

Flinders, Eyre and Far North

Remote Service Area · Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Ceduna and the far north

8,077

Carers, one in eight people aged 15 and over

506

Young Carers aged 15 to 24, with more under 15 uncounted

12,223

First Nations people, one in seven residents, the highest share in SA

4,390

people born in a non-English-speaking country

Who lives here

Population (2024) **85,946**Children under 15 **18.2%**
SA average 16.6%Aged 65 and over **19.8%**
SA average 20.3%Single parent families **27.7%**
SA average 22.6%

Vast distances and small communities, from Port Lincoln and Whyalla to the Flinders Ranges and the APY Lands, with the state's highest share of single parent families.

First Nations and multicultural community

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people **12,223**Share of population **14.3%**
SA average 2.9%Born in a non-English-speaking country **5.3%**
SA average 16.1%Speak English not well or not at all **197**

One in seven residents is Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, the highest share of any region in South Australia. Few residents were born in a non-English-speaking country and 197 people speak little or no English.

Carers in Flinders, Eyre and Far North

Carers aged 15 and over	8,077	SHARE PROVIDING UNPAID CARE, BY AGE	
Share of everyone aged 15+	12.0%	15-19	5.1%
SA average 13.1%		20-24	6.5%
Carers who are women	59.3%	25-34	8.0%
Young Carers 15-24	506	35-44	12.2%
Provide unpaid child care	26.2%	45-54	15.7%
		55-64	17.1%
		65-74	13.1%
		75-84	10.6%
		85+	6.4%

Caring peaks between 55 and 64, when one in six people here is a Carer. The Census only counts Carers from age 15, so children in caring roles are additional to these numbers.

Support needs

Profound or severe disability **4,797**As a share of all residents **6.2%**
SA average 6.9%NDIS participants **2,391**NDIS rate per 1,000 **28**
SA average 31Long-term mental health condition **8.8%**
SA average 10.2%

NDIS participation is below the state rate, and distance makes every service harder to reach.

Community context

Live in the lowest 20% of areas for socio-economic advantage **55%**
ABS SEIFA 2021, lowest quintileLow income renters in rental stress **19.3%**Living in social housing **11.9%**
SA average 4.3%Volunteers **19.8%**
SA average 17.0%

More than half of residents live in areas in the most disadvantaged fifth nationally, and one in eight lives in social housing, nearly three times the state average.

Local health services

- Port Lincoln Hospital
- Whyalla Hospital
- Port Augusta Hospital
- Ceduna Hospital
- Coober Pedy Hospital
- Roxby Downs Health Service

and 20 other hospitals and health services across the region, including Country Health Connect and Mental Health Services.

Eyre and Far North and Flinders and Upper North Local Health Network services.

Where is Flinders, Eyre and Far North?



The Eyre and Far North and Flinders and Upper North Local Health Networks, shown in blue. Boundaries from ABS SA2 2021 areas.

What this tells us

Flinders, Eyre and Far North has the strongest First Nations presence in the state, with one in seven residents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, high disadvantage, and distances that make every service harder to reach. Support for Carers here needs to be culturally safe, delivered through local partners with cultural authority, and reachable by phone and online.

Flinders, Eyre and Far North: how we know this region

Our engagement footprint, what we hear and what we are doing

528

Carers received a Carers SA service in 2025-26

100%

of Carers surveyed were satisfied with Carers SA services

88.1%

of Carers surveyed reported improved wellbeing

Satisfaction and wellbeing results are from Carers SA surveys, January to June 2026, for Carers mapped to this region by where they live.

How we listen

- Provider workshops on the Eyre Peninsula and in Port Augusta and the Far North. The two most recent were held in person at the WCYCS Youth Hub in Port Lincoln with around 21 providers, and at Pika Wiya Health Service in Port Augusta with around 15 providers. Attendees have included SA Housing Trust, Eyre Futures, DHS Youth Justice, Workskil, Uniting Communities, Mission Australia and Services Australia, and have asked for regular workshops.
- Country and Outback Health, a Carer Gateway provider, runs Carer peer groups at Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Quorn, Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Kimba, Cummins, Arno Bay and Tumby Bay. KKY Aboriginal Corporation works from Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Lincoln, and NPY Women's Council works on the APY Lands through its Tjunga Aged and Disability Service.

In Carers' own words

The service was handled so professionally and with great empathy and understanding. I have hope that I had lost before.

FLINDERS AND UPPER NORTH CARER · SATISFACTION SURVEY, DECEMBER 2025

So useful, encouraging and practical strategies given. Much appreciated. Keep up the great work.

EYRE AND FAR NORTH CARER · SATISFACTION SURVEY, OCTOBER 2025

What we hear

Carers are found by organisations, not by finding us themselves

- SA Housing Trust identifies Carers through its Access Assessment Tool, Eyre Futures through NDIS support coordination, and DHS Youth Justice through referrals and records
- KWY finds Carers through informal conversations in its programs, and Country and Outback Health's Care Finder, the free aged care navigation program for older people without a support person, brings warm referrals
- Carer screening in Local Health Network intake, so Carers from this region are found when they travel to Adelaide for treatment
- Providers listen for language like 'it's my responsibility'; in aged care the reluctance is 'they care for each other'
- Intake forms across the region lack an 'are you a Carer?' question

Culture, shame and mistrust

- Cultural backgrounds, shame, stoicism and a resilience culture produce low take-up of support
- Community mistrust of government systems, and non-disclosure agreements within services that limit cross-referral
- A dedicated Aboriginal Carer service is needed for those uncomfortable with mainstream services
- The payment myth persists: 'Carer' is taken to mean only someone on Carer Payment

The number behind it
12,223 residents are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, one in seven people, the highest share in South Australia, and **12% of residents live in social housing**.

Respite and the system

- Respite is limited and often unavailable region-wide, with little or no respite in NDIS plans and confusion about eligibility
- Carers cannot complete Services Australia and NDIS paperwork, a barrier to payments
- Systems navigation help is needed across the NDIS, My Aged Care and medical services
- Carers who do not drive have no transport

Study, work and Young Carers

- Carers want help to study and to find work, and ask where to start
- Employers do not understand caring roles
- Young Carers need emotional supports, and alcohol and other drugs (AOD) counselling is unavailable for ages 8 to 12
- Carers SA is exploring working from Uni Hub Spencer Gulf sites in 2026-27, so Carers can meet us alongside study and employment support

What we are doing

Support for Carers here needs to be culturally safe, delivered through local partners with cultural authority, and reachable by phone and online. This is how we do that.

Culturally safe

- Aboriginal focussed Carer peer groups delivered in Port Augusta from July 2026
- Provider workshops hosted at Pika Wiya Health Service, an Aboriginal community controlled health service
- Services on the APY Lands delivered by NPY Women's Council through its Tjunga Aged and Disability Service, with cultural authority in community

Delivered through local partners

- Country and Outback Health delivers coaching and Carer peer groups at Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta, Quorn, Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Kimba, Cummins, Arno Bay and Tumby Bay
- KWY Aboriginal Corporation works from Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Lincoln
- NPY Women's Council delivers on the APY Lands through its Tjunga Aged and Disability Service
- In-home support under Carer Gateway is arranged through our local brokerage provider panel

Wherever Carers live

- Phone, video and online options for counselling, coaching and peer support
- Interpreting through TIS National in over 150 languages
- Emergency respite available 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Carers SA staff are based locally and travel to communities across the region, and Carers can reach us on 1800 422 737 or online at any time

Working on the APY Lands

199

Carers supported on the APY Lands between April 2020 and June 2026

Services are delivered by NPY Women's Council through its Tjunga Aged and Disability Service, in communities and homelands across the central and western APY Lands including Pukatja, Amata, Kaltjiti, Pipalyatjara and the homeland of Kalka.

When flooding closed outback roads in early 2026 and cultural business ran long, contact was maintained by phone and through existing relationships, so assessment, peer support and packages continued.

Carers complete intake with a Carers Star and Carer Action Plan before their first service. Peer support is held on Country, mostly as bush picnics. Emergency respite and Tailored Support Packages cover material goods and community respite. Caring here is usually shared across generations and households rather than held by one primary Carer, and Carers connect to NPY Women's Council programs on site.