

NEWSLETTER

July - September 2024



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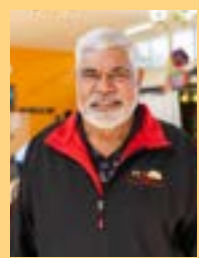
- Our new documentary screens at NAIDOC Lunch
- Staff graduate Cert III in Individual Support
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Message from the CEO

Graham Aitken

Welcome to our July - September 2024 newsletter.

I have advised in previous newsletters that the aged care sector continues to change, with the Government changing the Aged Care Act, aged care services and aged care regulation. These changes continue with varying pieces of legislation passing the Canberra Parliament. One of the important changes for our organisation and Elders is the introduction of the new Support at Home program that replaces Home Care Packages...
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When Home Care participants transition to the new Support at Home program, from July 2025, they will maintain the same level of funding. The government has advised they will be following the no worse off principle, to provide certainty to people already in aged care. Please see the 'updates' section of our website for more information on Aged Care Reform.

ACS will take a "business as usual" approach to our service delivery for our Elders until such time as the Government can provide more definitive information about the changes. ACS will need to consider our model of service for services delivered to Elders living in the community.

ACS continues to develop a team of in-house clinical nurses who have completed clinical assessments of Elders on Home Care Packages levels, four, three and two, as well as responding to any clinical queries brought to our attention by Elders, their family and/or our staff. Our next priority is introducing clinical care into our regional and remote services, especially the APY Lands. I hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter and as always, your feedback is welcome.

Kind regards,
Graham.

For Aged Care updates & more information on changes, go to the 'Updates' section on our website. For easy access, scan this code using your mobile phone.



Territories Stolen Generation Redress Scheme

The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme provides a redress payment of up to \$75,000, a healing assistance payment of \$7,000, free practical and emotional support, and a face-to-face and/or written personal acknowledgement. You can apply if you are a Stolen Generations survivor who was removed before the age of 18 and while living in the NT, the ACT or Jervis Bay. You can contact Link-Up to help you with the application process, to find a Link-up service near you please contact the Scheme on 1800 566 111. You can also contact Knowmore Legal service for free legal advice and financial counselling on 1800 566 966. Please share this information with loved ones who may be eligible.

New Aged Care Training Trialled

The Wardliparingga Aboriginal Health Equity research unit at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) is collaborating with Aboriginal Community Services to develop new training to upskill the aged care workforce, to meet and appropriately identify the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in aged care. A trial day was held at ACS, for the delivery of an early version of the program.

The feedback was resoundingly positive and constructive, and the team is excited to continue developing the training to fill an important gap in the aged care workforce. Pictured to the right are ACS staff who took part in the trial along with project researchers, Tameeka Ieremia (middle row, left), Jonathan Zagler (far back row, right) and Associate Professor Odette Pearson, Co-theme Leader of Aboriginal Health Equity Research (front, second from right.)



Rest in Peace Malcolm Gollan



Aboriginal Community Services mourns the passing of another legend who inspired 'vision for reconciliation' through passion, dedication and commitment

- who played a key role to making a difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders communities.

Malcolm Gollan (1955-2024) was instrumental to (Aboriginal Community Services) as a dedicated Board member from 2021 to this year as our Chairperson. Malcolm has a proud history of working for the Aboriginal community of South Australia as state lead for "Life Without Barriers" both in employment and voluntary capacity, with the key focus for everyone to be part of a community and feel inclusive.

Malcolm's contribution towards improving the lives of Aboriginal people has been showcased through the advocacy of his outcomes and achievements - starting his journey with the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in South Australia in 2007. His tireless efforts and work saw the launch of the 2016-2019 Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan.

Aboriginal Community Services sends its deepest condolences to the Gollan family, siblings and extended families and friends of Malcolm.

From all of us at Aboriginal Community Services. Thank you.

NAIDOC Lunch 2024

Aboriginal Elders from around South Australia gathered at the Adelaide Convention centre on the 16th of July to celebrate NAIDOC week with the screening of our new film, *There I Was, Here I Am*.



Uncle Moogy



After a beautiful Welcome to Country by Uncle Moogy Sumner, the crackling of a fire rang from the speakers as Elders sat to enjoy their delicious meals.

Keep The Fire Burning: Blak, Loud & Proud, was this year's NAIDOC theme. Filling the room were not just our auntys and uncles, but powerful players in the ongoing struggle for Aboriginal justice in South Australia. This year, we really wanted to recognise this – our Elders as trailblazers who will pass on the responsibility of the fire to the younger ones.



Aunty Frances Chantrill



Uncle Mulla, Jess & Ben

There I Was, Here I Am is a project we got off the ground with support from the National Indigenous Australians Agency as a recipient of their NAIDOC local grants. We wished to embark on a storytelling project that would celebrate the achievements and impactful lives of the Elders we support. Everyday our Coordinators, advisors, and other team members speak with Elders who often reveal the interesting experiences they have had. With Aboriginal Community Services having a strong connection to community and access to stories within it, the opportunity presented itself to platform Elders and help them have their stories heard more widely.

The documentary featured Ngarrindjeri Elder Uncle Mulla Sumner, Kaurna Narungga Elder Auntie Frances Chantrill, and Ngarrindjeri Narungga Elder Uncle Craig Dodd. Each of them brought with them a rich life experience, with dark times as well as incredible achievements. The three of them shared the ways they got through adversity, and what their guiding ethos have been in life to help them achieve what they have for themselves and for community. Each of them worked in service of their community – whether it was managing Aboriginal Hostels, cultural teaching, or chairing health corporations.

Aboriginal Community Services hopes to collaborate with more members of our community to celebrate their stories and lives. We know that storytelling is an important part of truth-telling and is one of the many ways we can contribute to keeping the fire burning. Then, after a large dose of inspiration, it was time for dessert. The room was buzzing with chatter, and the magical feeling that arises at all of our big events was ever-present. Auntys and Uncles excited to see each other, to yarn, and celebrate one another.



Jen, Frances Chantrill



Marie Axleby, Valeta Bakhuis, Marlene Rigney



Sharna Lockie, Joan Wilson



Vanessa Clark, Raylene Campion

The Metro Manifest

A big warm welcome to our new staff! The Metro department has been expanding, with 5 new people recently joining our team. New Aged Care Advisor Heather Brooks, Community Support Worker Joyleen Rigney, Client Services Coordinators Agnes Nyande and Emma Hodges, and Transport Coordinators Matt Light and Teagan Roberts.

Metro is focusing on expanding our services to more Elders by having adequate staff who are skilled and committed to providing the quality care and services that Elders deserve. We are hoping that in coming months with the onboarding of more staff and upskilling that we will be able to open our portals to both HCP and CHSP Elders.

We have received some awesome feedback from the community.

“You and your team know no other way than the extra mile. ACS staff are generally polite, respectful and happy. You have the most outstanding aged care advisors who, in my experience, make a client feel as if he or she is the only client. (...) Despite your incredible workload, government restraints and Covid, you fellas at ACS manage to provide an amazingly personal client advisor relationship.”

We are continuing to advocate for Elders receiving CHSP services who have identified higher needs to receive ACAT reviews and supporting them to access HCP funding. The Community Engagement Team have been an integral part of this and have supported many of our Elders through the aged care journey to achieve the best outcomes and we hope to continue this practice.

“I am writing to express my appreciation for the committee of these two wonderful uncles who have gone above and beyond to support, advise, encourage and action with positive outcomes for my parent.”

We are continuing on our compliance journey and are consistently monitoring and improving our practices to ensure we remain compliant and are delivering safe, high-quality services.



From the Village

Residents at the Aboriginal Elders Village have, as usual, enjoyed many activities. Mother's Day was spent doing crafts and indulging in a high tea. The AEV hosted students from the Kurna Plains school, where Elders and kids played games together. August was a very busy month, with Elders getting in the Olympic spirit with cooking from around the world, and creating their own Olympic competition complete with an array of games like the 'peg game' and 'torch game' and finally an awards ceremony. The AEV is also grateful for the donation of native edible plants for the garden from Services Australia Gawler.



Thank you to our Aunty Shirley Peisley

Aboriginal Community Services mourns the passing of another legend who shaped history with the Aboriginal movement for her services to the community. Aunty Shirley Peisley AM (1941-2024) was instrumental in establishing this organisation (Aboriginal Community Services) and made an immeasurable contribution to the success of the organisation and was a Board member for many years,



and Chairperson in 2017 and 2018. Aunty Shirley's contribution towards improving the lives of Aboriginal people is well known by the community and she is very highly respected by the Aboriginal community in South Australia. Her tireless efforts and work in the early years saw her actively supporting the 1967 referendum. Our Aunty Shirley has had a long and proud history of working for the Aboriginal community of South Australia, both in employment and volunteering her time for membership of various Boards. Among Aunty Shirley's passions is the acknowledgment and recognition of Aboriginal women as Patron of the Gladys Elphick Awards.

in 2000 she was awarded an Australia Medal (AM) for services to the Aboriginal Community in the areas of culture, heritage, legal, health, welfare, library services, the church and Reconciliation.

In 2010 she received a Papal Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI for services to the Catholic Church.

On 26 November 2021 the Board Room at ACS Head Office in Mile End was named "The Aunty Shirley Peisley AM Board Room" in honour of the hard work, commitment, and dedication by Aunty Shirley to ACS' growth and prosperity over many years. An honour well deserved. She is the official Patron of ACS.

Aboriginal Community Services sends its deepest condolences to the Peisley family, siblings and extended families and friends of Aunty Shirley.

From all of us at Aboriginal Community Services. Thank you.

NAIDOC at the Village

The residents had a busy agenda for NAIDOC week in July. Lets recap on some of the fun that was had! For their in-house lunch they cooked up some Lemon Myrtle scones, and chicken and barley soup together. Residents also enjoyed a special message stick swiss roll. Aside from the delicious treats, residents also attended the raising of the flag at the Pooraka Farm Community Centre, the 'NAIDOC in the north' event, and Regis aged care for a barbecue. Of course, the AEV community also attended our annual NAIDOC lunch in Adelaide that brings together hundreds of Elders each year. We hope residents enjoyed their NAIDOC week!



New Staff Spotlights

What is your favourite memory with a grandparent or mentor figure in your life?

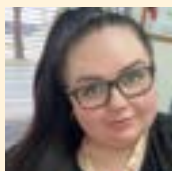
Agnes - Client Services Coordinator



I unfortunately did not grow up with my grandparents as they are back home in Sierra Leone. My favourite memory

with an Elder in my life is going op shopping with one of my mums' older friends who I called grandma. We would go to many op shops most weekends. It really fostered my love for accessories, styling of clothes and fashion in general.

Teagan - Transport Coordinator



My favourite memory is with my Grandad. When I was little, I loved nothing more than exploring his incredible

backyard and learning all about the different fruit trees he was working on. Unfortunately, he passed away when I was 8 but he taught me a lot about nature and the beauty in it.

Matt - Transport Coordinator



Watching my grandma make Cornish pasties, and having my granddad almost break my bones in my hand for a handshake.

Heather - Aged Care Advisor



My favourite memory of my grandmother was driving her out into Swan Valley in Perth, a place she used to go every week when

My grandmother showed me an old church that was still there. She had gone every Sunday years and built long term friendships. We walked to an old creek bed that she used to sit along many many years ago and we sat and talked about old memories. I'll always remember how my grandmother's face lit up being back in a place that meant so much to her.

Emma - Client Services Coordinator



Eating oranges with my Grandpa straight off the tree at his orange orchid.

Joyleen - Community Support Worker



My mother and I used to go to all the nursing homes when I was a teen, singing to the residents was very rewarding.

Regional Report

The Regional Services team have been busy this period! Staff attended the Berri Fair Day where they promoted ACS services and shared information. We attended the APY Lands Executive AGM, and helped facilitate an Elders meeting at Marla.

Our department is not only growing in staff, but also in the services we provide to Elders - there are now over 100 HCP clients in the APY Lands. In Whyalla, we are excited to be moving into a larger office space on October 1st to make room for our growing team. We recently had Hughes PR visit to help showcase the work we are doing in Whyalla and the regions, and we are excited to share this video with you.

Regional Staff graduate with Certificate III in Individual Support

On the 30th of June, fifteen of our regional staff graduated with their Certificate three in Individual Support. We are so proud of our team who have shown commitment towards their learning. ACS aims to strengthen the local workforce. The training was provided by TRED College with staff based in Adelaide studying on-campus, and APY Lands staff learning remotely with monthly visits from a lecturer. The regional team is now better equipped to provide the high quality care that Elders deserve regardless of where they are located.

Art Spotlight

June Romeo is a client of ours who supports her great-granddaughter's passion for dance through her crafting of Aboriginal flag & Aboriginal art-style themed goodies!

From cushions and hats, to jewelry and ties, June creates lovely pieces and sells them at various stalls including the annual Sonder Reconciliation Week markets, and the recent Adelaide City NAIDOC event. June takes care of her great-granddaughter Alyssa who has a love for dance. June says that living on the pension can pose challenges considering the cost of living these days, and supplementing it with her crafts helps to send Alyssa to her beloved dance classes.



June has dedicated her life to community, working and volunteering in various Aboriginal organisations.

June loves making garments with the Aboriginal flag/Aboriginal art on them that you can wear loudly and proudly, and explains that it helps with her experience as an Aboriginal woman with lighter skin to show her culture through her clothes.

We love seeing what our community creates and celebrating their community contribution!

Meal Delivery in the APY Lands

At our Amata centre in the APY Lands, Community Support Worker Rachael serves up around 45 nutritious meals.



They greet Elders and give them their daily delivery, complete with a water bottle and banana.



Some Elders take the opportunity to chat to Rachael about their aged care, and she gives them the appropriate advice or tells them who to speak to.



Her and local staff member Erika load them into the buggy and begin their loop around the community.



Many other women in the community have their meals delivered directly to the art gallery where they sit and paint.



Back to the centre they go, after saying hi to our lovely community of Elders in Amata! Palya!

Jam-packed two days for Community Engagement

The 10th and 11th of September was a very productive couple of days for the Community Engagement Team as they travelled to Whyalla to assist with multiple strategic projects, and meet with Elders. While up there, Richard and Uncle Jerri supported Elders who were interested in upgrading their Home Care Package level. They also checked in on other Elders in the area, and made cultural connections, having good yarns with community leaders. The team helped facilitate the video shoot that Hughes PR carried out to showcase our regional services. This resulted in some great interviews and footage. Additionally, they assisted our Research & Organisational Effectiveness Officer Tameeka in collecting responses from clients for a survey.

Staff - your right to disconnect

Although rewarding, working in Aged Care can bring with it some tough moments. Staff wellbeing is very important to our organisation, and it is crucial we meet psychosocial safety obligations for workers. We would like to make sure everyone in the ACS team is aware of new laws that have just been put in place for the right to disconnect. Change to the Fair Work Act came into effect 26 August 2024 for non-small business employees (including Aboriginal Community Services). Eligible employees will have a new 'right to disconnect' outside of work hours. Employees will have the right to refuse contact outside their working hours unless that refusal is unreasonable. This means an employee can refuse to monitor, read or respond to contact from an employer or a third party. An employer must not take adverse action against an employee reasonably refusing contact outside ordinary working hours. Employees are welcome to discuss this further with HR/ their manager. Clients rest assured that your services will not be impacted by this new law



APY Lands

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