

Safer Place to Gather

City Community Services and Culture Committee
5 August 2025



**Government of
South Australia**



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Acknowledgement

Marni Ngadlu Tampinhi Ngadlu Kurna Yartangka Inparrinhi

*Ngadlurlu Iyanka Yaitya Miyurnaku Taikurtirna kuma Parnaku Pirkurna-Purrutyi
Karrpanthi, Parnaku Tapa-Purruna-itya*

Kumartarna Yaitya Miyurna iyanka yalaka ngai tampinhi

It's good that we acknowledge that we are meeting on Kurna land

We are here to support Aboriginal families and their communities in their way of life

I also acknowledge all other Aboriginal people here today

Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce

- Multi-agency group across three tiers of government, including the City of Adelaide.
- The Taskforce works collaboratively to develop strategies and place-based responses.
- Developed the Safer Place to Gather initiative in August 2023 and the licence currently ends 31 August 2025.
- It provides vulnerable remote Aboriginal visitors a culturally safe, temporary, place to socialise, seek shelter and access support.

Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce

- The Taskforce is progressing work to develop alternative options to support visitors from remote Aboriginal communities; however this work is ongoing.
- Convened a cross-border consultation with key Aboriginal and agency stakeholders, including those responsible for management of temporary accommodation facilities in the Northern Territory and Western Australia, and senior officials from the City of Adelaide.
- DHS are finalising terms of reference for the development of an options business case and will engage with senior City of Adelaide officials to finalise and progress this important work.
- Aboriginal stakeholders, including land holding, cultural authorities and those with lived and living experience, must inform service models.

Safer Place to Gather

- The Safer Place to Gather continues to be well-utilised as a place for people to connect, come together, and camp overnight. It has been instrumental in maintaining consistent engagement with at-risk and vulnerable individuals.
- Security shift reports detail regular help seeking from clients which demonstrates trust.
- Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation, as the land-holding body, do not object to the initiative, and this was re-tested in February 2025.
- SA Police and City of Adelaide staff continue to divert people from other parts of the CBD to Edwards Park.
- Drug and Alcohol Services SA and SA Police have expressed support for the initiative.

Safer Place to Gather

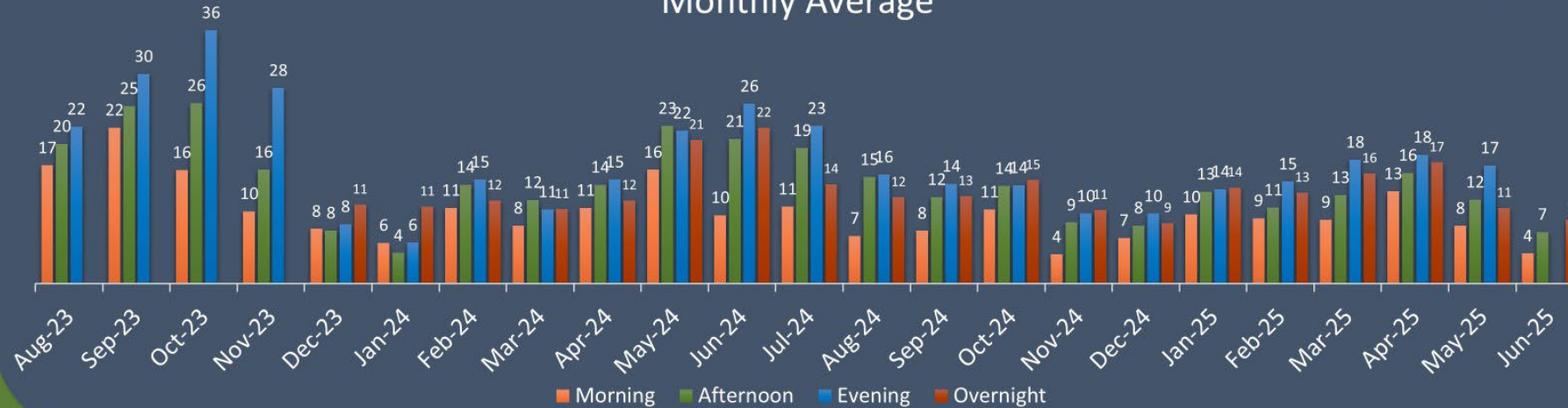
- The Safer Place to Gather continues to reduce rough sleeping in public parks, streets, and key business precincts across the Adelaide CBD.
- Additionally, antisocial behaviour is reduced, due to the presence of DHS staff, which includes Aboriginal Cultural Advisors, who are able to de-escalate conflict and refer individuals to appropriate services in a timely manner.
- There has been an improvement in the perceptions of safety and cleanliness in surrounding areas, benefiting the broader community.

SAFER PLACE TO GATHER EDWARDS PARK

Data Update – August 2023 to June 2025



Number of People in Edwards Park Monthly Average



Average Number of People at SPTG



Individuals Engaged

21,207

Groups Engaged

1,530

H&W Bus Pick-ups

Jan-25 to Mar-25

260

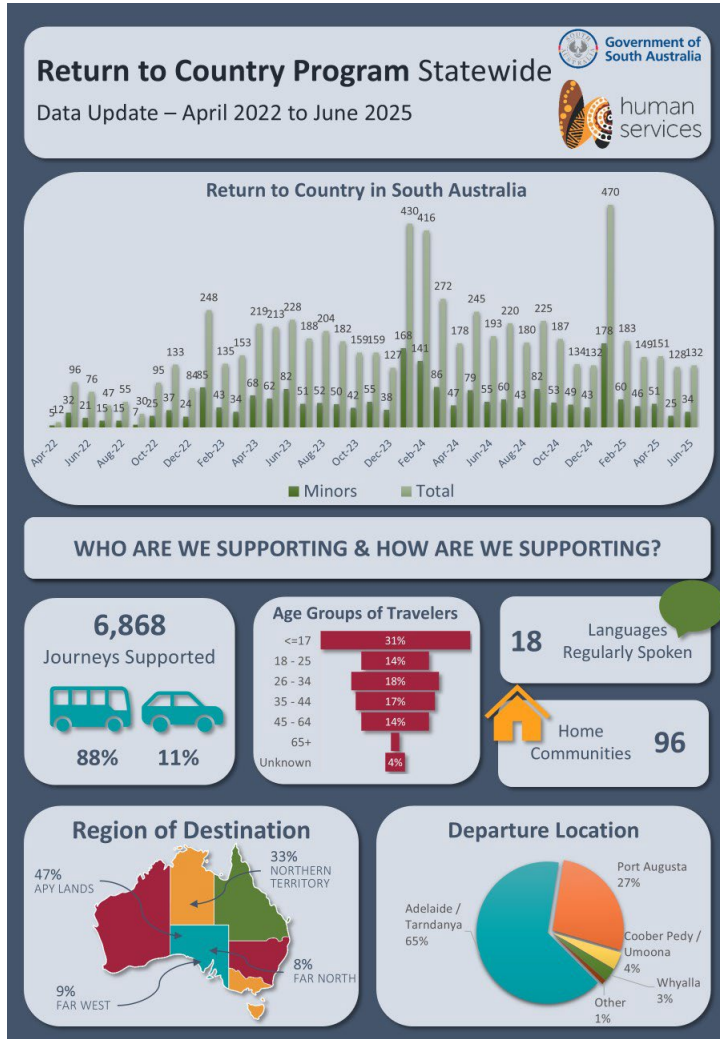
Return to Country from Adelaide



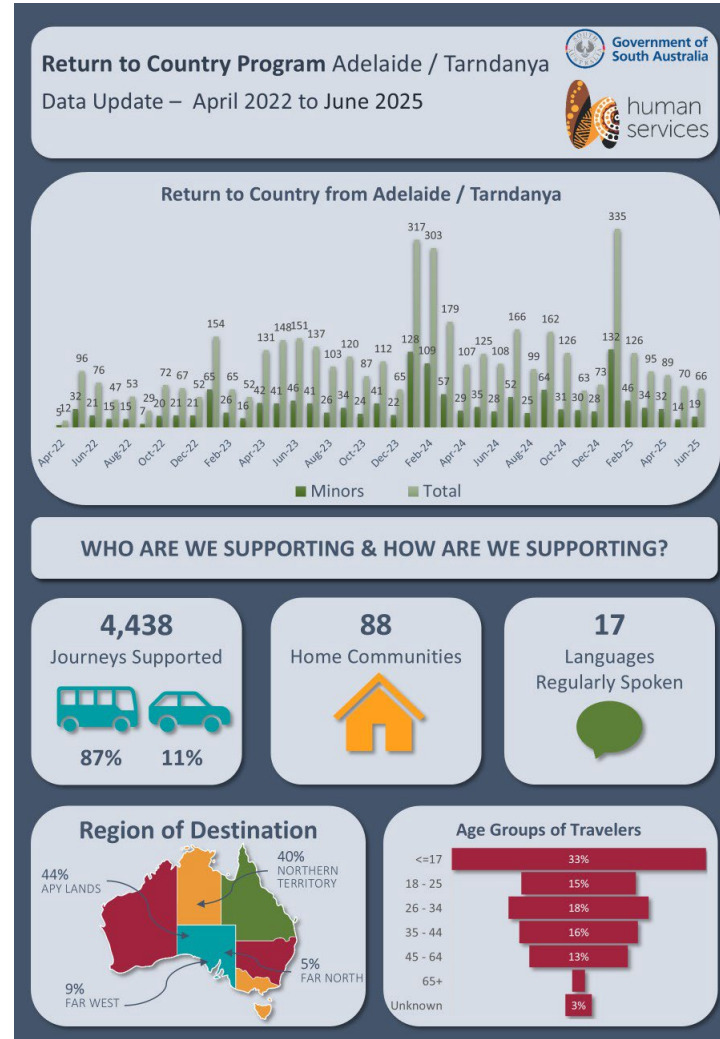
Largest Group Per Month

Year	2023	2024	2025
Jan	22	29	
Feb	31	19	
Mar	28	24	
Apr	34	30	
May	45	22	
Jun	40	16	
Jul	37		
Aug	40	31	
Sep	43	28	
Oct	56	22	
Nov	42	19	
Dec	24	22	

Statewide



Adelaide / Tarndanya



- Since commencement, 65% of all Return to Country trips depart from Adelaide.
- Demand for Return to Country, with peak periods consistent with the summer surge.
- APY Lands (44%) and the Northern Territory (40%) are the most frequent destinations.

Service model evolution

- Service delivery has evolved since the establishment of the Safer Place to Gather, and now includes frequent, assertive outreach by service providers, and harm minimisation strategies.
- Considerably enhanced clinical services are now available to remote visitors including culturally appropriate testing for tuberculosis (TB) and other illnesses and a weekly mobile clinic providing diagnostic and primary health services alongside alcohol and other drugs assessment and support.
- The service model will continue to evolve through the life of the initiative and will soon include an additional night transport option for people and families.

Ngaityalya

(Kurna - thank you)



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