

Acknowledgment to Country



NINI, Sonder & OARS recognise the First Peoples of this Nation and their ongoing connection to Culture and Country. We acknowledge First Nations Peoples as the Traditional Owners, Custodians and Lore Keepers of the world's oldest living Culture and pay respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise the Cultural diversity and authority of First Peoples.



A Message from the NINI CEO:

On behalf of the **Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre (ASEWBC)**, I invite you to have a nukkan at our very first quarterly newsletter.

As Founder and CEO of NINI, and alongside our valued consortium partners Sonder and OARS Community Transitions and our dedicated ASEWBC team, I am honoured to walk alongside our communities as this important service grows through story, culture, connection and care.

Grounded in culture and guided by respect, trust and a shared vision of meaning and purpose, our work is focused on strengthening social and emotional wellbeing across our communities.

Robert Leidig

A culturally safe place for healing and hope



Newsletter

October – December 2025

1st Edition

Nani na mani Marni naa pudni (“Hello, how are you? Welcome”)

Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre (ASEWBC) - Whole of Family, Whole of Life, aimed at healing for the spirit, mind, brain, body and heart.

A Culturally Safe Space for Yarning, Healing, Belonging, and Connection.

Changing the Narrative by placing Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing at the Centre of care.

About Our Centre

- Our Centre is first of its kind first in the nation, stand-alone, all ages Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre.
- NINI (National Indigenous Network Initiative) is the lead in the consortium, and we are partnered with Sonder and OARS CT.
- The model is combined with Traditional Healing (Ngangkari’s) with social and emotional wellbeing and mental health pathways, once we are fully operational.
- It is tailored to Aboriginal people, and not bound by region restrictions, diagnosis, engagement or time limits.
- We will aim to provide supports and services to Guests as they need it, in a way they need it, and for as long as they need it.
- To achieve this, we focus on care coordination and shared care relationships.
- Everyone’s journey is different, and we are here to walk alongside each guest and our service partners in ways that honour their choices and what feels right for them.

The new exciting ASEWBC would like to welcome all you Deadly Mob to our very first newsletter. We have lots of information to share and cannot wait to update you all.

Our Newsletter is about keeping Community, partners, stakeholders, services and organisations informed and up to date information about the ASEWBC.

The Centre is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and State governments under the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement.

Ripples of Healing

The Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre would like to Acknowledge and pay our Respects by thanking Pat Caruso from We Create, Print, Deliver for this Deadly piece of Artwork. The Ripples of Healing aligns with Centres branding, balancing warmth and calmness with a sense of energy and renewal. Please take some time to read the story and meaning of the Ripples of Healing, it is a beautiful piece of Artwork.

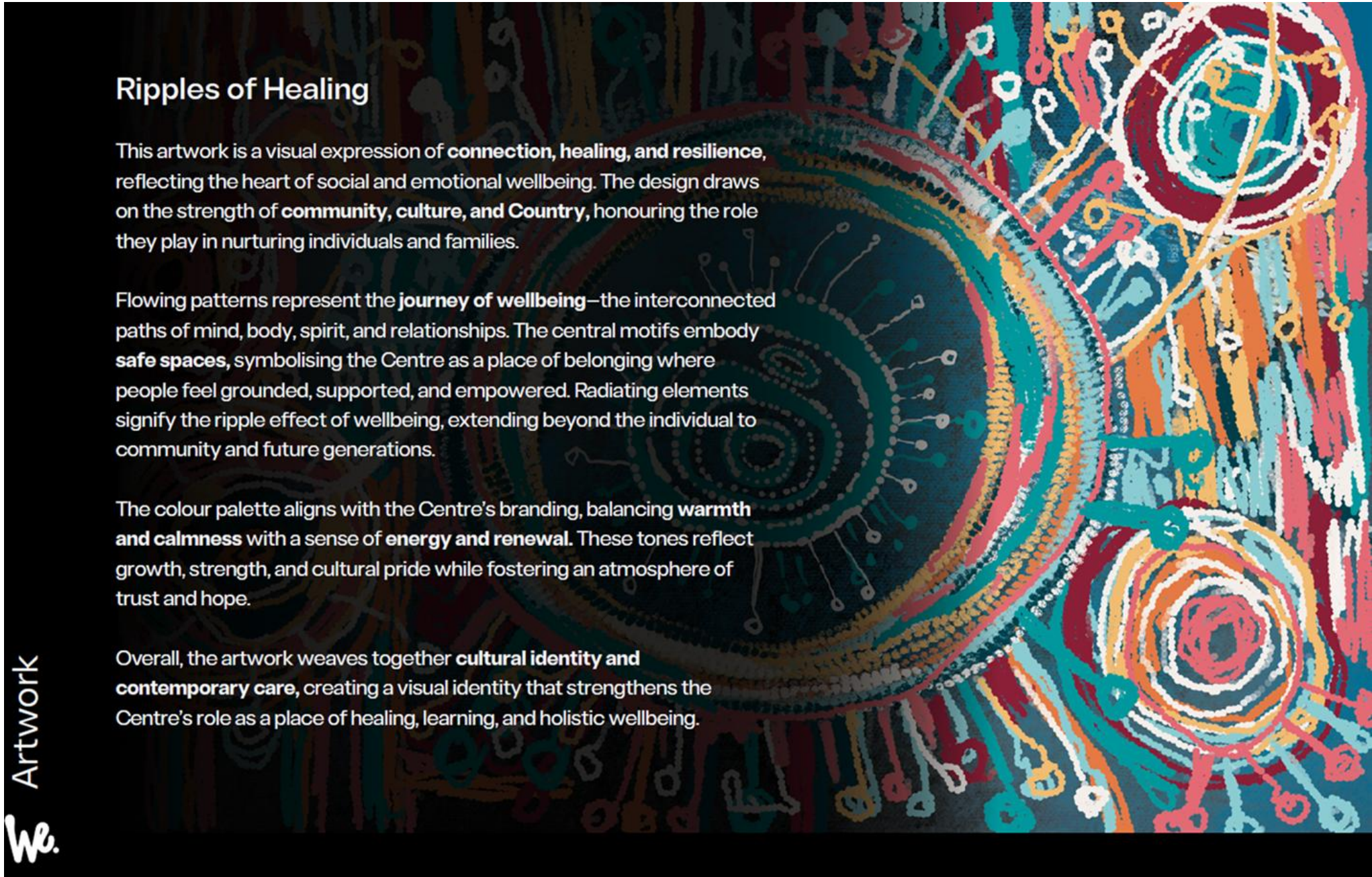
Ripples of Healing

This artwork is a visual expression of **connection, healing, and resilience**, reflecting the heart of social and emotional wellbeing. The design draws on the strength of **community, culture, and Country**, honouring the role they play in nurturing individuals and families.

Flowing patterns represent the **journey of wellbeing**—the interconnected paths of mind, body, spirit, and relationships. The central motifs embody **safe spaces**, symbolising the Centre as a place of belonging where people feel grounded, supported, and empowered. Radiating elements signify the ripple effect of wellbeing, extending beyond the individual to community and future generations.

The colour palette aligns with the Centre's branding, balancing **warmth and calmness** with a sense of **energy and renewal**. These tones reflect growth, strength, and cultural pride while fostering an atmosphere of trust and hope.

Overall, the artwork weaves together **cultural identity and contemporary care**, creating a visual identity that strengthens the Centre's role as a place of healing, learning, and holistic wellbeing.



The Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre will be commencing a staged opening from December 2025. From this time, some health professionals and service providers will be able to make referrals. In early 2026, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members will be able to reach out for support directly. If you are a health professional, and would like to know when you can refer, please contact info@asewbc.au.

Culturally safe wellbeing support



The Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre is a new service offering a space to yarn, heal, and get support that respects your culture, family, and community.

Who is the service for?

From October to December 2025, the service will be available for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who are clients of:

- National Indigenous Network Initiative (NINI)
- Sonder
- OARS Community Transitions (OARS CT)

In 2026, our service will expand to offer support for all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people in our community, including families and children.

How can we help?

Everyone's journey is different, and we're here to walk alongside you in a way that feels right for you and your family.

Some of the ways we can support you include:

- Providing a culturally safe space where you feel heard, respected, and supported.
- Working with you to create a plan that meets your needs and goals.
- Connecting you with other health and community services when needed.
- Supporting carers, families, and kin in their important role.

How to get started

To connect with us, have a yarn with your NINI, Sonder, or OARS CT worker, or contact our team:

Phone (08) 7228 2264 **Email** info@asewbc.au

Staff members can make a referral to the service by emailing referral@asewbc.au



Centrally located in Adelaide's CBD, this dedicated social and emotional wellbeing service will support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people of all ages, including LGBTQSB+

Grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures, the Centre will offer a holistic approach to social and emotional wellbeing that honours the diverse journey of healing and recognises the importance of connection to land, kinship, spirituality, Culture, and other sources of strength and identity.

Created together with community, the Centre will be a place where you and your family feel welcome, heard, understood, and supported in a culturally safe way, with no judgement. Whether you come on your own or with family, our team will provide support to empower you on your journey of healing.



Culture is the Centre

Some Ways We Can Support Currently:

- We provide culturally safe spaces where Guests and services feel welcome, heard, respected, supported and empowered.
- We work collaboratively with Guests and partner services to develop individual plans that address wellbeing goals and include cultural considerations where important to the Guest.
- We acknowledge the strength and care of families and kin and offer support that honours the roles they play in each person's story.

Updates and Milestones:

- We are currently in our interim site and providing outreach support, while our permanent site is going through renovations, this is exciting and we can't wait to share our permanent site once finished and ready.
- We are pleased to announce we have recruited our SEWB Team Lead and our Mental Health Team Lead and currently onboarding all new staff to start in early February 2026.





Sam Whitehead

Community Engagement Manager

0418 749 180

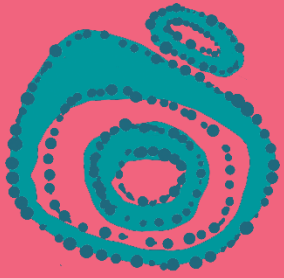
SamanthaW@asewbc.au

Staff Spotlight

Sam is the Manager of Community Engagement for NINI at the Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre and she is a proud Adnyamathanha woman with family ties from Nepabunna, Far North Flinders Ranges in SA.

Sam's role leads the design, delivery and evaluation of Culturally safe, trauma-informed, and community-led engagement strategies for the Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre. Her role ensures that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples - particularly those with lived experience - are embedded in all aspects of service development, delivery, and evaluation. Sam works in partnership with Elders, families, and community organisations to promote the Centre, mental health literacy, reduce stigma, and strengthen Cultural connection.

Her professional accomplishments include over 14 years in SA Health. She has worked over Government, non-Government and APCHOS services including outreach. She has an extensive clinical nursing and midwifery background including high-risk complexities and psychosocial support and needs. Sam has always had passion and drive for working within Aboriginal Health services and especially working with Mob. Sam is very passionate and goes above and beyond for staff and Mob. She is motivated to facilitate change, not just Yarning but actions and following through with change. Sam admires to be a role model for family and community. In her spare time, she loves taking her family up to the Far North Flinders on camping trips and connecting to culture. Other times she is taking her children motorbike riding, watching her beloved Adelaide Crows and watching Netball. Sam used to play and coach for her local club for many years, participated in the Nunga Netball Carnivals and was known for that big sister backup and voice on the court. She loves Yarning, jokes, and a little banter when you get to know her. Sam is very proud of her Culture, family, her work and takes pride in her profession and her carer growth and journey.



We are looking for Nunga people across South Australia to join the Aboriginal Cultural Governance Committee for the new Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre.

The Cultural Governance Committee is a key voice in shaping the direction, Cultural integrity and community responsiveness of the Australia's first stand-alone, all ages Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre. The Committee works in partnership with the Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Consortium Governance Board and Service Governance Committee, providing Cultural advice, community connection and lived insight to ensure the service reflects what Aboriginal people know they need—not what systems assume.

What We're Looking For

We are seeking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who bring any of the following:

- Strong community connection and cultural knowledge, including cross-border and kinship perspectives
- Lived experience of social and emotional wellbeing and/or navigating mental health systems
- Insight into issues impacting the wellbeing of Aboriginal people across metropolitan, rural and remote settings
- A passion for advocacy, healing, and empowering community voices
- Willingness to collaborate, listen deeply, and walk together with others on a shared path of change

How To Apply

Please submit a short Expression of Interest outlining:

- Who you are and your connection to community or Country
- Why you'd like to be part of the Cultural Governance Committee
- Any skills, experiences or perspectives you'd bring to the group

EOIs can be submitted in writing, audio or video formats. We welcome diverse expressions that reflect your unique voice. If support is needed to prepare your EOI, we are here to help. Please send to: hr@nini.au



We were honoured to be welcomed onto Kaurna Country by Kaurna and Ngarrindjeri man Isaac Hannam through a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony as our team get ready to begin this work at the stand-alone, all-ages Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre on Kaurna Country. We invite services and organisations walking alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, of any age and from all Nations, to reach out and yarn with us about culturally safe referral pathways and how we can work together to support social and emotional wellbeing and strong minds for all mobs.



The ASEWBC Team from NINI - Sam, Leigh and Paul had the privilege to attend the First Nations Business Showcase 2025 at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. We had opportunities to Yarn with people, services, organisations and had a Deadly time, Yarning, connecting, building relationships and partnerships to support mob.



Key Contacts for Supports:

Emergency: Ambulance, Fire, Police: 000

Health Direct: 1800 022 222

Mental Health Triage: 13 14 65

CAMHS Connect: 1300 222 647

Urgent Mental Health Care Centre's: 8448 9100

Thirili – After Suicide Support 24/7: 1800 805 801

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467

Domestic Violence & Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway: 1800 800 098

Yarrow Place Rape & Sexual Assault Service: 1800 817 421

Homeless Connect SA: 1800 003 308

1800ELDERHelp: 1800 353 374

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

QLife: 1800 184 527

13 YARN: 13 92 76

Yarning Safe 'N' Strong: 1800 959 563

Parent Helpline SA: 1300 364100

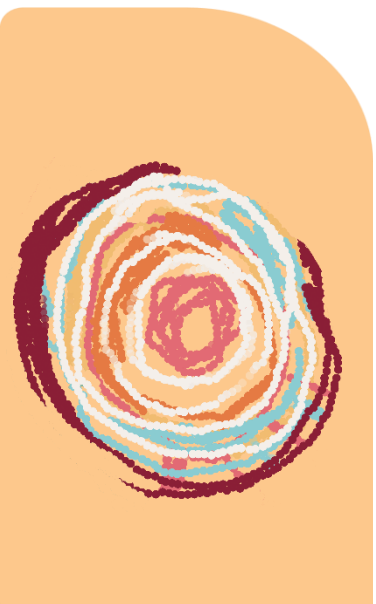
Perinatal Anxiety & Depression Australia (PANDA): 1300 726 306

Family Drug Support (Drugs & Alcohol): 1300 368 186

Funeral Assistance SA: 1300 762 577

Gambling Help Line: 1800 858 858

National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service: 1800 737 732





Please connect with us

We invite you to join our mailing list to stay updated on the rollout of our programs and the opening of our permanent premises in early 2026.

Our website link is: <https://asewbc.au>

For further enquiries please email:

info@asewbc.au

or

ring (08) 7228 2264

What else can I expect?

Private & Confidential services

Culturally Safe Approaches re:

- Model and Philosophy of care
- Trauma-informed
- Continuum of care
- Safe spaces for healing
- Yarning circles
- Activities and programs
- SEWB services
- Traditional Healing
- Mental Health services
- Self-Determination

All our staff are Deadly, friendly, approachable, and available for a Yarn between business hours, so please feel free to call or email. Please reach out, there's no such thing as a silly question, we are here to work and walk alongside you, all communities and the guest (formerly known as client, consumer or patient).



Aboriginal Social & Emotional Wellbeing Centre is delivered by the National Indigenous Network Initiative in partnership with Sonder and OARS Community Transitions. The Centre is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and South Australian Governments.