



St Francis of Assisi College - Term 1 Week 8 - 2025

Important Dates

Harmony Day
Friday 21 March 2025

Combined Catholic
Schools Athletics
Carnival
Tuesday 25 March 2025

Year 7 LifeChanger
Workshop
Wednesday 26 March 2025

Year 7 Retreat
Thursday 27 March 2025

Year 9 LifeChanger
Self-Esteem
Workshop
Thursday 27 March 2025

Learner
Conversations
Tuesday 1 April 2025

Terra and Ignis
Parish Mass
Wednesday 2 April 2025

House Spirit Day
hosted by Terra
House
Wednesday 2 April 2025

Learner
Conversations
Wednesday 2 April 2025

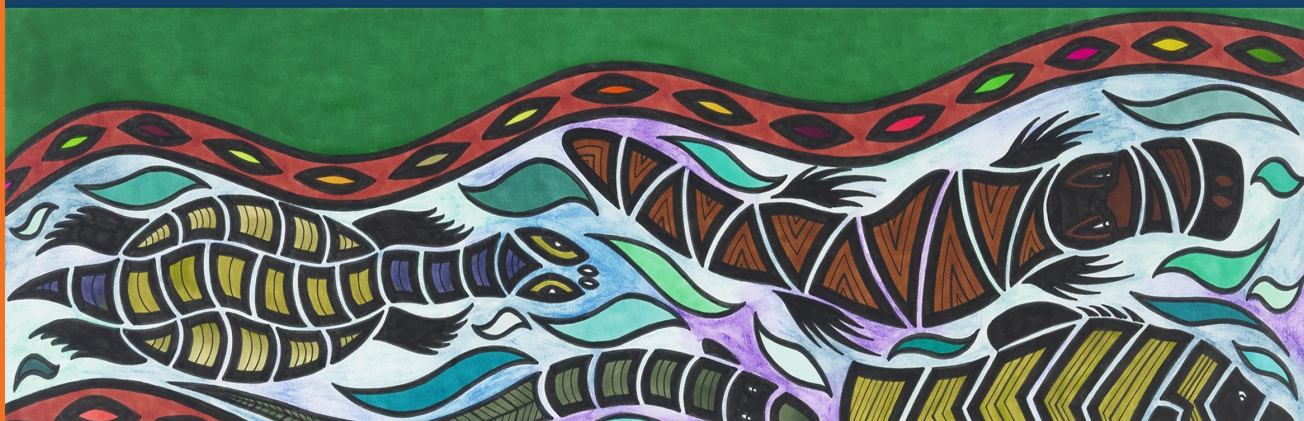
Gamechanger:
Building Stronger
Riverland Clubs and
Groups (event held
at SFOAC, ran by 3
Riverland Councils)
Saturday 5 April 2025

SA SCHOOLS Secondary Athletics Championship (C Grade) Tuesday 8 April 2025	CHRISTMAS - FOR Pirie Wednesday 9 April 2025	END OF TERM 1 Assembly - 9am- 9.30am Wednesday 9 April 2025	TERM 1 FINISHES Friday 11 April 2025 Holy Thursday Thursday 17 April 2025
Good Friday Friday 18 April 2025	Easter Sunday Sunday 20 April 2025	ANZAC Day Friday 25 April 2025	ANZAC Day/Resurrection Liturgy Monday 28 April 2025
Term 2 Commences Monday 28 April 2025	Year 10 Careers Camp: 7-9 May Wednesday 7 May 2025	Stage 2 (Year 11) Outdoor Education Kayaking Camp: 7-9 May Wednesday 7 May 2025	Ventus and Aqua Parish Mass Wednesday 7 May 2025 White Card Training Monday 12 May 2025
College Board Monday 19 May 2025	National Sorry Day Monday 26 May 2025	VET and SBAT Information Evening Wednesday 28 May 2025	Stage 1 (Year 10) Outdoor Education Camp: 3-5 June Tuesday 3 June 2025
SFOAC Careers Expo Wednesday 4 June 2025	Whole School Mass - Pentecost Wednesday 4 June 2025	Student Free Day Friday 6 June 2025	Kings Birthday Public Holiday Monday 9 June 2025
Vinnies Walk-a-thon Wednesday 11 June 2025	College Board Monday 16 June 2025	Year 10 Work Experience: 23-27 June Monday 23 June 2025	Stage 2 (Year 11) Outdoor Education Bushwalking Camp: 30 June - 2 July Monday 30 June 2025
Ignis Parish Mass Wednesday 2 July 2025	SFOAC Athletics Carnival Friday 19 September 2025	SFOAC Swimming Carnival Friday 24 October 2025	

REMEMBER If you are reading this newsletter from your email don't forget to click '*read more*' to expand your view and access all of our feature photos!

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that we meet today on Meru Country, and recognise the Erawirung and Ngintait peoples as the Traditional Custodians of this land. We recognise their continuing connection to the earth and waters, and thank them for protecting this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. We pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging and extend that respect to all First Nation peoples present here today.



From the Principal

Project Compassion: Unite Against Poverty

Over the past 61 years, Project Compassion has evolved from funding a single fishing boat for the Tiwi Islanders to raising nearly \$300 million, supporting vulnerable communities globally. In 2024 alone, approximately 1,700 Catholic schools and 1,200 parishes participated, collectively raising \$9.7 million.

Project Compassion 2025, spearheaded by Caritas Australia, embraces the theme "Unite Against Poverty," calling upon communities nationwide to collaboratively address and alleviate poverty during the Lenten season.

This theme resonates deeply with the teachings of Jesus, who emphasised caring for the marginalised. As highlighted in Matthew 25:35-36: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

This year's campaign introduces initiatives such as the Long Walk for Water, encouraging participants to walk daily during Lent to symbolise the journey many undertake to access clean water, and Give it up for Lent, where individuals forgo certain luxuries to raise funds. These activities not only raise awareness but also foster a sense of solidarity with those facing adversity.

By uniting against poverty, Project Compassion 2025 inspires Australians to reflect on their own blessings and take meaningful action to support those in need, embodying compassion and justice in their daily lives.

Healthy Rites of Passage for Adolescents: Guiding Our Young People Toward Purpose and Responsibility

As educators, parents, and leaders in the St Francis of Assisi Catholic school community, we play a vital role in guiding young people through the challenging transition from childhood to adulthood. Dr. Arne Rubenstein, a leading expert in adolescent development,

highlights the importance of healthy rites of passage—rituals or experiences that help young people mark and embrace this transition. These rites not only provide structure and purpose but also help adolescents develop a sense of self, responsibility, and a connection to the larger community.

In the past, many cultures and religious traditions had clear rites of passage that helped young people understand their identity and their role in the world. Today, the pressures of modern society, including the rapid pace of change, technology, and individualism, can leave adolescents without these important milestones. As a result, young people may feel disconnected from their purpose and struggle to find meaning in their lives. Without clear rites of passage, the journey into adulthood can seem overwhelming and uncertain.

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls for a deep, spiritual connection with creation, recognising that everything is interconnected. This sense of interdependence offers an opportunity to frame rites of passage in a way that encourages adolescents not only to find their personal identity but also to understand their responsibility to care for the Earth and each other. By integrating this ecological and social justice perspective into our rites of passage, we help young people understand their role as stewards of the world.

At St Francis of Assisi College, we are called to provide meaningful, faith-filled experiences that guide our students through these important transitions. Through healthy rites of passage, we can support our students to embrace adulthood with purpose, compassion, and a strong sense of responsibility to the world around them.

Our Faith in Action opportunities, whole of school wellbeing approach in partnership with the Life Buoyancy Institute, our ongoing partnership with the LifeChanger Foundation and whole pastoral care program each contribute to supporting our students along this journey.

Harmony Week 2025: Everyone Belongs

Monday March 17th to Sunday March 23rd

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

At St Francis of Assisi College, one of our core values is Acceptance, and day to day, this means fostering a community that is inclusive and welcoming to all students. Research shows that adolescents benefit greatly from experiencing student diversity, this includes cultural diversity and students of different abilities. These experiences not only promote social cohesion but also contribute significantly to the intellectual and emotional growth of young people.

Studies have shown that cultural diversity in schools enhances students' ability to think critically, solve problems, and adapt to different perspectives. Exposure to various cultures fosters empathy and tolerance, which are essential skills in today's interconnected world. Adolescents who interact with peers from diverse backgrounds develop a broader understanding of global issues and gain a deeper appreciation for the richness of human experience. This helps them become more compassionate and open-minded individuals, prepared to engage in a multicultural society.

Neurodiverse students as an example, offer a range of strengths and opportunities to our school community. Research indicates that an inclusive approach to education, supporting students with diverse cognitive and learning, promotes better outcomes for all students as this richness brings unique strengths to the learning environment, such as creativity, attention to detail, and problem-solving abilities. When students work alongside each other in an inclusive learning environment, they develop greater patience, adaptability, and collaborative skills, all of which are key traits for future personal and professional lives.

For adolescents, exposure to a diverse student body is not just about academic growth; it also nurtures emotional intelligence. These experiences help young people understand the importance of inclusivity, kindness, and respect for others. Providing a supportive environment where every student feels valued, helps to foster well-rounded individuals who are ready to contribute positively to society.

Mr Nathan Hayes, Principal

Catholic Mission and Religious Identity

St Joseph Feast Day

This week is the Feast of St Joseph. Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary and legal father of Jesus, was a carpenter who earned an honest living to provide for his family. From him, Jesus learned the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to work and provide for others and yourself in life. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop had a strong devotion to St Joseph and so named her order the Sisters of St Joseph (Josephites). Many of the students in our school come from the Josephite primary schools in our Riverland community.

Harmony Week

Harmony Week is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community. During morning Homegroup we have incorporated morning prayers and learning around Harmony Week. Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it. The message of Harmony Week is everyone belongs. It is about inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, united by a set of core Australian values.



Terra House Fundraiser

Looking ahead, Terra House will also be hosting a House Spirit Day in Week 10 to raise further funds for Project Compassion. Students are invited to wear their house colours and join in a BBQ. More details will be shared via EdSmart soon!

Terra and Ignis House Mass

On the 3rd of April at 9:30am, Terra and Ignis House will combined to celebrate Mass with Fr Hau and local parish members. This will be held in our multipurpose area. Parents, caregivers and family members are welcome to join us for this celebration.

Prayer to St. Joseph and for Harmony

Loving and just God,
You entrusted St. Joseph with the care of Mary and Jesus,
A humble servant who protected the vulnerable
And created a home of love, faith, and belonging.

Inspired by his example,
May we build a world where all are valued,
Where kindness, justice, and inclusion flourish,
And where those who seek refuge find safety and welcome.

Through the Spirit of unity and peace,
Strengthen us in our mission to be instruments of harmony in our community.

We ask this in your holy name.

Amen.

Mrs Sheridan Bonney, Assistant Principal, Religious Identity and Mission

Mrs Isabella Trudgian, RE Coordinator

Leader of Learning

Home Group Learner Conversations

When?

This term, Home Group Learner Conversations will be held over two evenings: April 1st and 2nd, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the College. These meetings provide a valuable opportunity for parents and caregivers to engage in a meaningful discussion with their child's Home Group teacher about their progress.

Learner Conversations for students with a Personal Plan for Learning (PPL) will also take place during this time.

How to Book a Meeting:

Home Group teachers have already contacted parents via email with instructions on how to book a meeting.

For students with a PPL, their PPL supervisor has also sent an email with details on how to schedule a meeting.

If you have not received this information, please check your inbox or contact the College for assistance.

Why Are These Conversations Important?

Learner Conversations are a key part of our personalised approach to education, ensuring that each student receives the guidance and support they need to succeed. Students are expected to attend these meetings, as they provide an opportunity to:

- Reflect on their strengths
- Identify areas for growth
- Set personal learning goals

By actively participating, students take ownership of their learning journey and develop the skills needed to become capable and independent learners.

We encourage all families to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with their child's Home Group teacher or PPL supervisor and gain valuable insights into their progress.

If you have any questions or are unable to book an appointment but would still like to meet with a teacher, please contact the school at 8595 4500.

We look forward to seeing you there!

SEQTA Online Continuous Reporting

What is it?

Continuous reporting or progressive/ongoing feedback refers to the process of teachers providing timely and targeted feedback to students about their learning progress in a subject. At St Francis of Assisi College this is achieved through our learning management system - SEQTA. This term all teachers have been working hard to utilise this function in

SEQTA by providing assessment information and specific feedback for assessment tasks. This is visible to students through SEQTA learn and similarly to parents through SEQTA engage.

What is the advantage?

The main advantage of continuous reporting is that students and parents receive feedback in a 'timely' manner about how the child is progressing. End of semester reports are often seen as too little, too late, with not enough targeted feedback and time for the student to improve their learning. Research shows high-quality feedback that is specific and on-going has immediate feedback on learning progress.

What is your role as a parent?

Continuous reporting not only allows students to constantly reflect on their progress and make improvements as they go but involves parents more in their child's educational journey as they receive frequent updates of their progress. If any situation arises where you, as a parent have a concern or question regarding the feedback provided, it is critical that as a parent you:

- 1) Initially discuss the feedback with your child.
- 2) If required, encourage your child to seek further clarification from their subject teacher.
- 3) If this is ineffective, or you have any major concerns with your child's learning progress, then please utilise our normal channels of communication through the relevant subject teacher.

Supporting your child to take ownership of the feedback provided is critical in assisting them to develop into reflective and independent learners.

Mrs Natalie Meuret, Leader of Learning

College Community Wellbeing

Student Leadership Applications

The process for selecting Year 7 Student Leaders is currently underway. Applications are being reviewed, and Year 7 students have been sent an interview time for either Week 8 or Week 9. Following this, a student vote survey will be conducted in Week 9, with Student Leaders to be announced in Week 10 or 11.

There will be four successful Year 7 students (one from each House – Aqua, Ignis, Terra, and Ventus), selected by Leadership staff through the following process:

- **Reviewing applications**
- **Interviews** (notes allowed) conducted in Week 8 or Week 9
- **Student vote survey** in Week 9
- **College staff consultation**

Selections will be based on the application, interview, vote results, and staff consultation. The successful applicants will be announced in Week 10 or 11.

SLC Guiding Principles

Make it Fun!

We seek to have small wins and celebrate our successes to ensure we enjoy the role we are in.

Have a Shared Intent

We will listen to the broader student body to identify a common goal we can work on together.

Role Modelling

We will be role models that leave a legacy and act appropriately to set an example of expectations and culture.

LifeChanger



Our Year 10 students have been trained as workshop mentors last week by our friends at LifeChanger. The Year 10's will be supporting our Year 7 cohort in their LifeChanger Workshops over the next few weeks.




A reminder that if you have any concerns or questions or information to share regarding your child's wellbeing or academics, please contact their home group teacher in the first instance via email or through the College phone number - (08) 8595 4500.

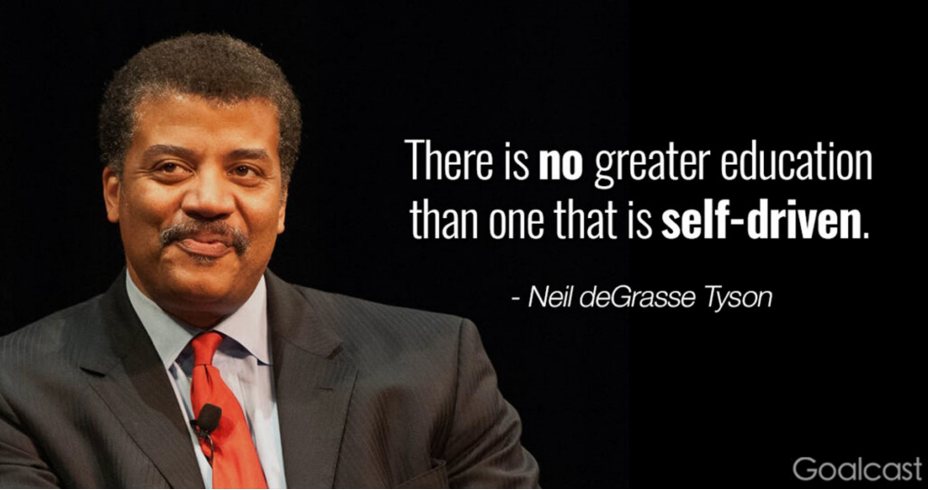
Currently, Mr. Cotter (Leader of Wellbeing) is absent on Long Service Leave. In this period, Mrs. Trudgian (Wellbeing Coordinator) will take on the position's role and responsibilities with support from the broader leadership team.

If you have any high-level queries or concerns that are unable to be resolved by your child's home group teacher or subject teachers, please contact Mrs. Trudgian via email isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au or via the College phone (8595 4500).

House	Home Group	Teachers	Email
	AQUA1	Ms. Anita Modlinski	anita.modlinski@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	AQUA2	Ms. Neven Daoud	neven.daoud@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	IGNIS1	Mr. John Lyons	john.lyons@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	IGNIS2	Ms. Amy Hunt	amy.hunt@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	TERRA1	Mr. Fraser Sampson	fraser.sampson@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	TERRA2	Ms. Tahlia Woodgate	tahlia.woodgate@assisi.catholic.edu.au
	VENTUS1	Ms. Isabella Trudgian	isabella.trudgian@assisi.catholic.edu.au

	VENTUS2	Ms. Jean Booyesen	jean.booyesen@assisi.catholic.edu.au
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Quote of the Week



Mr Luke Cotter, Leader of Wellbeing

Lifechanger Workshops





17.03.25

Expressions of Interest - Industry and Community Partnership Group and Parent Engagement Group

Industry and Community Partnership Group

The aim of this group is to focus on developing sustained community and industry partnerships to create pathways for our students. By joining this group, you will be part of an effort to:

- Help students understand the skills most sought after by local businesses and industries, offering them opportunities to develop those skills in a real-world setting.
- Ensure that both the College and our students are actively contributing to the growth and success of the Riverland region.
- Establish sustainable connections between the school and local businesses, providing vocational pathways for our students.

We believe these partnerships will significantly enhance the education and career opportunities available to our students.

Parent Engagement Group

Our focus for this group is to develop a positive and welcoming school community. The Parent Engagement Group will create opportunities for:

- Parents and families to meet and connect socially with one another.
- Parents to meaningfully engage with their child's education and have a voice in school activities and initiatives.

We want to create an environment where all families feel involved and supported as part of our school community.

Your Involvement

We welcome all parents and caregivers to engage with these groups in a way that works best for you. Whether you are able to attend regular meetings, participate when you can, or offer help on an occasional basis, your involvement will make a difference.

Expressions of Interest and Meeting Invitation

We would like to extend an invitation to all interested parents, caregivers and families to register their Expressions of Interest for either one or both of these groups. EOI's can be submitted by emailing Emma Warner. Please provide your name, email address and group/s you are interested in being involved in.

In Term 2, we will provide further communication to invite interested parents, caregivers and families to attend an initial meeting to learn more about the work of these groups and hear about the 2025 priorities. The meeting will also serve as an opportunity to register your interest in becoming involved.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Emma Warner at the College via email emma.warner@assisi.catholic.edu.au or phone 8595 4500.

17.03.25

Swimming Carnival Postponed

Dear Parents and Carers,

We wish to inform you that due to the extreme heat forecasted, we were left with no option but to postpone our Swimming Carnival, that was scheduled originally for Friday 14th March. The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our top priority, and rescheduling the event is the safest course of action.

Due to the pool closing soon due to end of the swim season, the Swimming Carnival will now be held on Friday October 24, Week 2 of Term 4, with further details to be provided closer to the date. This outcome ensures all students can enjoy the event safely and engage fully in the experiences of the day.

04.03.25

2026 Enrolments Now Open

2026 Enrolments Now Open for New Students!

Great news for those looking to join our school community! Enrolments for new students for the 2026 school year are now officially open. If you're excited to start your high school journey with us, now is the perfect time to secure your place.

St. Francis of Assisi College offers a nurturing and dynamic learning environment for students in Years 7 to 12. Committed to academic excellence, the college provides a broad curriculum, including opportunities in technology, sustainability, and the arts, all grounded in

Catholic values. With a focus on wellbeing, community, and personal development, the college fosters a supportive atmosphere where students are encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and socially. Through a range of extracurricular activities, including sport and experiential learning, St. Francis of Assisi College ensures that every student is well-equipped for future success.

If you have any questions or need assistance, or if you are ready to enrol your child, please contact Claire Smith, Executive Administrator for all the information you need. Claire can be contacted [via email](#) or phone 8595 4500.

20.03.25

Family Night: Fun, Food and Great Conversations!

The event brought together students, parents, and educators for a night of fun, food, and great conversation. Families enjoyed a delicious spread of pizzas, making for a perfect, relaxed setting to catch up with friends and meet the educators who play such an important role in our students' lives. A big thank you to Domino's Pizza for providing us with a generous deal and preparing over 80 pizzas for the event!

The night was a wonderful chance for everyone to build connections and strengthen the school community. A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped make the evening a success. Your presence made it all the more special, and we look forward to more events like this in the future. Here's to more evenings filled with food, fun, and building lasting relationships within our school family!



Inside the Classroom and around College: Weeks 7 & 8 Highlights and Happenings

Year 11 Students Explore Future Pathways through Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures (AIF)

In Stage 2 Activating Identities and Futures (AIF), Year 11 students are taking an exciting step toward building the skills, aspirations, and capabilities that will support their journey through senior study and beyond school. The AIF program offers students the chance to explore different pathways, discover new interests, and gain the skills they need for their future careers.

Pictured below, Charlie and Marissa have chosen to focus their AIF portfolios on exciting and hands-on careers in concreting and electrical work. These fields offer dynamic, practical skills that are in high demand and provide many pathways into further education or direct employment. Well done Charlie and Marissa!



Year 11 Study Skills Seminars with Elevate Education

On Wednesday, during their Pastoral Care session, Year 11 students participated in two seminars led by Elevate Education. These sessions aimed to equip students with effective study techniques and time management strategies to support their learning throughout the year.

The first seminar explored the question: "What is study?" This session broke down essential study techniques, providing students with a clear roadmap for what work they need to complete and how to approach it effectively. Key skills covered included:

- Note-taking strategies: Helping students organise their ideas from readings into structured notes that support effective learning.
- Conceptual learning: Teaching students how to break down information into meaningful components, rather than relying on rote memorisation.

The second seminar addressed another common challenge: "Once I know what to do, how do I find the time to do it?" With busy schedules filled with school, social activities, and extracurricular commitments, students often struggle to allocate time for study. This session focused on:

- Developing a balanced study routine that accommodates socialising, sport, and other activities while maintaining productivity.

- Working smart by identifying and prioritising tasks that will have the greatest impact on academic performance.
- Overcoming procrastination by understanding its causes and learning practical strategies to manage or eliminate it.

Students found the sessions highly engaging and particularly valued the insights on note-taking and time management. These skills will be invaluable as they navigate their final years of schooling.



My Food Truck Rules!

Our Year 10 students recently took part in the My Food Truck Rules assessment, and it was a resounding success! This hands-on experience saw students working in teams to design and operate their own food truck concept, from menu planning to cooking and presentation.

The atmosphere was electric as students showcased their creativity and teamwork, producing an array of delicious dishes. The engagement and enthusiasm were outstanding, with students supporting each other, problem-solving under pressure, and having plenty of fun along the way.

This engaging assessment not only developed their culinary skills but also encouraged collaboration, time management, and entrepreneurial thinking. With such positive feedback and a fantastic response from students, My Food Truck Rules has certainly earned its place as a highlight of the Year 10 curriculum!



Year 9 High Performance PE Students Mastering Ultimate Frisbee

Year 9 students in the High Performance PE class have been diving into the exciting sport of Ultimate Frisbee, with a focus on developing both technical skills and tactical strategies. The aim of the class is to build a comprehensive understanding of the sport, from the fundamentals of frisbee throwing and catching to the intricacies of gameplay and team coordination.

Students have been practicing key skills such as accurate throws, effective positioning, and strategic movement. They have also been learning how to apply these skills in real-game situations, understanding how to work together as a team, anticipate plays, and make quick decisions on the field.



Year 8 Science

In their recent Science lessons, Year 8 students explored the difference between physical and chemical changes through a series of hands-on experiments. They observed various reactions, including colour changes, temperature fluctuations, and the release of gas, which helped them identify whether a physical or chemical change was taking place. For example, they witnessed colour shifts in chemical solutions and saw how some reactions, like mixing baking soda with vinegar, caused fizzing and bubbling, indicating the formation of new substances.

These experiments allowed students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical way, deepening their understanding of the scientific processes behind matter changes. By actively engaging with these reactions, Year 8 students not only learned how to classify changes but also gained valuable insight into the world of chemistry, sparking curiosity for future scientific explorations.



Year 8 Religious Education

The Year 8A class recently completed oral presentations on the unit “God’s Love and Mercy,” where they explored current societal issues such as social media, bullying, and inequality. Each group researched their chosen issue, sharing their personal perspectives and explaining how Catholic teachings on God’s Love and Mercy can address these challenges. They also linked a relevant Bible story or parable to their topic. Students demonstrated a deep understanding of the three worlds of the text and engaged their classmates with interactive activities like Blooket and Kahoot to reinforce key concepts.



Year 8 Students Explore Global Flavours in Cultural Cooking Practical

This term, Year 8 students have been embarking on a delicious journey around the world in their Good Food lessons, which this week finished with a cultural cooking practical in the kitchen. Students researched traditional recipes from various cultures and then put their knowledge to the test by cooking these dishes in class.

From Italian pasta dishes to flavourful Mexican plates, the students had the chance to explore diverse ingredients, techniques, and cooking styles. Not only did they enhance their culinary skills, but they also learned about the history and significance behind each dish, gaining a deeper appreciation for global traditions.

The hands-on experience encouraged teamwork, creativity, and cultural awareness, with students excitedly sharing their dishes with the class. It was a fantastic opportunity for Year 8's to broaden their horizons and connect with different cultures through food.



Year 8's Pizza Party

This week, Year 8 students in the Kitchen Garden subject took part in a fun and educational Pizza Party assessment. They created their own pizza recipes, starting with fresh dough made from scratch and using herbs grown in the school's kitchen garden. Some students also cooked with produce grown in our garden including capsicum, spring onions and tomatoes. Students harvested aromatic herbs like basil, oregano, and rosemary, which became the star ingredients in their pizzas. This hands-on project allowed them to experiment with different toppings and develop their culinary creativity while learning about sustainability and the importance of growing their own food.

After assembling their pizzas, the students enjoyed a pizza party, where they shared and savoured their unique creations. The project not only taught valuable cooking skills but also emphasised the connection between the garden and the kitchen. It was a delightful way to celebrate teamwork, creativity, and the benefits of using fresh, locally grown ingredients. The Year 8 students truly demonstrated their culinary talents, making this a memorable and delicious experience!



Year 7 Science

The Year 7B class recently completed their Separating Mixtures Assessment for Science, demonstrating a strong understanding of the topics covered during their unit. Students showcased their knowledge of various techniques such as filtration, evaporation, and magnetic separation. Throughout the assessment, they applied these methods to practical scenarios, displaying their ability to identify appropriate separation techniques based on the properties of different mixtures. The task allowed students to reinforce their understanding and highlight their problem-solving skills, marking a successful culmination of their studies in the unit.



Year 7 Students Get Moving in PE to Boost Fitness and Wellbeing

During the last two weeks, Year 7 students have been focusing on dance within PE lessons. A highlight of their lessons has been engaging with Just Dance, where students have been learning new dance moves while moving their bodies to upbeat music. Not only has this activity been a fun and interactive way for students to improve their physical fitness, but it has also helped them develop key skills in coordination and movement. By participating in Just Dance, students are discovering that physical activity isn't just about fitness; it's about enjoying movement, boosting confidence, and taking care of their overall wellbeing. Students will then start their group dance assessment incorporating different cultures into their dance routine.



Rowing Program update

Year 8 HPE Riverfront Fitness Unit

In Week 7 Year 8 students were reintroduced to Rowing as part of HPE Riverfront Fitness. With a focus on both indoor and on-water rowing, strength and conditioning and running, it's a great opportunity for students to experience many uses of our riverfront! 8A were lucky enough to make it out on the water this week, with 8B's class having to reschedule due to forecast thunderstorms.



Final row for 2024/25 Season!

Our Senior and Junior Squad had their final row this week for the 2024/25 Season. They have earnt themselves a break from training. For some the focus switches to winter sports, while other will continue rowing during the off season with the Renmark Rowing Club. They should all be very proud of how they have grown as individuals and a squad this season!



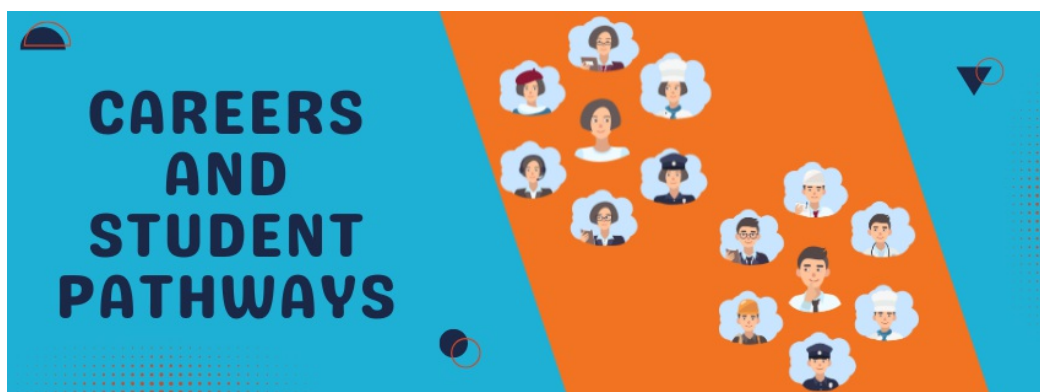
Upcoming Learn to Row Sessions

During Term 2 we will be holding Learn to Row sessions for any students (new or old) in Year's 9,10 and 11 who want to give rowing a go. These sessions give students the opportunity to try the sport in a fun and relaxed environment before committing to the program, which commences in Term 3. Sessions will be held on Mondays afterschool, alternating between strength and conditioning sessions at the College and on-water sessions at the Renmark Rowing Club. **Information has been sent via EdSmart – be sure to complete by 28th March to register!**

Year 8's will experience rowing during HPE in Weeks 7-11 this Term, with Year 7's completing a rowing unit in Term 2. More information on additional Learn to Row sessions and involvement in the Rowing Program for these cohorts is to come!



Careers and Student Pathways



**St Francis of Assisi College**
Laudato Si'

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS: Career Expo

Supporting Local exhibitors who create opportunities for our students

Services attending:



**DATE**
Wednesday: 4th June 2025

**TIME**
5pm-7pm

**LOCATION**
St Francis of Assisi College

ENQUIRIES TO KERRY N

 8595 4500

 kerryn.vandyk@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Mid Year VET

Attention Year 11 Students!

The Academy of Interactive Entertainment are offering mid-year (july) intake for some VET courses. Cert III Screen and Media (Game Art Foundations) Cert III Information Technology (Game Development Foundations) Cert III Screen and Media (Game Design Fundamentals) ***All require online study***

Contact Mrs Burgess for further information: amber.burgess@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Student Pathways

St Pat's Technical College in Adelaide is hosting some amazing Try-A-Trade opportunities. These are held in the school holidays and are located in Adelaide. Don't delay booking in, they fill FAST. Going to these sessions will be beneficial for your own career exploration and will provide evidence for any VET course applications you have in the future.

Automotive Thursday

17 April 2025

10am to 2pm

Year 8 – 10

Students Bricklaying & Tiling

Tuesday 15 April 2025

9am – 3pm

Year 7-10 students

Carpentry and Plastering

Thursday 17 April 2025

9am to 3pm

Year 7-10 students

Civil Construction (Interactive Industry Immersion)

Wednesday 16 April 2025

9am to 12pm

Year 7-10 students

Plumbing and Electrical

Wednesday 16 April 2025

9am – 3pm

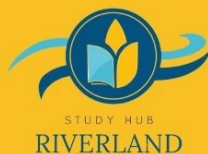
Year 8-10 Students

Email Mrs Burgess amber.burgess@assisi.catholic.edu.au for further information, or BOOK HERE: [Try A Trade – St Patrick's Technical College](#)

Local support for local success

For both high schoolers and adult learners, the Murray River Study Hub offers free high-speed internet, quiet study spaces, kitchen facilities, and access to a student advisor—all without leaving the Riverland!

www.murrayriverstudyhub.org.au



Uniform Buy, Swap, Sell, Giveaway



St Francis
of Assisi College

Laudato Si'

www.assisi.catholic.edu.au

Don't forget we have a Facebook page for parents/caregivers to exchange College uniforms.

You'll need to be a member of the group to access and can then directly communicate with others wanting to exchange uniforms.

The College also keeps a small supply of emergency uniforms that are needed from time to time. If you would like to donate pre-loved uniforms please drop them into the College office. Thank you.



UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

WEEKDAYS
8:20AM-3:45PM

The Ways We Communicate



Stay Connected!



SEQTA

SEQTA is used in many ways. Students and Parents/ Caregivers are able to access lesson details, assessment submissions, grades and feedback. SEQTA Engage is great for parent/teacher communications, student timetable details and to keep up to date with the College notices.



EDSMART

Edsmart enables parents to sign and return permissions electronically. Our College utilises Edsmart to send out school policy information and agreements, permission and consent forms, general updates and information around upcoming events.



FACEBOOK

St Francis of Assisi College Facebook page features exciting event updates and general information. We share school sporting results, student achievements, along with many photos and videos of our students and activities both inside and outside the classroom.



NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter is sent out fortnightly via email. You can also find our newsletter link on our webpage. In our newsletter, we share what's happening in the College community, upcoming events and general notices.

Absentees to be notified via: SEQTA Engage, absent@assisi.catholic.edu.au, or call 8595 4500

Don't hesitate to contact the College office on 8595 4500 if you have any difficulty with the various mediums used by the College to communicate with families. Or alternatively complete the form below.

Family Business Directory

We are championing our Family Business Directory and inviting families to be part of the Directory.

The Family Business Directory is an opportunity for families who run businesses to promote their business via our College webpage and Facebook page.

The Family Business Directory gives members of the College community a chance to support businesses from the Directory when making their purchasing decisions.

The Family Business Directory is free of charge *for* current families of the College.

To be included, send the following information to info@assisi.catholic.edu.au

Family Surname (not for publishing):

Business Name: Sample Family Business

Business Phone Number: 1800 SAMPLE

Business Email Address: sample@familybusiness.com.au

Business Website: www.sample.com.au

And your business logo or photo (small file size is fine).

We look forward to seeing many College families' businesses get involved!

External Events, Opportunities and Information

Gamechanger: Building Stronger Sporting Clubs

Gamechanger is an event to build stronger sporting clubs in the Riverland.

With the support of the three local councils, the Connected & Active Communities (CAC) project will bring quality speakers and facilitators to the region to educate and train club volunteers.

What: Gamechanger: Building Stronger Sporting Clubs

When: Saturday, April 5

Where: St Francis of Assisi College, Renmark

Time: 8.45am-3pm

Some of the topics to be presented on the day include:

- Succession planning
- Grant writing
- Social media training
- Volunteer recruitment, retention & celebration
- Food preparation & safety
- Club management & leadership
- Inclusive sports
- Child safeguarding
- Women in sport
- Drug & alcohol prevention

See the program below and [visit this link to register](#) to attend this free event.

St Francis of Assisi College students will be selling cold and hot drinks at the Cafe on the day, with proceeds being donated to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign.






FREE!
Registrations
essential

**PLUS...
LISTEN TO
KEYNOTE
SPEAKER
WINTER
OLYMPIC
GOLD
MEDALLIST
STEVEN
BRADBURY!**

JOIN US FOR GAMECHANGER

'Building stronger Riverland clubs and groups'

	SATURDAY APRIL 5 8.30AM TO 4PM	 SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL THE DETAILS AND TO REGISTER https://tinyurl.com/3xedvb43
	ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COLLEGE, RENMARK	

Are you a volunteer seeking to upskill and build capacity in your club?

This one-day event offers essential workshops for Riverland clubs and organisations to thrive. Register for one or multiple sessions!



SCHEDULE

ROOM 1

TIME	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
9AM	Juliet Haslam & Julie Anderson	Sport SA	Women in sport
10AM	Troy Henderson	Renmark North Cricket Club	Building club culture
11AM	Andrew Hamilton	Red Tape Busters	Grant writing & fundraising
LUNCH (fully provided) 11.45AM - 12:15pm			
KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Winter Olympic gold medalist Steven Bradbury - 12.15pm - 1.15pm (Plus an official welcome)			
1.15PM	Julie Anderson	Sport SA	Club management & succession planning
2.15pm	Mick Sparnon	Loxton Football Club/Nutrien	Mental health & wellbeing
3.15pm	Julie Anderson	Sport SA	Child safeguarding

ROOM 2

TIME	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
9AM	Emma Vallelonga	Volunteering SA/NT	Creating a sustainable volunteer program (Part 1)
10AM	Emerson Fielke	Emerson Fielke Creative	Introduction to social media
11AM	Emma Vallelonga	Volunteering SA/NT	Creating a sustainable volunteer program (Part 2)
LUNCH (fully provided) 11.45AM - 12:15pm			
KEYNOTE SPEAKER - Winter Olympic gold medalist Steven Bradbury - 12.15pm - 1.15pm (Plus an official welcome)			
1.15PM	Sally Underdown	Good Sports/ADF	Drugs & alcohol prevention
2.15pm	Chrissy Eleftheriadis	Berri Blazers Basketball Club	Setting up an inclusive sports program
3.15pm	Emerson Fielke	Emerson Fielke Creative	Social media & digital marketing

KITCHEN

TIME	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
9AM - 11AM	Michelle Jordan	District Council of Loxton Waikerie	Food preparation & safety procedures

ROOM 3

TIME	PRESENTER	ORGANISATION	TOPIC
9AM - 4PM	Alex Hendrick	South Australian Sports Medicine Association	Level 1 sports trainers course

Attention Riverland

LEVEL 1 SPORTS TRAINER COURSE

**SUPPORT SAFETY IN YOUR CLUB
CLUBS NEED TRAINED PERSONNEL!**

What you'll learn:

- ✓ **SPORTS TAPING
TECHNIQUES**
- ✓ **CONCUSSION
MANAGEMENT**
- ✓ **SPORTS INJURY
MANAGEMENT**
- + *More*

PROUD TO BE A PART OF:

SIGN UP TODAY!



For additional details
on the course, or to
register, scan the QR
code or follow the link
below.
bit.ly/3ReLHHs



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

MEDI *MP* **PRO**

JonesRadiology

SPORT SA

WWW.SASMA.COM.AU | ADMIN@SASMA.COM.AU | (08) 8234 6369



St Francis
of Assisi College
Laudato Si'

CAFE MENU



SATURDAY 5TH APRIL - GAMECHANGER EVENT

All proceeds will be donated to Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. Project Compassion mobilises Australians to raise much-needed funds to help alleviate poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in the world.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

HOT DRINKS

\$4.00

CAPPUCCINO

MOCHA

LATTE

HOT CHOCOLATE

FLAT WHITE

CHAI LATTE

LONG BLACK

DIRTY CHAI

DECAF

TEA

BLACK TEA, ENGLISH BREAKFAST,
GREEN, PEPPERMINT

COLD DRINKS

\$5.00

ICED COLD DRIP COFFEE

ICED CHOCOLATE

ICED CHAI



MUFFINS

\$5.00

BLUEBERRY

DOUBLE CHOCOLATE

WHITE CHOCOLATE & RASPBERRY



MILK: FULL CREAM, SKIM, LACTOSE FREE, SOY, ALMOND OR OAT
CASH AND EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Air Force Cadets 603 Squadron Berri

Are you 13-16 years of age? Looking for some fun and adventure, all while making new friends? 603 Squadron in Berri is recruiting new Air Force Cadet members for 2025.

Some skills you will learn include:

- flying
- camping
- gliding
- survival skills
- weapons training
- navigation
- drill and so much more.

For more information see the flyer below.



AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS

REACH FOR THE STARS

603 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets

What do we do?

Flying	Gliding
Camping	Survival Skills
Drill and Ceremonial	Weapons Training (Rifle/Sword)
Aeromodelling	Navigation
Interstate / International Trips	

When?

Tuesday Nights - 6pm - 9.30 pm

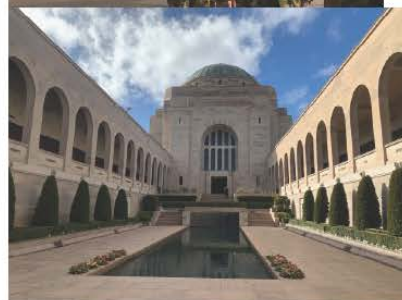
&

Selected Weekends

Cost?

\$250 - First Year (Inc all name tags)

\$150 Subsequent years.



603 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets



Cadets are issued two uniforms: Ceremonial Uniform and Camouflage Uniform are provided at NO COST!

To Join you need:

- Be an Australian Resident
- Commitment to attend for at least 12 months
- Be in High School in 2025.
- Turn 13 years old in 2025
- Participate from 12 - 18 years old

Recruit Intake 2025

Come, Try and Apply Night

6 p.m. 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th February 2025

Expression of Interest Registration required

online @ www.airforcecadets.gov.au

Training Commences 4th March 2025.



Your Local Unit is:

603 Squadron – Berri

Berri Training Depot

Loc: 8 Foreman Road, BERRI

Ph: 8582 2874

E: co.603sqn@airforcecadets.gov.au

W: www.airforcecadets.gov.au

Parent webinar series - Elevate Education

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by

reinforcing the skills they're learning at school!

Register today with Elevate Education.



Elevate Education's Term 1

Parent Webinar Series

Hear expert advice on the following topics:

How to Get (And Keep!) Your Child Motivated
12th February 6:30pm (AEDT)

How You Can Help Your Child Manage Their Time
26th February 6:30pm (AEDT)

How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)
12th March 6:30pm (AEDT)

How You Can Help Improve Your Child's Memory
26th March 6:30pm (AEDT)

Click the link in the caption to reserve your space.

elevate
education

Carers SA

'Carer Chat' is a brief monthly snapshot of what is happening in the world of unpaid Carers and looking at ways we can continue to collaborate as service providers.

Did you know?

- The 2025 Carer Wellbeing Survey is open! We invite carers across Australia to share their Carer journeys: [Carer Wellbeing Survey - Carers Australia](#).
- The 2024 National Carer Survey, South Australian highlights are attached. The results reveal the impact the caring role has across several areas including financial and emotional and the recognition received by service providers and other.
- Carer Payment is changing. From 20 March, you'll be able to work up to 100 hours in a 4-week period, instead of the current 25 hours a week. Read more here: [Time off to work, study or train if you get Carer payment - Carer Payment - Services Australia](#)

What can you do to help Carers?

- If you are attending the upcoming Riverland Community Services Alliance meeting on Tuesday, 18th March, connect with our local staff, Hannah and Shelley.
- Refer potential Carers you meet to the Carer Gateway via our website here: [Register – Carers SA](#).

Your local Riverland Carers SA team

Hannah Ashmore, hannah.ashmore@carerssa.com.au

Shelley Garrett, shelley.garrett@carerssa.com.au

Alana Valentine, alana.valentine@carerssa.com.au

Mick Scordo, michael.scordo@carerssa.com.au



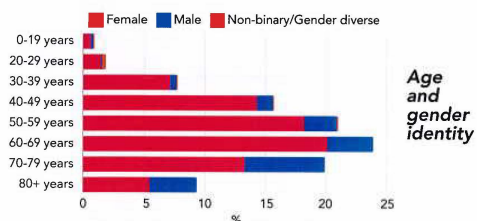
2024 National Carer Survey



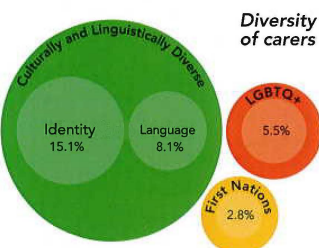
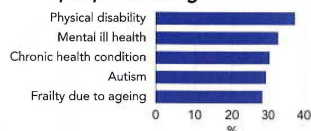
South Australia Highlights

The 2024 National Carer Survey results tell us a lot about carers' day-to-day experiences, support needs and perspectives on caring. Below are some of the key findings from South Australia so far.

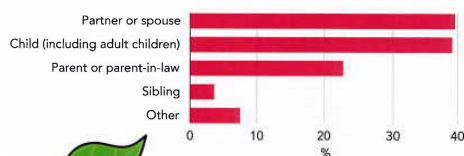
2,765
carers in SA
responded



Highest reported reasons for people needing care



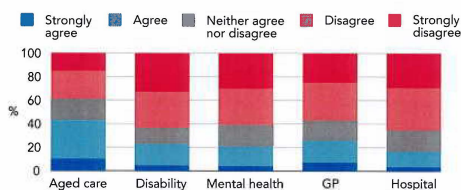
Relationship with the person(s) they care for



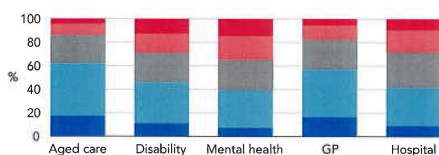
11.0
years

Average duration
of caring role

"I am never asked about my needs as a carer when visiting any health care professional for any one of the three people I care for, nor managing my own health issues."

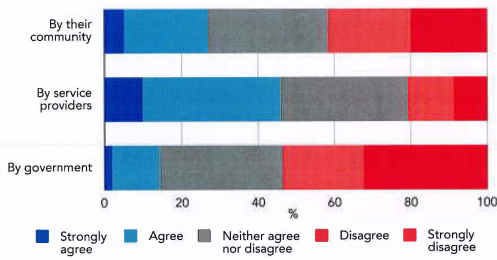


Whether carers were asked about their own needs



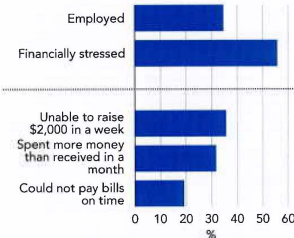
Whether carers felt their views influenced services

How recognised and valued carers feel

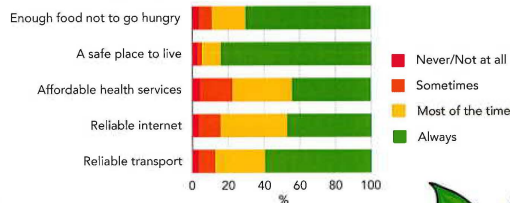


"The burnout is immense and real, and it is so difficult to know how to get better from it, that it is even possible to cope and even thrive in the current situation. It is so lonely and isolating - very hard to reach out for help..."

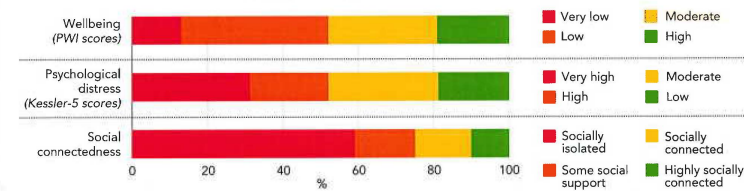
Financial experiences



Whether or not basic needs are met



Wellbeing, psychological distress and connection



"Being a carer is one of the hardest role you'll ever do...each day takes a huge toll physically, mentally, emotionally and financially...My experience as a carer for over 20 years has been challenging [but] rewarding at times when I see my children develop skills, confidence and learning strategies to help them work towards independence."

The National Carer Survey is an initiative of Carers NSW in partnership with the other State and Territory Carer Organisations. The Survey is proudly funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ).

For more information, visit nationalcarersurvey.com.au, email research@carersnsw.org.au or phone 02 9280 4744.

Suggested citation:
Carers NSW (2024). 2024 National Carer Survey: South Australia Highlights.
Online at nationalcarersurvey.com.au.

Contact Us for More Information

Name

Email

Phone

Message

