



# THE MAGNOLIA NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

Welcome to our latest newsletter! These are simply to keep our members and friends up to date with everything Magnolia. If there is anything that you read that interests you or if you would like to get more involved please just let us know...

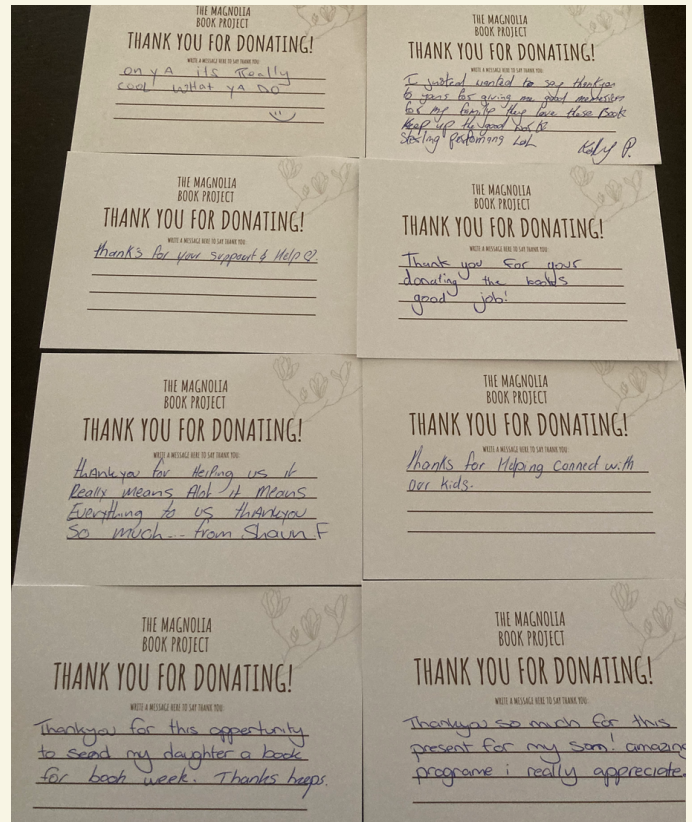
Andy and Kate

E: [admin@magnoliaproject.com.au](mailto:admin@magnoliaproject.com.au)

## WHATS NEW?

It has been a busy period for the Magnolia Project. We have continued with our prison book project as well as branched out into new areas. This includes our work with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SA) and the University of Adelaide, and a new project to support new workers in the criminal justice system. In this newsletter we provide a quick update on these and much more! As always, we welcome comments, feedback and critique!

Thank you for your continuing interest and support for the work we do to support more compassionate justice in South Australia and beyond.



## THE PRISON BOOK PROJECT

Our prison book project is going well! We are very grateful for the support of Books in Homes Australia (<https://booksinhomes.com.au>) and EK books (<https://ekbooks.org>) who have both donated some lovely books for us to distribute to the children of people in prison.

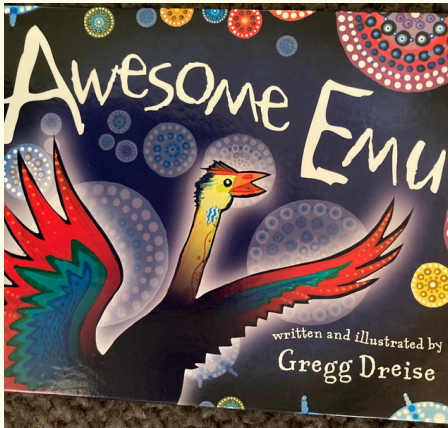
Special thanks are due to Krystle Coats at Port Augusta Prison who has been championing the project and organising books to be sent out as part of National Children's Book week. Do have a look at Krystle's blog about her work on our website ([magnoliaproject.com.au](http://magnoliaproject.com.au)).

Our partners in the other South Australian prisons also have some of our books although uptake has been slower, so thank you Krystle.

We have had an enquiry from the ACT (the Alexander McConnochie Centre) to ask if they can replicate our project there! We are meeting with them to see how we can help and will keep you posted.



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## OUR AGM

The Magnolia Project is an unincorporated association whose rules can be accessed through [our website](#). We held our AGM earlier in the year and nominated the committee for 2023/2024. Committee members are: Katherine McLachlan, Andrew Day, Loraine Lim, Leigh Garrett, Catia Malvaso and Mabel Day.

Please try to come along to our next breakfast meeting if you are free!

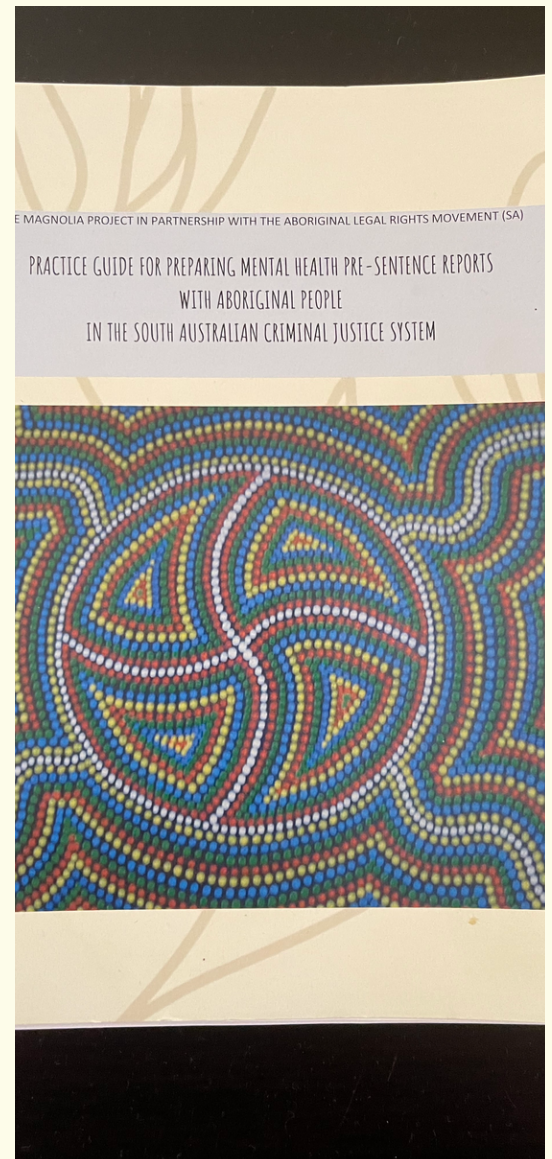
## PRACTICE GUIDE PROJECT

Over the last year Magnolia have been working with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (SA) to write a new practice guide for mental health professionals who prepare pre-sentence reports for people from Aboriginal communities in South Australia.

We are pleased to announce that this has resulted in the publication of a guide, with the pdf freely available on the Magnolia Project website. The guide will be launched at an event hosted by the University of Adelaide in November. Please watch the website for more details.

Our plan is to send copies of the guide to all of the South Australian judiciary and other key stakeholders to stimulate conversation and reflection about the cultural content of expert witness court reports and how this can support the delivery of smarter and fairer justice for First Nations defendants.

We are planning extending this work in a new project, led by Loraine Lim, to support better working relationships between mental health professional and lawyers. Watch this space for more details....

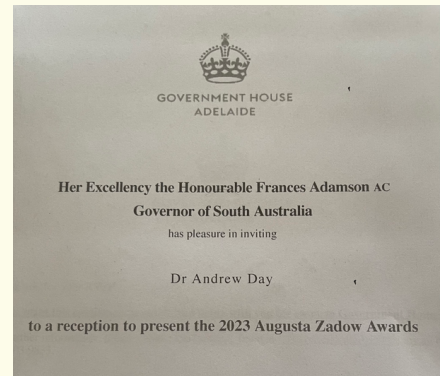


*The artwork on the cover of our Practice Guide is by Roger Williams who is a Wirangu man from Far West Coast. We thank Roger and staff at the Port Augusta Prison Aboriginal Accommodation Unit for their permission to use this beautiful painting as our cover. Roger's art is vibrant and alive and resonates with our choice of the Magnolia as the symbol for our work.*

## SUPPORTING NEW WORKERS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

We have developed a proposal to do some work over the course of 2024 writing materials to support women and young people who are entering the criminal justice system. We are concerned that many people are under-prepared for work in this sector, and some may experience vicarious trauma or stress at work that may be preventable. Supporting those who work across the criminal justice is one way that Magnolia can support practice that is more compassionate and trauma-informed.

We have applied to the Augusta Zadow foundation for some funding to complete this project and were fortunate enough to be interviewed and shortlisted. An announcement about funding will be made by the Governor of South Australia at an event at Government House in October. Wish us luck!



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

**Magnolia flowers represent many qualities, but especially endurance and perseverance and how important these are for everyone who lives and works in the criminal justice system. Magnolias also symbolise beauty, purity, love, and joy and—in Victorian florigraphy—embody dignity and pride.**

## OUR FRIENDS

Thank you so much to the following groups who support our work:

