



**Information Service
South Australia**



Dear SA Community,

I am delighted to let you know that the draft of the new Down Syndrome Community SA constitution has been completed and is with the working group for their comments.

We plan to meet this week to discuss the draft and then work together to complete it and submit it for approval.

This is an important step in creating a new Association for the South Australian Down Syndrome Community.

As you will see following, the SA team, Louise and Jennifer are doing fabulous work. If you have any questions, need some support or have ideas for us please do reach out.

DSWA continues to answer the South Australia Information Service phone and emails on days when Louise and Jennifer don't work, providing support and information where we can, with referral to the on the ground team.

As always if I can be of any further assistance, please do reach out to
ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au

With warmest regards
Cassandra
CEO, DSWA
ceo@downsyndromewa.org.au



DOWN SYNDROME

AWARENESS MONTH. OCTOBER. 2025



Celebrating people with Down Syndrome
in South Australia
Down Syndrome Awareness Month 2025

Social Media Campaign & 2026 Calendar

Would you like to
be featured?

<https://forms.office.com/r/hYGAqRhCMU>



Thank you for taking
the time to be part
of this special
project.



Family Support Update

It's been a BIG few months!

Things have been buzzing behind the scenes at Information Service SA – Down Syndrome Australia!

We've been busy responding to requests from schools, support services, families, and other organisations—providing info, guidance, and support wherever we can. While we're not a referral service, we're proud to have helped so many in our wider community find the answers and support they need.

Here are a few of the highlights from the past few months we would like to share:

New Partnership: Supporting Families at WCH Cardiology

We're proud to announce a new partnership between Information Service SA – Down Syndrome Australia and HeartKids SA, offering a dedicated referral service for families of children with Down syndrome visiting the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH) Cardiology Department.

This collaboration marks a meaningful step toward helping new families feel welcomed, supported, and connected to our vibrant South Australian Down syndrome community.

Next time you're at WCH, look out for our poster on the HeartKids display board in the Cardiology waiting area!



Picnic & Play – A Joyful Winter Gathering

Our July School Holidays Picnic and Play event was an absolute delight, with 14 wonderful families coming together for a morning filled with sunshine, laughter, and heartfelt connection.

While the kids explored and played, parents and carers enjoyed the chance to catch up, share stories, and build friendships. It was a beautiful reminder of what makes our DS SA Community so special—belonging, joy, and togetherness.

A big thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a warm and memorable day!



Empowering the Future of Medicine: Conversations with Flinders Uni Medical Students

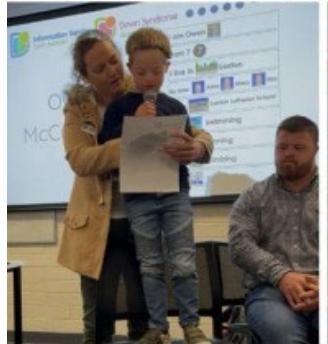
Information Service SA – Down Syndrome Australia was honoured to present to over 220 postgraduate medical students from Flinders University across Adelaide, Mt Gambier, and Renmark.

With the help of generous and courageous families, we hosted a powerful panel exploring real-life experiences of living with Down syndrome—covering everything from healthcare and inclusion to everyday triumphs and challenges.

These conversations are shaping a more compassionate and informed healthcare future—and we're proud to be part of that change.

A heartfelt thank you to the families who shared their stories:

- Adelaide: Louise & Hugo, Mitch, Jane & Luca, Estra, Maggie & Ruth, Jen, Owen & Macy
- Mt Gambier: Amy, Sam, Sonny & Baby Maisie, Jen, Owen & Kira
- Renmark: Brittney & Eddie, Jen, Owen & Kira
- And to Stephen, Sandra & Patrick from Flinders University for making this opportunity possible.



Upcoming Events – Thanks to Variety SA!

We're excited to share that we've been invited to take part in some upcoming Variety SA events! These are always a great opportunity for kids to have fun, socialise, and make memories. A huge thank you to Variety SA for this wonderful opportunity! www.variety.org.au/sa

Please note: Tickets are for one child and one carer only. These events are not open to siblings or additional family members. Age group guidelines apply. See below for more information and registration links.

Here's what's coming up:

- Variety Kids Zoo Picnic – for all school-aged students
- Variety Kids Christmas Party – for primary school students
- Variety Kids Christmas Disco – for secondary school students

That's a Wrap (For Now!)

Thanks for being part of all the awesome things happening in our community. Whether you've joined us at an event, shared your story, or just followed along—we're so glad you're here.

As we keep growing and strengthening our community, we'd love your help spreading the word. Whether it's sharing info, welcoming new faces, offering advice, or just reflecting on what our South Australian Down Syndrome community means to you—every little bit counts. Your involvement helps us build a stronger, more connected network.

Looking forward to catching up again soon—until then, take care, stay connected, and remember we're always here if you want to chat or need a little support.

Jennifer McCullough
Family Support Coordinator
0466 395 259
familysupportsa@downsyndrome.org.au

Employment Update

Employment Opportunities:

We have some very exciting news to share! In recent times we have appointed several people to very important roles within our community.

Congratulations to Isaiah Caruso who has won the position of South Australian Down Syndrome Advisory Network (DSAN) representative. Isaiah is a sensational

representative who 'wants to meet new people, increase his skills and to help other people to get better skills also and he wants to have a voice! Isaiah wants to speak up and wants to listen to the needs of others! We look forward to you representing our community Isaiah – well done!

Congratulations also to Joseph Russell, Mia Johnston and Isaiah Caruso who have each been appointed to the position of Employment Ambassador for the *South Australian Information Service*. It has been a pleasure to have Joseph, Mia and Isaiah join me at several events and training sessions recently. They have done a super job of representing our community.



SACID training – I Can Work Workshop

We recently collaborated with the team from SACID – South Australian Council on Intellectual Disability where eight members of our community and their supports

came together for a workshop which taught skills to think about work and to find a job. It was a very educational day which provided a terrific opportunity to connect with others in our community. We hope to offer additional workshops in the near future.

Bedford Morning Tea

Following the announcement that Bedford – one of Australia's largest employers of people with disability could potentially close the *SA Information Service* hosted a morning tea to offer support to those impacted. We also worked together to collaboratively communicate with all relevant Parliamentarians to offer support to help with a resolution.

State Disability Inclusion Plan 2025-2029

A small group of our community members worked together with members of the Department of Human Services – Disability Policy & Reform Inclusion and Safeguarding team to provide consultation on the draft of the State Disability Inclusion Plan (SDIP). On Friday August 22nd some of these members along with our Employment Ambassadors attended the State Government Launch of the SDIP at the Convention Centre. It was tremendous to be able to play a small part in the development of this plan and to have the opportunity to share the *voice* of our community.

Fiona McBurney Match Day Experience:

Since our last e-news we have had three more members of our community participate in the Fiona McBurney Match Day Experience (FMME)! Next year we are looking to expand the opportunities in South Australia so if you would like to be involved – watch this space!



The FMME allows members of our community over the age of 16 to support the AFL Umpires for a day. The program was developed in honour of Fiona McBurney who had Down syndrome, loved AFL and who's brother was an AFL Umpire. Recently Courtney, Jarrod and James all enjoyed this experience. Jarrod got to be in the centre of the Adelaide Oval to witness the coin toss, and he was excited to meet his idol Tex Walker. Courtney enjoyed handing out the lollies and chocolate milks to the

Umpires and also got to meet some Adelaide Crows stars! James recounted that it was an unforgettable experience and that he loved absolutely moment of the day!

Louise Taheny
0466 398 083
employment@downsyndrome.org.au

We are looking for **employers** who may be interested in employing a person or persons with Down syndrome – do you know of anyone in the community? If you do, please contact me at Louise@Downsyndrome.org.au

Diary Dates

September

24th - Variety Kids Zoo Picnic (all school age students)

October

Down Syndrome Awareness Month – look out for our social media campaign

November

26th - Variety Kids Christmas Party (Primary School Students)

27th - Variety Kids Christmas Disco (Secondary School Students)

December

6th - The Children's Christmas Party

Registrations Open

Variety Kids Zoo Picnic (all school age students)

<https://forms.office.com/r/R5ytTRfDQ8>

Date: Wednesday 24th September

Time: 10am-1pm

Where: Adelaide Zoo

Event Information: Open to all Primary and Secondary Students and a carer. Lunch provided.



Variety Kid's Zoo Picnic

(School Age Children)

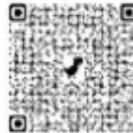
Date: Wednesday, 24th September 2025

Time: 10am-1pm

Where: Adelaide Zoo

Event Information: Open to all Primary & Secondary Students and a carer. Lunch provided.

Register here:
<https://forms.office.com/r/R5ytTRfDQ8>



Variety Kids Christmas Disco (Secondary School Students)

<https://forms.office.com/r/UJG2hmYqUq>

Date: Thursday 27th November

Time: 11am-1pm

Where: Adelaide Show grounds, Goyder Pavilion

Event Information: Secondary Student and a carer only. Lunch provided.

Variety Kid's Christmas Disco

(Secondary School Students)



Date: Thursday, 27th November 2025

Time: 11am - 1:00pm

Where: Adelaide Showgrounds
Goyder Pavilion

Event Information: Secondary
Student and a carer only, Lunch
provided



Variety Kids Christmas Party (Primary School Students)

<https://forms.office.com/r/G3L3JTkYpb>

Date: Wednesday 26th November

Time: 1030am-1pm

Where: Adelaide Show grounds, Goyder Pavilion

Event Information: Primary Student and a carer only. Lunch provided.



Variety Kid's Christmas Party

(Primary School Students)

Date: Wednesday, 26th November 2025

Time: 10:30am - 1pm

Where: Adelaide Showgrounds Goyder Pavilion

Event Information: Primary School Student and a carer only, Lunch provided

Registration link:

Thanks for reading!



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<http://downsyndrome.org.au/sa/>

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