



Aboriginal Family Support Services
Strategic Plan 2018–23





'Root to fruit' acknowledges the importance of family, kin and culture to Aboriginal children's wellbeing so ensuring that Aboriginal kids are placed in care for the wellbeing of our communities.

Using the imagery of a tree, the roots and the fruit represent the children, and then they drift off into adulthood with the solid foundation of circle of security and culture.

'Root to fruit' by Elizabeth Close



Our Story

Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS) has been proudly serving South Australian Aboriginal communities since 1978. Our key focus is to ensure that Aboriginal culture, country and connection are always considered in matters relating to children and families.

AFSS is a strong organisation with over 250 staff across 22 locations providing a broad range of services with, and for, Aboriginal children, young people, families and communities.

We have achieved a great deal in our 40-year history. We aspire to achieve even more in the future. This is our plan for the next five years. It is what we will do to further strengthen Aboriginal families and communities to ensure that all Aboriginal children and young people can grow and develop within their family and culture.

Our Aspiration

We aspire to:

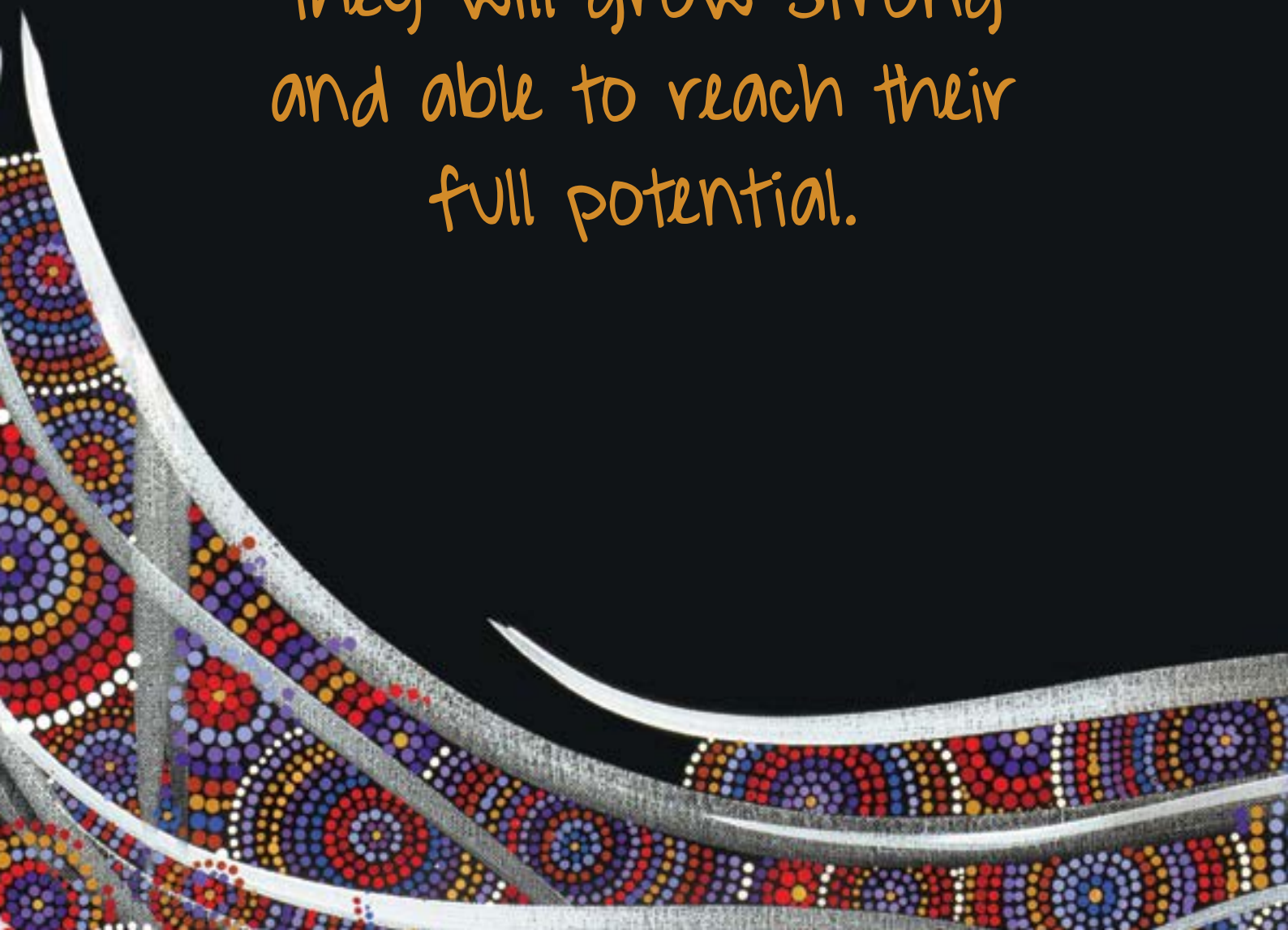
Build strong futures for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia

Sustain safe, supportive and resilient Aboriginal communities

Be a courageous, knowledgeable, effective, professional, hardworking and respected organisation that is strengthened and nourished through culture



Aboriginal culture is
thousands of years old.
It is living and vibrant,
and as our children
remain connected to it
they will grow strong
and able to reach their
full potential.



Our Values

Our values guide our behaviour – this is what we all believe in and will stand up for.

People

- We believe Aboriginal children have the right to be raised in a safe and healthy environment, preferably within their own community
- We believe everyone should be treated with dignity and respect
- We believe everyone has a right to be heard

Culture

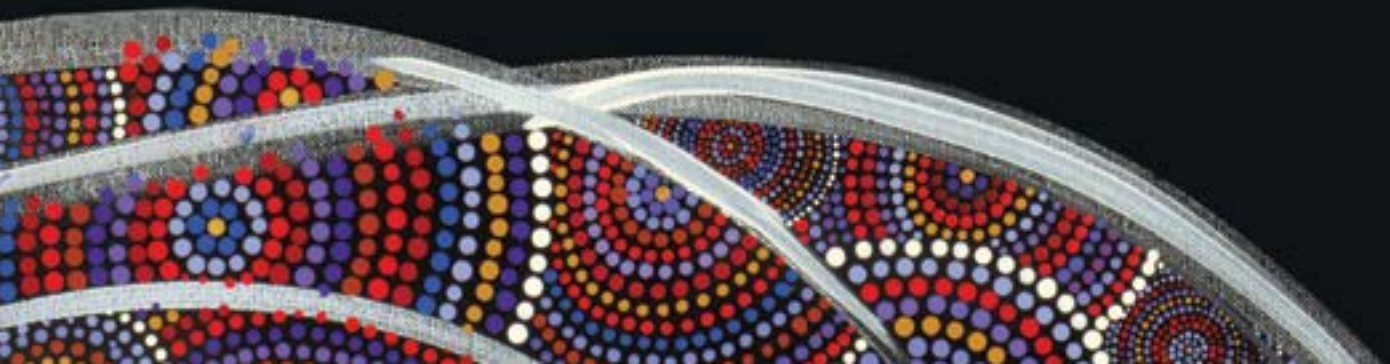
- Our culture gives us strength, stability, wisdom and power
- We have an obligation to share our culture within our communities and with others

Integrity

- We are truthful and honourable in everything we do
- We are accountable/responsible for our actions and decisions

Sustainability

- We are committed to achieving lasting, positive change
- We believe we are creating our future through our current actions and decisions






Our Plan

Delivering

- Providing services that are of consistently high quality, relevant and effective
- Helping grow resilient Aboriginal families who are able to care well for children
- Providing culturally safe and connected services for children and young people who can't be with their families
- Helping children and families reunify and build their future together
- Making informed, well considered decisions

Speaking Up, Giving Voice

- Promoting our role as trusted cultural authorities
- Taking the leadership role in reducing the removal of Aboriginal children from Aboriginal families
- Increasing our influence—sharing our vision and our work widely and with confidence
- Actively engaging and seeking to influence decision makers



By building on the strong foundations left by our founders AFSS will continue to provide strong leadership and committed staff to deliver the future directions of the organisation. This requires passion and dedication that will challenge and influence social change for the wellbeing of our communities.

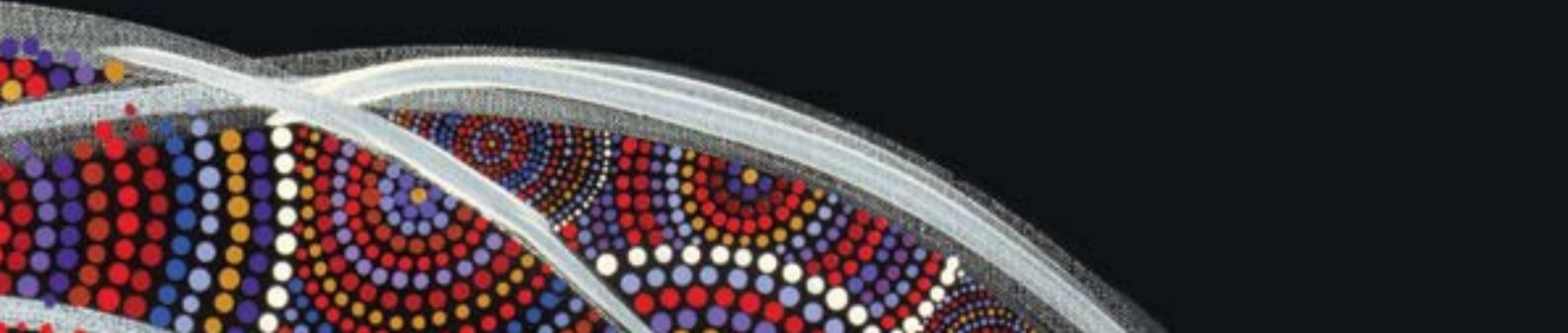
Leading

- Being alert and responsive to changing environments, potential issues and emerging opportunities
- Nurturing innovative approaches and future leaders
- Leading enterprise, research and program design

Developing

- Supporting our staff to be skilled, knowledgeable and professional
- Building our capacity to be bigger, stronger and more independent
- Providing employment opportunities in AFSS for young Aboriginal people

Talking, Listening, Sharing

- Being guided and grounded by our strong connection to country
 - Creating opportunities to share and celebrate the richness and diversity of our cultural stories and heritage
 - Engaging with our staff and our communities
 - Involving our staff and communities in our decisions and directions
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