

# **Aboriginal Family Support Services**

**Youth Accommodation  
Support Services  
Program**



# Aboriginal Family Support Services

**Metropolitan**

**134 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000**

**Northern Country**

**Port Augusta  
Coober Pedy  
Whyalla**



# Agency Overview

- © **Established in 1978 as  
Aboriginal Child Care Agency**
- © **Involved in matters relating to  
Aboriginal Child welfare**
- © **Name Change in 1998 to  
Aboriginal Family Support Services**
- © **AFSS is a community based and  
controlled organisation**

# Youth Accommodation Support Services

## Session Topic

**Providing a service that is non-discriminatory and in a manner which is empowering and developmental, enabling Aboriginal youth to be involved in decisions affecting their lives.**

# Youth Accommodation Support Services (YASS)

- © **YASS receives funding through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) - Commonwealth & State/Territory Government funding**
- © **Currently operates two supported accommodation Units in metropolitan Adelaide**
- © **The only SAAP Aboriginal specific youth accommodation program in South Australia**
- © **Licensed for 8 beds each house (total 16) across the state**

# Youth Accommodation Support Services Intake Criteria

## **Narungga House**

**Opened 1985**

**Located at Somerton Park**

**Females 18 – 24 no dependents**

**Males 15 – 24 no dependents**

## **Olga Fudge Lodge**

**Opened in 1992**

**Located at Westbourne Park**

**Females 15 – 18 no dependents**

**Females 15 – 24 with dependents**





# YASS – Referral Process

- © Trace-A-Place
- © Crisis Care
- © Moving On Program
- © On Call 24//7

***YASS is a 24 hour 7 days per week service***

# YASS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**The aim of the program is to assist and support Aboriginal Youth who are homelessness or 'at risk ' by providing safe and secure accommodation, developing individual case plans which promoting positive outcomes for young people.**



# YASS Staffing

- Manager
- Coordinator
- 6 x Level 3 Youth Support Workers
- 4 x Night Shift Workers
- Pool of Casual Relief Workers

**All shifts are single staffing and we are not specifically funded to provide an Out Reach service**

# YASS Objectives

**YASS primary objectives are to support Aboriginal Youth achieve:**

- *Independent or transitional accommodation*
- *Remain connected to family/reunification*
- *Address debts and legal matters*
- *Engage in education/training/employment*
- *Parenting Skills*
- *Centrelink Payments*
- *Health issues*
- *Cultural identity/connectedness*
- *Respite*



# Client Participation

**Clients take ownership of the program by:**



- Conducting weekly House Meetings
- Discuss relevant issues to the Unit
- Plan Weekly Menus
- Draw up Chore Rosters
- Participate in weekly shopping
- Participate in Case Management
- Identify community activities
- Peer mentoring



# The Eight Elements

# To Case Management

## Check Their Needs

Entry Screening

- Be clear about who you can help
- Be clear about what you can do
- Talk in a friendly place
- Act quickly, on urgent/ emergency needs
- Use other services, if needed
- If you can't help, tell them why
- If they don't accept this, they can talk to the co-ordinator
- Write down what you found out and how you helped

## Talk About Their Story

Assessment

- Ask if it is okay to get their info from other services or give it to other services they used
- See what has to be done first
- See what needs to be done over the next few weeks and months
- Find out what their hopes, skills and interests are
- Give them time to open up and give their whole story
- Let them know you will keep their story private
- Check that their needs are met in basic safety, health, income, shelter, food and warmth
- Write down what you have done

## Think About Your Next Action

Planning

- Think about what their hopes, skills and interests are
- Talk with your fellow workers for more ideas
- List the things you need to do, and that they need to do
- Start small, think big
- Make sure short term needs are met quickly
- Write down what you both agree to do and when you will do it

## Helping Them

Direct Service

- Make sure their privacy is respected
- Keep them up to date with what you are doing for them
- Keep yourself up to date with what other services are available
- Write down how you help and what happens (good and bad)

## Get Someone Else To Help Them

Co-ordination

- Talk with co-workers to get ideas on how to help
- Talk with other services
- Work out how you and other services can work together
- Write down what you do

## See How They Are Going

Do Something Else If It Is Not Working  
Monitoring Review

- See what they have done well
- Encourage them where they have done well
- Sit down, ask questions and listen
- Take any chance to see a positive
- Check what you and they have done against the original plan
- Make changes to the plan if needed
- Write down the successes and what needs to be worked on

## Finish The Job

See They Keep Getting Help  
Check In Later  
Exit Planning  
Case Closure  
Follow Up

- Make a time for your work with them to end
- Tell them what follow-up support will be given
- Be clear about who needs to be part of the decision to finish direct support
- If the person chooses to leave at any time, make sure they are linked up to support people or services
- If you decide they need to leave make sure they are linked up to services or get outreach support
- Make sure they have somewhere to go and can get there

## See If You Did Everything You Could To Help

Evaluation

- Think about what was successful and what could be done better
- Talk with the person you helped in a relaxed way
- Talk with other workers
- Talk with the person's family and friends
- If your service has forms to be filled in by the person leaving, make sure they understand the words used
- Help them fill it in (they talk, you write)
- Use this information to do your job better and show your community what the service does and how well it is done





# YASS Case Management

## **SAAP Eight Elements to Case Management**

- Entry screening
- Assessment
- Planning
- Direct service
- Coordination
- Monitoring Review
- Exit planning, Case closure, Follow up
- Evaluation

**Must be inclusive of Client, Key Worker and YASS Coordinator –  
(Other Agencies if appropriate)**

# YASS – Staff Skills/Knowledge

- ◎ **Aboriginal Family/Youth Issues**
- ◎ **Adolescent Development**
- ◎ **Advocating/Liaising**
- ◎ **Case Planning**
- ◎ **Behavioural Management**
- ◎ **Domestic Violence**
- ◎ **Financial Planning/Budgeting**
- ◎ **Suicide Awareness and Prevention**
- ◎ **Health Information**
- ◎ **Legal information**
- ◎ **Community information and knowledge**
- ◎ **Networking**
- ◎ **Conflict Resolution**

# What Makes YASS Unique?

## Clients

- Cultural diversity
- Family Groups – larger numbers of accompanying children
- Siblings
- Historical issues

## Service

- Aboriginal and/or mainstream network choices
- SAAP Aboriginal Case Management Principles
- Promote Aboriginal Child Placement Principle



# OUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN SOCIAL WELFARE

- © In 2008 we will be celebrating 30 Years of supporting Aboriginal Families and Communities
- © AFSS provides culturally strong programs to enhance the wellbeing of Families and Communities
- © A demonstrated strong cultural connectedness to the community through consultation and the development of positive partnerships
- © We ensure community protocols are followed and upheld when engaging with Aboriginal communities



# Questions and Comments

