

Northern Carers Twilight Picnic

Northern carers and AnglicareSA staff enjoyed a great afternoon together at Carisbrooke Park - Salisbury, in the lead up to the Easter break. This of course meant there was an abundance of chocolate Easter eggs thanks to the timely visit of our friendly neighbourhood Easter Bunny. Happy children were running around playing and for further entertainment, they enjoyed time with our talented face painter and a bounce on the jumping castle.

For dinner, a tasty BBQ was served up and for dessert, an old-style ice-cream van paid us a visit and served up soft-serve ice-creams for everyone who had a sweet tooth.

Each family was entered in to our raffle competition and awarded prizes, 3 were handed out (shopping vouchers and a family movie voucher). Thanks especially to Peter Sandeman (our CEO) and Nicole Hunt (our Senior Manager, Connecting Children and Young People) for delivering the news to our three delighted winners.

Goody bags (mainly chocolate) were sent home in the hope that they would be enjoyed steadily over the weekend with family (hmmm although we are not so sure?!)

Thank you to our carers, their children and fellow staff who attended this event. We hope to see you at our next event during Foster Carers and Kinship Carer's Week (18-23 August).
(Written by Kristina Rozek)



Foster Carers Card - How to use your card whilst travelling

Just recently a carer family went on a fantastic overseas holiday and when they got to customs they were questioned about a child they were travelling with who had a different last name to the adults in the family. Customs wanted to know if they had permission to leave the country with this child. The foster carers said no its fine and whipped out their foster carers identification card. They did not even need to explain what foster care was and why they had the child with them. From this point they were granted express pass through customs and looked after whilst at the airport. If you want more information about the Foster Carers Card, please contact your support worker.

(Written by Naomi Schreier, Northern Carer Support)

Southern Carers Twilight Picnic

What a fabulous evening!

Southern Foster Care Support Services held their annual twilight Easter picnic on Friday 28th March 2014.

A HUGE THANK YOU to Easter Bunny for making the time in his very busy egg-making schedule to join us for a while and share in the fun... And also to our carers and their children for making this such an awesome and relaxed evening full of giggles and chocolate and all things magical, painted, laidback, crafty, tasty, chatty and just generally all about having a bouncing good time!



Photo above: Manager Estelle Paterson with the Easter bunny



Photo left: Bouncy Castle fun

Photo below: face paint fun



CREATE events coming soon....

Laser Zone @ 12-18 David Witton Drive, Noarlunga Centre On Saturday 23rd August 2014 from 11am-1pm RSVP 8223 6603
Lauren

Speak up Program (SUP) On Saturday 2nd August @ Hutt Street Library for children and young people who are aged 14-25 years who have been in care RSVP Lauren 8223 6603

Carer News is produced for AnglicareSA Foster Carers by the Foster Care Services team.
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Contributions and suggestions are most welcome.

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If you'd like to receive this newsletter electronically please email lward@anglicaresa.com.au

FosterCare

Join the Family.

CarerNews

July 2014

A note from Nicole.....

Welcome to the Mid-Year edition of the Carer News. It has been a fantastic year so far with so many Foster Carer Families attending support groups, training workshops and the twilight events in March. We have included the Recharge Event flier in this edition of the newsletter and we encourage all Foster Carers to try to get to one of the events (lunch and evening sessions), if you require any support to attend please contact your support worker.

During Foster Carer and Kinship Care Week, AnglicareSA will have an information session 12-2pm, for prospective foster carers at the Kent Town office on Tuesday August 19th and drop in day for anyone who is interested in becoming a foster carer, so please pass the word on. We are also in the process of planning events for Foster Carer and Kinship Care Week, 18th to the 22nd August, and it would be amazing to have you all there, so please look out for the invitations in your mail box.

AnglicareSA has been busy with the launch of their new website, Facebook page and their new look Values. If you would like to learn more about the Strategic Plan or the AnglicareSA Values you can head to our website or you can visit our Youtube clip on the AnglicareSA Values:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mD-c-4rrdwo&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you to you and your family for the care that you provide to the states most vulnerable children and young people and I look forward to seeing you at the next foster carer event.

Carers field trip to Relationships Australia

Foster Care Support Workers Liz DosSantos and Michelle Bigland drove two of their foster carers Trish Niziolek and Cassie Palmer to Relationships Australia Post Care Services in the city. The Case Worker from Families SA Hub at Marion, Debra Taylor, also came along.

The group meet with Post Care Service staff to find out what supports they offer young people post care and then gave us a tour of their building. After the field trip to Relationships SA they stopped for coffee on the way back to the carers homes, it was a lovely day out and very resourceful.
(Written by Michelle and Liz)

Photo above right : Trish Niziolek (foster carer), Liz DosSantos (south support worker), Michelle Bigland (south support worker), Cassie Palmer (foster carer) and Debra Taylor (FamiliesSA case worker)



New Carer Graduation

A wintery cold evening, June 25th 2014 at the Pavilion on the Park was the New Foster Carer Graduation ceremony where we invited 25 of the newly approved carer households to celebrate their new journey into the foster care community.

The guest speakers for the evening where Foster Carers Kym and Mathew Shultz, Chair of Connecting Foster Carers Jo Jarvis and our CEO Peter Sandeman. Our very own Nicole Hunt Senior Manager was a welcoming MC for the evening.

It was great to have the foster care families attend and be presented with a lovely box of Haigh's chocolates and a certificate. The New Carer Resources and Recruitment Team really enjoyed touching base with the carers and learn about their current placements and hear their stories.



Photo: CEO Peter Sandeman presenting Terri (foster carer) with her certificate.

Aboriginal Practice and Support



How can I show my respect to Aboriginal people and the Aboriginal culture?

If non-Aboriginal people respect the Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal people then they have already overcome a big obstacle towards a dialogue between both cultures. Meeting Aboriginal people at a grass-roots level can also earn you respect, mingle with them and treat them with the respect you hope to earn yourself.

Ways you can show your respect:

Learn about the Aboriginal culture, for example reading texts/ resources written by Aboriginal authors, visit Aboriginal organisations and services, visit the Museum and art galleries etc.

Resist the urge to propose solutions for Aboriginal issues but rather listen deeply. Too many people have tried telling Aboriginal people what's best for their culture and way of being. Actively supporting the culture versus personal instructing and advising.

Attend cultural events:

Ask questions during workshops or cultural events you visit.

Avoid stereotypes. It's very easy to offend by lightheartedly imitating Aboriginal stereotypes. When actress Nicole Kidman (see picture below) played the didgeridoo on a TV show it offended Aboriginal people in many parts of Australia as women are forbidden to play the instrument.

Consult, consult, consult. A common mistake is not to consult with Aboriginal people. Ask, if you promote a certain area relating to Aboriginal people. Ask, if you make references to the Aboriginal culture during presentations and workshops. Ask, if you use Aboriginal resources if they are appropriate according to the nation/ clan group. Contact an Aboriginal Land Council for permissions and advice. Better be respected than sorry!



Actors behaving disrespectfully: Nicole Kidman blows the didgeridoo while Hugh Jackman imitates the traditional pose of an Aboriginal man. It's easy to fall into a stereotypical trap, learning how to respect other cultures helps avoiding them.

Useful websites

Learn what to do before, during and after an IEP meeting

<http://www.greatschools.org/special-education/legal-rights/527-tips-for-a-successful-iep-meeting.gs>

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/speced2/pages/childprotection/studentsInCareFAQ/?reFlag=1>

Reach out, website help for young people and their carers / parents including Forums for self help and support on topics such as drugs / alcohol, mental health and wellbeing <http://au.reachout.com/>

Backpacks 4 SA Kids

Big thanks to everyone at Backpacks 4 SA Kids, who dropped off a virtual mountain of backpacks for children in foster care – AnglicareSA -supported foster carers and staff care for 600 children each night. These backpacks, which Backpacks 4 SA Kids has donated to us annually for the past five years, give a child entering foster care some precious things of their own, when often they have nothing. Kids receive some clothes, pyjamas, a teddy to cuddle and some activities to keep their mind busy in what's often a very difficult time! Like our staff Greta, Marjory and Niaomi, everyone at AnglicareSA is so grateful. If you are after a back pack for a child in your care please contact your support worker. (photo: Greta Zytник, placement worker, Marjory Ingham, placement worker and Niaomi Schreier, support worker)



New AnglicareSA website and Facebook Page

AnglicareSA has a new look, we encourage you to visit our new website and like our new Facebook page. Our Facebook page is a great place to hear about all the fantastic work that AnglicareSA supports in the community and keep up to date with events for everyone.

Whilst you are online please check out our new AnglicareSA website, which will be able to show you all the amazing services that AnglicareSA has to offer the community and its also a great place to refer your friends who are interested in becoming a foster carer.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/AnglicareSA>

www.anglicaresa.com.au

Handwriting Tips

What is skill and how does it develop? Dominance is about being right or left handed. Activates such as handwriting and cutting take a long time to learn and perfect for children. Therefore it is important for your child to become and expert at this skills with one hand to ensure they are off to a good start when they begin school.

How can I help my child? Firstly try looking at which hand they pick up blocks or pencils with. This is their preferred hand. Do they reach over something to use their right or left hand to pick up an item. Once you have established which hand is preferred by the child then you can strengthen their preference by always offering items to hold with the preferred hand, ensuring the kindy / school encourage the same hand use. You can play games such as "Simon says", and tired right hand to encourage use of the left to ensure that muscle strength still occurs with the non-preferred hand. Children tend to show a clear hand preference by the ages of 3-4 years. (submitted by Cassie Palmer, Foster Carer from the OT department health service) If you would like more information on hand writing skills for children please contact your support worker.

Centrelink –Did you know?

You can contact the Foster Care Centrelink Liaison Officer to discuss any payments that you may be eligible for as a foster carer, sole parent along with Family Tax benefits and child care payments.

Please contact your foster care support worker for assistance or the Centrelink liaison officer directly on 8306 2405, Donna Dei-Rossi.

Foster Carer Lobbies for Services for Children with a disability in Victor Harbour

APPEAL FOR SUPPORT: Victor Harbor's Deb Sibley and Middleton's Ally Boehme are petitioning for increased services for young people living with disabilities on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

Fight for increased services

By ALICE DEMPSTER

REGION - A group of local mothers with children living with disabilities is petitioning for increased - and improved - disability services in the region.

Deb Sibley of Victor Harbor and Ally Boehme of Middleton say towns in the southern Fleurieu are lacking in critical respite, support and employment services for people living with disabilities.

Deb and Ally say the region, which has been known to attract large numbers of retirees, is steadily rising in its population of families with school aged children - including families with children living with disabilities.

"It's a nice area - families feel safe," Deb said.

"It's growing all the time; I even got that from the doctor at Middleton," Ally said.

"He was actually really concerned at the number of children coming through with disabilities."

They said the region needs to provide local industries employment and support.

Deb's 15-year-old daughter Amanda lives with Down Syndrome. Deb moved to Victor Harbor a year ago, so Amanda could attend Victor Harbor High School's special needs unit.

"I know that when Amanda finishes school at 18, she'll be home with me," Deb said.

"When they finish school, there's nothing.

"When you're an older parent, you wonder where they're going to be, what they'll do when you go."

Deb and Ally are also concerned about the stigma which continues to be prevalent surrounding young people living with disabilities and their attempts to find employment or a home to rent.

Ally said her 18-year-old son is clever and skilled, but local employers do not give him the chance to show what he can do.

"When they find out he has Asperger's and Autism, they don't want to look at him," Ally said.

"There's a lot of prejudice around still."

The southern Fleurieu has a gap in local services provided and children living with disabilities between the ages of zero to 18 are "falling through the holes", according to Deb.

"It's creating a lot of poverty, and you're isolated, which is scary," Deb said.

"I'm just worried that we're becoming a very rich

Victor Harbor, where the vulnerable are getting sand banked in the corner."

Deb and Ally have both heard cases of parents with children with disabilities approaching local services which are available, and being told "yes, we cater for 88-year-olds" and "no, we don't cater for eight-year-olds".

They said they're worried these knock backs - and lack of respite services - are resulting in mental health issues for parents and siblings of local young people living with disabilities.

"When you keep getting closed doors, it's leading to mental health problems," Ally said.

The pair admitted they're not sure exactly what would be required to wholly cater for the region's people with disabilities, but are adamant improved infrastructure, and therefore employment opportunities, would be a start.

"Does the local council look at their feasibility? Do the rich landlords lower their rent?" Deb asked.

"It just needs better infrastructure. Victor Harbor has the opportunity to flourish with the right infrastructure."

Deb and Ally said an organisation like Bedford Group coming to the region to support, train and provide employment for young people living with disabilities would be ideal.

"The TAFE could run courses," Ally said.

"Some are fabulous at cooking, some are fabulous at gardening, some are fabulous at window cleaning.

"Surely we could have some industries down here for them, because they do a lot and they're good workers."

They said they're tired of hearing "all talk and no walk" from other people in similar situations, caring for children living with disabilities, and are applying for a grant to start a disability service centre locally.

They agree it will be an uphill battle, but say the issue is too important for the region to give up on.

"If it's not addressed soon, it's going to become critical," Ally said.

"We're asking for overall reform."

The pair have started a petition asking for increased services to take to parliament, which will be available for signing across the Fleurieu. It will be available in local supermarkets and doctors' surgeries across the region in coming weeks.

"It's really the plight of those who are vulnerable at the moment," Ally said.

"God, we can make a difference if we all work together."

(Courtesy of the Victor Harbour Times March 2014)