and cream fuelled continued activities.

The little ones said Welcome to Country and participated in the

Flag Raisings. A demonstration of traditional hunting tools had everyone's attention (*pictured above*). AFSS staff attended and supported the activities throughout the day and put the SNAICC activity bags into the eager little hands of all the children who attended.



## 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.

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](mailto:peter.frankcom@afss.com.au) 8205 1500

Ceduna Michelle Naylor [michelle.naylor@afss.com.au](mailto:michelle.naylor@afss.com.au) 8625 3466

Coober Pedy Lisa McClure [lisa.mcclure@afss.com.au](mailto:lisa.mcclure@afss.com.au) 8672 3066

Port Augusta Deb Merchant [deborah.merchant@afss.com.au](mailto:deborah.merchant@afss.com.au) 8641 0907

Port Lincoln Toni-Lee Miller [toni-lee.miller@afss.com.au](mailto:toni-lee.miller@afss.com.au) 8683 1909



Aboriginal Family Support Services  
Together with the community



# Around the houses

## NAIDOC March and UNHCR

On 13 July a group of young people in residential care met with representatives from the UN Human Rights Commission for breakfast to talk about the charter of rights and how well they felt they were being heard in residential care.

The young people talked about what it means to them to be in an Aboriginal service that values their culture.

They talked about the importance of having adults in their lives who cared for them and they felt connected to. They also talked about the importance of being able to share their experiences and spend time with other young people in care as well as friends from school and across their social networks. Afterwards everyone walked and took part in the NAIDOC March and



had a great day out at Tarndanyangga, enjoying the food, music, activities and beautiful weather.

## Ice Fun



A group of young people in residential care went to see Disney on Ice. Below is one young person's review:

*The guy at the start did a backflip. That was cool and I loved it. I liked the Toy Story bit with Woody. He sang "You've got a friend in me." I liked the Frozen part. I liked the dance and Olaf was in it.*

In the school holidays the same group of young people had the opportunity to test their skills at the Winter Wonderland in Tarndanyangga. While some are skilled on the ice, others had never been skating before and worked really hard, falling down but continually getting back up again.

They also loved the kanga aids and the more able skaters spent a lot of time helping out the beginners.

## Football Clinic



In July a group of young people in residential care took part in a football clinic at Central District Football Club.

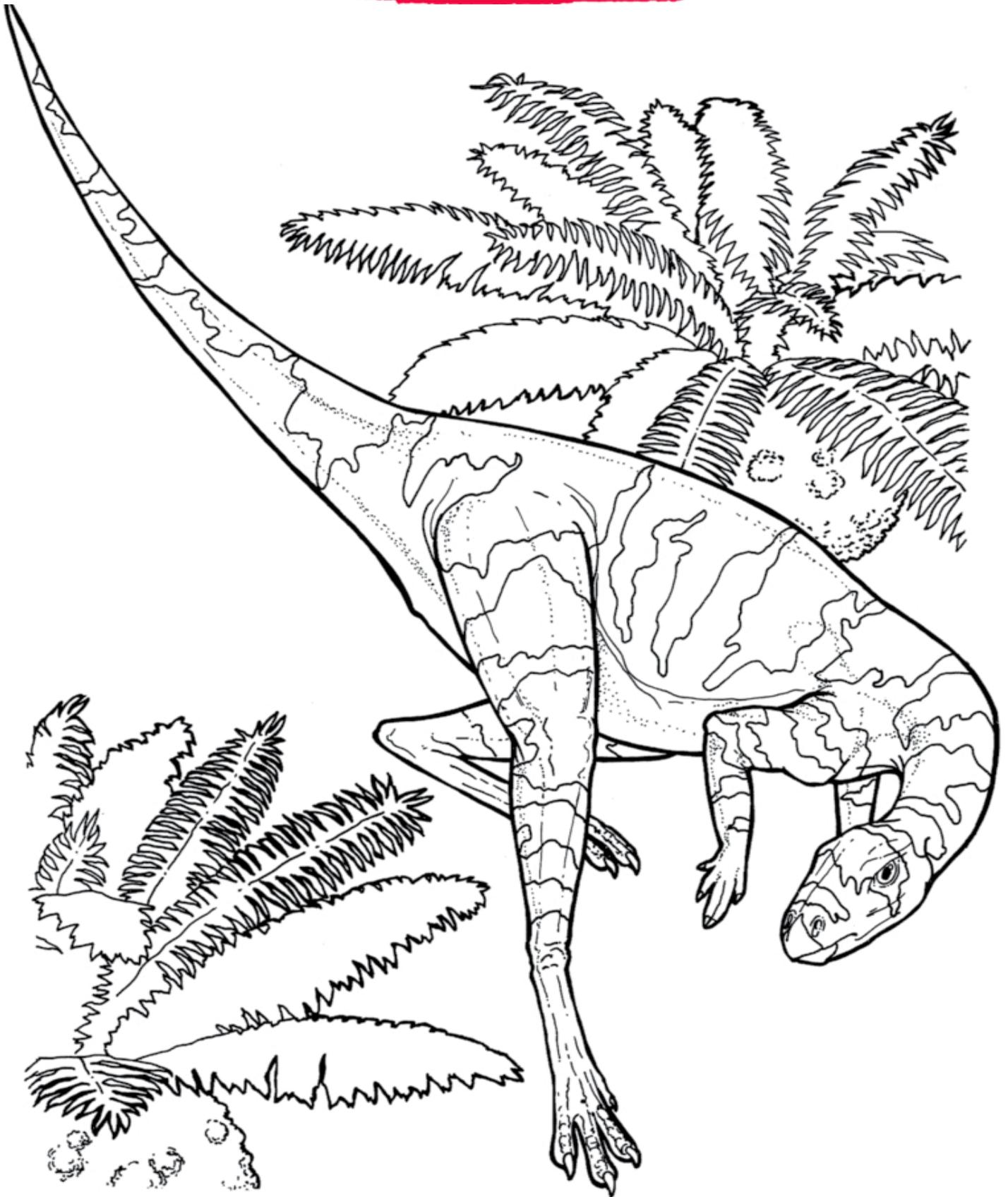
It was a great day with all the young people participating really well in drills on handballing, tackling and kicking, before taking part in a friendly match.

The young people were treated to a tour of the training rooms and each was given a goodie bag with a poster, football and other treats.

Thanks to Central District for having us and especially to Isaya McKenzie for organising the event.



# Just for kids



A dinosaur for you to colour!

# Welcome to the AFSS team!



My name is **Tom Steeples** and I am the new Senior Manager, Regional Services. I have had a long and very fulfilling career in the community services sector that has led me to this position at AFSS. All of my working and volunteer roles have focused on vulnerable communities, particularly children and young people. I enjoy research, and I have lectured in counselling and psychotherapy at Adelaide Uni and UniSA. I've also taught counselling skills and supervised students on clinical placement for these universities. Additionally, I have worked as a tutor for a number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students through the University of Adelaide's Wirrlu Yarlur program. You may see me with Pavlova Steeples, my Hearing Dog. As someone who is profoundly Deaf (please tap me on the shoulder if I appear to have not heard

something), Pavlova has alerted me to different sounds around my home and at work for about 10 years. I/we look forward to visiting all the regional teams over the next month or so!



Hi I'm **Rachael Dodd** and I have just recently joined with the AFSS team as the Assessment Officer at Metro. I'm excited about getting started in my new role at AFSS and I'm looking forward getting to know everyone as I settle in while learning more about the role. My working background has been quite varied but post degrees I have spent almost the last two years working with children under Guardianship with Baptist Care and have approximately 13 years of experience working with children. I enjoy playing music, which is something I hope to get back into a bit more and I'm involved with lacrosse on and off the field.

Please come and say hello when you find me near the lift upstairs. Thanks to everyone for being so welcoming. I look forward to working with all of you.



**Megan Devlin**, AFSS Port Augusta's new AGHS Worker, has spent the last four years living in remote/regional towns of Australia. Says Megan, "Prior to that I was travelling around Australia in my trusty van Trev. I love anything to do with travel and being outdoors, the by-product of two hippies!! I'm originally from Scotland so I will apologise in advance to anyone who has to have a phone conversation with me. "Coming from the hospitality industry, I have a strong knowledge of the gaming industry. I'm passionate about making a difference and looking forward to representing AFSS in the community working to tackle issues around gambling."

## Homelessness focus of event in the Port

Youth Accommodation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Specific Services (YAATSISS) had an information table at the Uniting SA Homelessness week in the West event held at the Child, Youth and Family Centre at Port Adelaide on 9 August.

Sandra, Roz and Rebecca looked after the table, giving out AFSS promotional items, flyers and pamphlets about the YAATSISS program to people attending the event and staff from other services who attended. Tessa also brought along a couple of clients from Olga Fudge Lodge.

There was a free BBQ lunch, entertainment, family activities and live music. It was a lovely day and the sun shone.

Relationships were strengthened with Aboriginal Sobriety Group and Aboriginal Community Connect and we also gained some useful information for clients from other services attending.



# All news is good news from Community Safety and Wellbeing

*Tracy Miller, Community Safety and Wellbeing Facilitator writes:*

“Well, when I was asked to write about a good news story for everyone, I was really torn. So much has happened in the first part of this year I was spoilt for choice.

Did I write about Point Pearce where Dot and I ran Healthy Homes and Routines and Rules or when Jane and I ran Seasons for Healing with the lovely ladies? Or did I talk about the group in Kadina who loved Healthy Homes with Dot and me, or Seasons for Healing with Frank and me?

How about metro, where we ran Seasons for Healing with several groups? Then there’s Mount Barker Circle of Security.

Well I loved doing all of these programs, however I’m going to share with you about Port Pirie.

Port Pirie started with a small group of four women who came every week for Growing up Healthy. I think it was Dot’s cooking that helped with that. Straight after we went into the Routines and Rules program and a couple of others joined for this. One of these women was Tanya; she had never attended any group before and was really shy, however it only took the two weeks



*Above: The artwork is just one sample of clients’ work from Respect Sista Girls 2 and Routines and Rules.* and she was singing our praises. Tanya rustled up friends and family to begin the Respect Sista Girls program with Jayne and me. We had 13 women attend, ages 13 to 55, and they all graduated. Each week we watched the group develop friendships and supports. With this self belief began. Trish is a lady who didn’t speak for the first couple of weeks, however she and her little daughters made cakes for the group to share and soon there was no stopping her! She would reflect every week on the topics covered and then come back and talk to me about what she had learnt. Her daughters joined us for Graduation and I made them a little certificate to say thank you for the yummy treats they made for each Thursday. Trish is now getting support for a group in Peterborough; I didn’t mention that she drove for an hour and a half just to get to the group. The women in this group taught us so much. They were so welcoming and open to new ideas. I felt very humbled when the ladies included me on their timeline of influential women in their lives. Jayne and I feel really blessed to have been part of their journey.

As a footnote two of the women have started their Certificate II in Community Wellbeing at Tafe and a third has enrolled for adult literacy classes so she can help her children learn to read.”

*Thank you for sharing, Tracy!*



*Pictured at left and below: Some of our amazing participants receive their certificates. Congratulations to everyone!*



# Homelessness Conference - Sharing Solutions to Ending Homelessness

Warren Guppy, Senior Manager Metropolitan Services, Deb Eckert, YAATSISS Program Manager and Sandra Schulz, YAATSISS Lead Support Worker, attended the Homelessness Conference – Sharing Solutions to Ending Homelessness at the Adelaide Convention Centre on 8 August.

The conference was convened by the Don Dunstan Foundation's Adelaide Zero Project, which has an aim to have no rough sleepers by 2020. A part of the program focused on reflections from some earlier consultations where volunteers spent two days speaking with people living on the streets. The team spoke with around 148 people who were sleeping rough in the city and managed to house about 10 of them.

There were guests speaker from *Houses 4 Houses*, which is a new and innovative idea to raise funds to assist low income earners to

purchase a home. For example, people can participate by signing and when they sell their house, one per cent of the profits contribute towards a fund that buys houses for low income earners. The money stays in the state it comes from and the next person that sells that house can also donate one per cent of the profit to *Houses 4 Houses*.

There were 16 mini presentations and participants could choose three to attend, each running for 20 minutes before moving on to the next presentation. Later in the day there were 16 mini discussions and again, participants chose three to attend, for 20 minutes each and then moved on to the next one.

One of the ideas being discussed was around non-profit organisations and community groups such as scouts and girl guides who had properties that were not being utilised and sometimes sold off to upgrade

other properties. There was a suggestion by Shelter SA to build units on the land and then lease units to low income earners, while other units are leased at market price, which would give NGOs a return of about five per cent for the money spent.

The main outcome included recognition of the continuing social factors that lead people into homelessness and a requirement to continue to work to find solutions to homelessness in South Australia. There was also acknowledgement that the approach was not just about housing people; the focus also needs to include wrap-around and other support services required to support people and save them from homelessness.

More information about the Don Dunstan Foundation and the Conference is located at [www.dunstan.org.au/events/homelessness-conference/](http://www.dunstan.org.au/events/homelessness-conference/)

## Thanks OZ Minerals!

OZ Minerals have generously made donations to AFSS Coober Pedy, including sporting equipment, sleeping bags, toys, books and bedding for families and the youth program.

They also raised funds through NAIDOC which was donated to AFSS Coober Pedy youth program to be used for youth leadership.

*Pictured at right with some of the donations are Lisa McClure, AFSS Manager Coober Pedy, and Chris Warrior from Oz Minerals.*





## Where to find us

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### Murray Bridge

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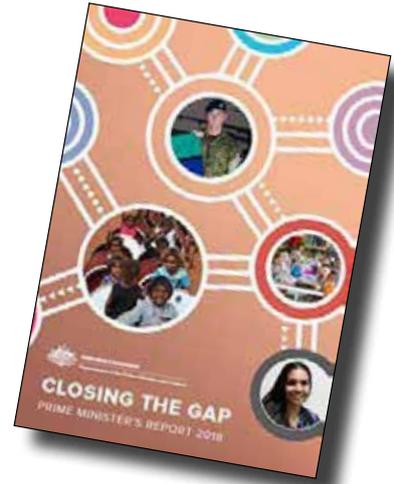
## Closing the Gap targets under the microscope

On Thursday 16 August AFSS Cultural Officers attended the Closing the Gap Refresh gathering held at the Adelaide Town Hall. Of the original 10 Recommendations of Closing the Gap only three are on track. From the seven outstanding recommendations the following has, and is, taking place across Australia.

Closing the Gap is a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) initiative designed to eliminate inequality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the areas of health, education and employment.

In February 2018 all Australian governments committed to undertake community consultations on the refresh ahead of COAG agreeing to a new Closing the Gap framework inclusive of state and national targets, performance indicators and accountabilities by October 2018.

Closing the Gap Refresh was developed collaboratively to ensure that it resonates with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.



In May and June 2018 the Commonwealth held a series of technical workshops which brought together Aboriginal stakeholders, academics, service delivery experts, data experts and government officials to collaboratively identify targets and indicators, utilising the findings of the consultations.

A major objective of the technical workshops was to map the pathways to success in each target area.

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet is now holding a series of round tables in each state and territory, to test the draft closing the Gap Refresh Targets as a reflection of the consultations to date.

## More fun at AFSS' Children's Day celebrations



*Pictured above left, the bouncy castle is always popular with the kids at Children's Day. Above right, Minister Sanderson chats with carers and stall holders.*