

Coordinators: Marie Bucholz Helen Steinhardt Autism Gold Coast: 0480 275 582 [Please leave a message if phone is unattended.] Email: admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au Information, Support, Networks, Library

Welcome to our April 2023 newsletter

and autism acceptance month!



Over the years there has been recognition of Autism Month in April and World Autism Day on April 2. Awareness and Understanding have been celebrated and now it is Acceptance that is sought. The symbols have changed over time to move away from negative images and certain organisations in the world. The autistic community now relates more to neurodiversity.

"The neurodiversity movement advocates the idea that our brains are different and that everyone (whether neurotypical or neurodivergent) should be treated equally by individuals, the workplace and external environments. The self-identifying label of "neurodivergent" originally focused on those who are autistic. However, in more recent years it has been used to describe those who think, behave, and learn differently to what is typical in society. Being neurodivergent should not be considered an inherent deficit but simply a difference in processing the world around us." https://uofgpgrblog.com/pgrblog/2021/3/24/neurodiversity





Support Group Meetings

Come and join Helen and Marie for a cuppa and a chat. They are a wealth of information and it's a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents, family members, carers and people who are on the spectrum. Discover autism friendly experiences in the community, discuss schools, employment, the NDIS, use the library or just feel free to take it all in and realise you're not alone on the journey.

Our next **morning** Coffee'n'Chat meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 3, 2023 from 10 am – 12 noon and the next **evening** Coffee'n'chat is coming up on May 17, 2023 from 7 pm – 9 pm. Any updates or cancellations will be posted on the Facebook page: <u>www.facebook.com/AutismGoldCoast</u>. Remember, to keep our volunteers and patrons safe and well, if you're not feeling well, have cold or flu symptoms or if you are considered a close contact, please stay home.

If you have any questions or require information, please call on: 0480 275 582.

Our meeting dates for the remainder of the year are listed on the next page.



Evening Coffee'n'Chat meetings:

7-9pm Third Wednesday of the month, except in school holidays. Gold coin donation and bring a plate to share. Facilitated by Helen. For further info contact 0480 275582. (Please leave a message if phone is unattended.) Next dates:

17 May	21 June	19 July	16 August	No Sept meeting
18 October	15 November	No December meeting		

Disclaimer: Many of the activities, events and promotions listed in this newsletter are not Autism Gold Coast events and are not sponsored by Autism Gold Coast. Information is being promoted here simply to bring it to your attention. You should make your own assessment as to whether these activities and events would be suitable for you or your charge/s.

Annual Membership of Autism Gold Coast

If you are receiving a complimentary copy of this newsletter, are new to the Gold Coast, or know of a family who has received a diagnosis, we welcome new members to our support network. Special offers become available throughout the year and these are offered to members. Annual membership is from January to December and is as little as \$15.00.

Become a member »

<< Click on this link and complete the membership information before progressing through to online payment by PayPal using your credit card. We look forward to your support through membership. Please complete and return it as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on special offers and events throughout the rest of 2023.

Membership of Autism Gold Coast enables:

- Sharing of information relating to Autism from our network contacts
- Quarterly Newsletters including useful articles, websites and contact information
- Resource Library (books, magazines and DVD's) available on loan to members only
- Learning opportunities for specialist presentations and workshops at members' prices
- Special offers such as Mums' Lunch, Dads' Day Out, charity tickets to community events (eg Movie Festival, Circus Quirkus, Fleays)
- Collaborate on and create opportunities with other like-minded people
- Involvement in a community as a means of social responsibility to enable it to grow and succeed
- Sense of achievement through community participation.

Autism Gold Coast Management Committee:

Helen Steinhardt, Shannon Morrison, Andrea Wenborn, Irma Williams, with the support of Coordinator, Marie Bucholz, and our dedicated committee volunteers. We are all volunteers and live a life connected to Autism.



Autism Gold Coast

has set up a private Facebook group for local ADULTS on the spectrum to connect with others on the same journey.

If this is you, or you know someone who might be interested, go to the <u>Groups</u> tab on <u>Autism Gold Coast Facebook</u> page or <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/gcasdadultssocialgroup</u> and make a request to join.

Connecting the ASD community...

Are you a FACEBOOK person?

utism Gold Coast is now on Facebook!



Come on over and check us out!

Have you found these groups which have ties to the Gold Coast?

Gold Coast ASD Families Chat Group (Private group)

Gold Coast ASD & SPD support for Families (Private group)

Autism Families Gold Coast (Private group)

#ndisready

Check out: NDIS Discussion Group for Logan and Gold Coast



Circus Stars ASD - 2023

Circus Stars classes for children and youth with ASD

Circus Stars is driven towards providing an inclusive, creative and supportive training environment, where children and young people can find their own little place. Circus as an art-form and physical activity allows children to be creative and build confidence.

The Circus Stars classes are based around 5 key elements of why circus works for children: to have fun, to take safe risks, to build trust and work as a team, to encourage individuality, and to work hard on our skills. Circus Stars aims to provide a flexible learning environment, where children can participate in various skills at their own pace and skill level, this allows them to develop as individuals, while still belonging to the group. To find out more visit www.circusstarsasd.com and Facebook.

VENUE: Labrador Community Hub: 57 Billington Street Labrador

For more information on their programs, contact Kristy Seymour, Circus Stars Founder/Head Trainer circusstarsasd@gmail.com 0433 816 333 www.circusstarsasd.com www.facebook.com/circusstars.autismcircus



Autism is just one word, trying to describe millions of different stories

@ STORIESABOUTAUTISM







training here:

https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/workshops-online-learning/online-learning

WORLD AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH NEW POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS RESOURCES

WHAT IS AUTISM? - ANIMATION AND TRANSLATED INFORMATION SHEETS



NEW Animation:



https://vimeo.com/813438407?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=97184779

Translated information sheets:

https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/resources/in-other-languages

At Positive Partnerships, we work in partnership with families, educators and communities to strengthen positive outcomes for young people on the autism spectrum. We create connections and opportunities for an inclusive culture where autistic students belong and thrive. We have resources available in 22 languages.

These resources have been developed with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to support their school-aged children on the autism spectrum.

These translated resources can assist conversations between family members and professionals working with and supporting autistic children.







Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

FREE CHINESE COMMUNITY **AUTISM WORKSHOP**



Positive Partnerships joins the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast (MCCGC) and Australian Chinese Women's Federation to hold this workshop where you will have the valuable opportunity to listen, share and learn with other parentsand carers from the Chinese community who support school aged children on the autism spectrum.

At this workshop, you will learn about:

- Understanding autism and your child
- · Strategies and tools to support learning

This workshop will be facilitated in Mandarin and English with Mandarin interpretation.

A free morning tea and lunch will be provided for participants.

Location:

Southport Community Centre 6 Lawson St, Southport QLD 4215

Date and Time:

Friday 26 May 2023 9.45 am - 2.00 pm



To register, click here

To register for the Chinese community workshops, click the links above or scan the QR codes. For more information, contact:

Patricia Lee (Mandarin/Cantonese/English) 📞 0481 912 213 🛛 🔀 <u>plee@positivepartnerships.com.au</u> 🕓 0467 203 517 🔀 ping.acwf@gmail.com

Ping (Mandarin/English)

To register, click HERE More information: plee@positive partnerships.com.au or ping.acwf@gmail.com







Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

免费华人家庭自闭症工作坊



Positive Partnerships 与黄金海岸多元文化社区局 (MCCGC)及澳大利亚华裔妇女 联合会合作举办一次工作坊邀请您参加。请把握这一次难得的机会,让你和其他华人 父母和照顾者一起聆听、分享、和学习支援自闭症学龄孩子。

这工作坊让你学习:

- 明白自闭症与你的孩子
- 帮助孩子学习的策略和工具

这工作坊会以普通话,及英语辅以普 通话翻译进行。

参加者可享用免费早点和午餐。



登记参加华人家庭工作坊,请按上面连结,或扫描二维码。查询请联络:

To register, click <u>HERE</u> More information: <u>plee@positive partnerships.com.au</u> or <u>ping.acwf@gmail.com</u>

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PLAY THERAPY, TEEN COUNSELLING AND **FAMILY SERVICE**

RAINBOW CONNECTIONS THERAPY

We are located Robina and we are an ND affirming service and offer Play Therapy, Teen creative Counselling and Parenting Support and advocacy.

Play Therapy is for children with Autism, ADHD, grief and loss, trauma, school refusal, anxiety and much more. Play Therapy supports the following in children-

- Supports routines and ability to cope with transitions.
- Increases resilience and ability to manage change.
- Promotes language and communication development.
- Increases self-regulation and ability to integrate skills for self-regulation.
- Please contact <u>Kirsten@rainbowconnectionstherapy.com.au</u>, or phone 0419 326 645 for a free 15 minute consultation on your child's specific needs.
- Like our Facebook page- Rainbow Connections Therapy for updates and see the website for more information www.rainbowconnectionstherapy.com.au
- Mobile services may be available for NDIS participants (Conditions apply).



- Play Therapy
- Teen Counselling
- Parent Support and Counselling

- to respect themselves.

confronting problems.

to accept themselves.

- to make choices and to be responsible for their own choices.

themselves.



In Play Therapy, Children Learn ...

that their feelings are acceptable.

- to be creative and resourceful in

self-control and self-direction.

PlayDrPiom

 to express their feelings responsibly. - to assume responsibility for **Rainbow Connections Therapy**

www.rainbowconnectionstherapy.com.au

Ph 0419 326 645

LANDRETH, G. (2012). PLAY THERAPY: THE ART OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

Rainbow Connections Therapy Suite 113, Lakehouse Suites, 34 Glenferrie Drive, Robina www.rainbowconnectionstherapy.com.au

admin@ hinterlandchildrenstherapy.com.au 0412 876 198 www.hinterlandchildrenstherapy.com.au

240 Stewart Road, Clagiraba QLD 4211

Hinterland Children's Therapy are a dedicated team of paediatric specialists offering services

in

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
 - Counselling
 - Play Therapy

What our clinic offers.....

Animal and nature Assisted Therapy (optional) Small, personalised clinic Access to outdoor areas for therapy sessions Dedicated team to helping children thrive and be happy in their everyday life Supporting parents Visits to school and childcare available Helping families to form connections within the community

Immediate Availability



A social group for young adults on the Autism Spectrum aged 18 to 25 years.

VERS

Social Group

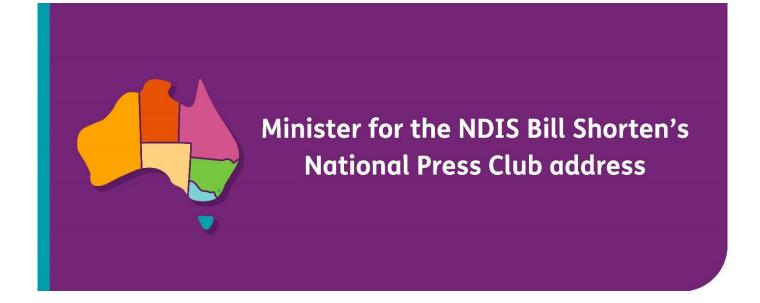
A free brief 5-week social group that will focus on communication and relationship building through an active approach.

If you are interested in registering your interest, please contact: E: psych_clinic@bond.edu.au Ph: (07) 5595 2527

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Will be in person starting in June 2023

For further information, email psych_clinic@bond.edu.au or call 5595 2527



Minister for the NDIS Bill Shorten's National Press Club address

On Tuesday 18 April the Hon. Bill Shorten MP addressed the National Press Club in Canberra on the future of the NDIS.

Andrew Tillett, the political correspondent for the Australian Financial Review, introduced Minister Shorten who reminded all Australians the Scheme is here to stay.

The Minister gave ode to the 'many great Australians' from the 'mighty disability movement' who have campaigned for decades, including the Agency's chairman Kurt Fearnley.

Minister Shorten outlined the steps he plans to take to ensure the Scheme's financial footing for the hundreds of thousands of Australians relying on the services.

"If you are an Australian living with a disability, a family member of a person with disability, or a carer, I want to say something to you right now: the National Disability Insurance Scheme is here to stay", Mr Shorten said.

"It is not going away. But, and this is important, we do need to get it back on track".

You can watch his full address on ABC's YouTube channel by clicking on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVORcCgBYSw

THE LAB GOLD COAST 2023





Venue: Autism Gold Coast cottage, Cascade Gardens, 2730 Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach.

Session times:Saturdays during school terms9.00am - 11.00am11.15am - 1.15pm2.00pm - 4.00pmCost:\$25/session for non-NDIS funded child or \$30/session for NDIS funded child.

What is the Lab?

The Lab is a technology club for young people with Asperger's Syndrome or high functioning autism who like working with computers.

We offer expert mentoring in programming, 3D, digital design and gaming – as well as the chance to meet others with similar interests. Many young people living with autism have great skills, though may find it hard to build lasting professional or personal relationships.

The Lab provides an opportunity for young people to explore their technology interests and develop their social skills in a safe and supportive environment.



How The Lab operates

The Lab offers one-to-one support by mentors with technology skills in areas such as programming, 3D, digital design and gaming as well as the chance to meet others with similar interests. The Lab provides an opportunity for young people to explore their technology interest and develop their social skills in a safe and supportive environment.

The mentors must have an intuitive understanding of individuals who are on the Autism Spectrum. The mentors must also be capable of developing strong and purposeful mentoring relationships with participants, and the ability to encourage social interaction between the participants.

The Lab is a club and not a classroom. A common interest in IT drives the direction and type of activities; participants may choose to learn IT programs or platforms, or just mix with others who share similar interests. At The Lab, there is no expectation of specific learning outcomes or guarantees of participants' engagement. The Lab may not suit everyone - the best measurement of engagement is whether your child is keen to continue. We have found that much informal learning occurs within platforms such as computer games – but this is not always obvious to others.

The Lab Gold Coast commenced in January 2015. There are three Lab sessions held each week, on a Saturday, during school terms at Autism Gold Coast, Cascade Gardens Broadbeach.

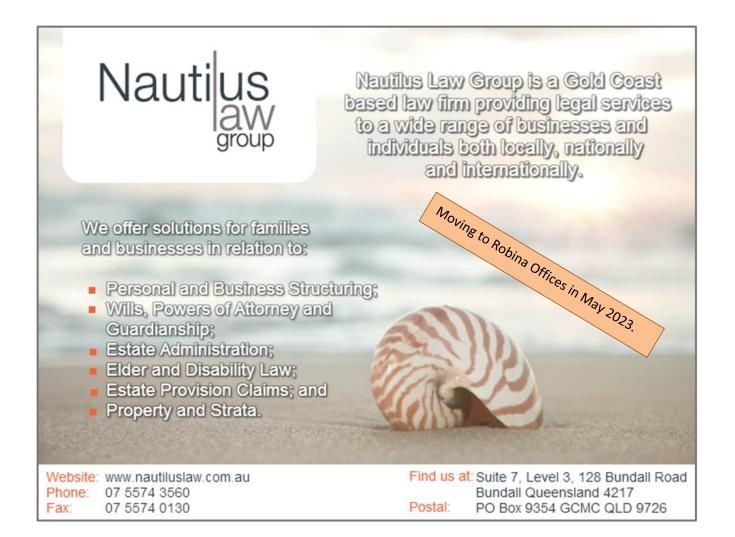
The Lab provides several two-hour sessions each week during school terms.

If you have a child, or know of someone who is interested in joining The Lab Gold Coast – even for next year, please fill out the online application form - <u>https://register.thelab.org.au/</u>. There is currently a waiting list.

At the Lab, we are committed to ensuring the safety of children in our care. We put this into practice via a range of policies and protocols, including screening of those working with children, training programs and complaints procedures. For more information on child protection please see http://www.aihw.gov.au/child-protection/#report

For general information on The Lab, refer to the website: www.thelab.org.au

For local information – call June - 0432 249 552





Gold Coast Disability Advocacy Inc

Advising advocacy support for people with a disability up to age 65. Protection of their legal human rights and freedom from abuse, assault, neglect and exploitation. They are located at SHOP 6, 18 Ferry Street, Nerang QLD 4211

5564 0355 | www.gca.org.au | https://www.facebook.com/GCDA-Gold-Coast-Disability-Advocacy-207079639349440

Disability Law Queensland **Disability Law Queensland** is a non-profit law firm that assists people with disability and their families to plan for the future, assert their rights and access justice.

Their services include providing advice and representation in relation to: wills and trusts, guardianship and administration, discrimination and human rights, the NDIS and child protection. Follow the link for further information: <u>https://www.dlq.org.au/services/</u> **Disability Law Queensland** and on Facebook.





Are you a parent of an autistic child (age: 6-13 years)?

We are seeking parents of autistic children who can commit to attending and participating in a four-week mindful parenting group to evaluate outcomes and feasibility of the

Two Hearts Mindful Parenting Program.

Participation will involve:

- 1. Participating in a small group, face-to-face, mindfulness-based intervention at Autism Gold Coast Cascade Gardens, Broadbeach. Groups will be run weekly for four weeks, for about 2 hours per session.
- 2. Completing an online questionnaire package.

Follow the link or scan the QR code for more information and to get involved: QR code:



Link: https://www151.griffith.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=RRKR7LRYJNFCRF4R

This project has been approved by Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (GU ref no: 2023/154).

If you have any questions regarding the project, or require more information regarding what participation involves, please contact Vedanta Suvarna (E: <u>vedanta.suvarna@griffithuni.edu.au</u>).



RESEARCH TEAM Ms Vedanta Suvarna, Dr Jessica Paynter, Prof Lara Farrell, Prof Dawn Adams, & Dr Lisa-Marie Emerson.

Further information:

Click on: Expression of Interest - https://www151.griffith.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=RRKR7LRYJNFCRF4R

Click on: Information Sheet Regarding Intervention for the Participants



How can we make therapy better for autistic people ?

We are seeking autistic adults who have seen a psychologist for therapy to complete a 20-minute online survey to share their thoughts on whether proposed adaptations to psychological therapy would be helpful. We are also interested in your therapy experiences.

Participants can enter a prize draw for one of two \$50 WISH Vouchers.

Follow the link or scan the QR code to get involved

https://redcap.link/18cvcohz



For more information, please contact: Dr Jessica Paynter or Dr Kristyn Sommer <u>i.paynter@griffith.edu.au</u>; k.sommer@griffith.edu.au

This project has ethical approval from Griffith University Ethics Committee (approval number 2023/183).

For more information, please contact:

Dr Jessica Paynter, j.paynter@griffith.edu.au or Dr Kristyn Sommer, k.sommer@griffith.edu.au



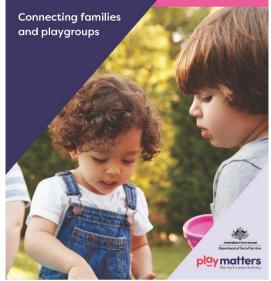
Play Matters holds 2 playgroups on the Gold Coast that cater for diverse and additional needs children:

Jacobs Well Playgroup https://playmatters.org.au/playgroups/1677445957 Citycare Playgroup Gold Coast https://playmatters.org.au/playgroups/1959210576

If you're interested in regular playgroups please visit: playmatters.org.au

activeinclusion@playmatters.org.au

ACTIVE INCLUSION



We support all families to enjoy playgroup, by:

Providing families with children aged 0-6 with additional needs, including:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
 Speech and language delay
 - Speech and language den
 - Developmental delay

with helpful information and resources to build the confidence to attend a playgroup

then we find their local playgroup

and support the group to understand how they can include EVERY family at playgroup

Referrals can be made to:

activeinclusion@playmatters.org.au

This initiative is provided at no cost to families.







ARE YOU THE PARENT OF A SCHOOL-AGED AUTISTIC CHILD?

We are seeking parents/caregivers, autistic adolescents (aged 11-18 years) and their siblings (11+) to complete a 30minute survey on the educational strengths, needs and supports for autistic students. There will be the option to do a follow-up interview or an interview instead of a survey

Follow the link or scan the QR code to get involved

https://redcap.link/8t9e6mjh



For more information, please contact: Dr Jessica Paynter or Professor Beth Saggers j.paynter@griffith.edu.au or b.saggers@qut.edu.au



RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Jessica Paynter, A/Prof Dawn Adams, Dr Stephanie Malone, & A/Prof Marleen Westerveld



Prof Beth Saggers, Prof Suzanne Carrington, & Dr Sofia Mavropoulou

Griffith University Ethics Reference 2022/806 QUT University Ethics Reference: 6480

For more information, please contact:

Dr Jessica Paynter, j.paynter@griffith.edu.au or Prof Beth Saggers, b.saggers@qut.edu.au

Want \$500 to help you with school costs?

Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join Saver Plus, you must:

 ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card <u>AND</u> an eligible Centrelink payment*
 ✓ Be studying yourself <u>OR</u> have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
 ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
 ✓ Be 18+ years old



shoe

& gear

A

activitie

supplies

excursion

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

 For more information, please contact your local Saver Plus coordinator:
 DELIVERED BY

 Image: Source Plus is an initiative of the Brothenhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with local community organisations.
 Delivered by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Want to know more about Saver Plus? Check out the website <u>https://www.bsl.org.au/services/saving-and-managing-money/saver-plus/</u> or give Jasmin Dorrington a call on 0417 485 477 or Zoom in one of their short 15 min presentations on how Saver Plus works & who is eligible to join.

Registration required:

- Every Monday free Money info session easy to remember 2pm QLD/3pm NSW
- First Wednesday of the month 10:30am
- Last Friday in the month noon
- 15th of every month evening 7pm QLD/8pm NSW



AQ GOLD COAST

Now Open

Autism Queensland has opened the doors to its first dedicated Gold Coast centre in premises co-located at Kool Beanz SUNS Carrara.

Our specialist therapy and teaching team deliver individual and group (excluding Kindi) therapy services for autistic children up to 12 years of age living in and around the Gold Coast area.

All families living in the Gold Coast region who are interested in learning more about the new service and how our team can provide support for your child and family, are encouraged to make contact as soon as possible.

Available now: Occupational Therapy and Inclusion Supports.

Services planned in the next 6 months include: Small groups – holiday groups and term time groups, Speech Pathology – either with a locally based speech pathologist or via a consultancy model (utilising Brisbane based speech pathologists to provide support as part of the team around the child) and Positive Behaviour Support.

New or returning clients are welcome to contact Client and Customer Services to discuss their current support needs and what supports are available – **this can be via our website, main AQ phone number (07 3273 0000) or email <u>css@autismqld.com.au</u>.**

Also have a look at the flyer below, plus, Autism Gold Coast has contact information brochures at their cottage for the Therapy Services Team.

early tion A quitism

INCLUSION & TRANSITION SUPPORTS FOR YOUR CHILD CHILDCARE, PREP S KINDERGARTEN

AQ therapists and educators work with childcare centres, kindergartens, and schools to create inclusive environments where your child can successfully participate alongside their peers.

EarlyAQtion Inclusion & Transition Supports are co-designed with you and your child's early education setting or school and can be accessed short or long term, depending on your child's needs. This service is also available as an extension to current services, or in combination with existing supports.

- We work with you to develop personalised goals for your child.
- · We support you to build effective relationships with staff.
- We utilise evidence-informed practices to support your child.
- We coordinate and collaborate for planning and meetings.
- · We support your child alongside their peers.
- · We support emotional, social and learning development for children.
- We assist to develop strategies that include children at a whole class level.
- We can provide supports at current and future settings.

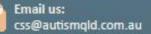
EarlyAQtion Inclusion & Transition Supports offer:

A strengths-based approach.

- Collaborative planning.
- Inclusive strategies.
- Coaching and mentoring.
- V Training.
- Resource development.



Call us: 07 3273 0000



Learn more/enquire: autismgld.com.au

Please note that fees apply for this service. This service is charged under the Capacity Building - Improved Daily Living section of your NDIS Plan. If you do not have funding in this specific Support Category, please discuss with your NDIS EC Partner or phone the NDIS on 1800 800 110.

AQ staff do not replace existing early education or school staff and do not carry playground duties. Permission must be obtained from your child's education setting to commence this service. Available at all early education settings & schools in Queensland.

InsideOutside Dance Now in Coomera

My name is Emma and I am part of the **InsideOutside Dance** family, **a dance school for people with disabilities**. The dance school is owned by **Madeline Stuart** an international model with Down syndrome and ASD; you may have heard of her.

We are NDIS registered and are finally starting our classes at **COOMERA**, on the Gold Coast, **EVERY TUESDAY**, commencing 14 March.

Come along for a **FREE TRIAL** to experience the joy of dance and movement with us!

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/InsideOutsideDance/



headspace Tweed Heads

Summer Newsletter 2023



We offer free support to young people aged 12-25 in a variety of areas including mental health, alcohol and other drugs, physical and sexual health, and work and study. We accept referrals from Tweed Heads and surrounding areas, including the southern Gold Coast.

headspace Tweed Heads operates a "no wrong door" policy. This means that no young person will be turned away without being supported to access other services in or outside of headspace.

To make a referral, please see our school and service provider referral form attached. Alternatively, you can call our service to discuss a young person whom you think we might be able to help. We are always happy to chat!

headspace Tweed Heads is currently offering two LGBTIQSB+ social groups on a fortnightly basis. There is a group for young people aged 12-15, and another for young people aged 16-25. These groups provide an opportunity for young people to connect and have fun with other LGBTIQSB+ youth.

Please contact communityengagement@headspacetweed.org.au or call us on 07 5589 8700 for more information.



groups

headspace Tweed Heads

supporting community



In addition to supporting young people at our centre, headspace Tweed Heads has a strong focus on engaging with our local communities. Some examples include facilitating workshops and presentations and supporting collaborative community events. To streamline this, headspace Tweed Heads has launched a new portal for schools, services, and agencies to request collaboration with headspace Tweed Heads, at no cost.

Workshops, presentations, attendance at events, stalls, co-designing projects, and more can be requested via our Events & Activities Request Portal. Simply follow the link or QR code below to access.



https://form.jotform.com/headspaceTH/requests

Carmarco Building, 145 Wharf St, Tweed Heads NSW 2485

2403

https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/tweed-heads

@headspacetweed

07 5589 8700

headspace Tweed Heads is currently accepting applications to our Youth Advisory Group. This is a volunteer group for young people aged 12-25 who would like to become advocates and make a positive impact on the social and emotional wellbeing of others.

This group provides experience working in the mental health/community sector and allows young people to gain skills in project management, governance, digital and social media, public speaking, and more.

If you know a young person who would be suitable for this role, please encourage them to apply via the QR code, or via our website.



volunteer opportunity: Youth Advisory Group

Yarn Safe

headspace Tweed has a YarnSafe program able to provide support to young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 12-25.

We can provide both one-on-one and group support in the areas of alcohol and other drugs, respectful relationships, art, cultural needs, and more.

We are also able to offer Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid training, a two day course that can be delivered over a number of shorter sessions depending on your needs. Please call us to enquire.

headspace offers regular online chats led by clinicians, providing comprehensive information to young people, their families, friends, and supporters.

Upcoming chats for parents/carers/friends:

12th Feb: supporting young people to stay safe and thrive online 17th Feb: supporting young people with gender exploration 16th March: looking through the eyes of a young person

Find more chats, resources, and other supports on the headspace website.



online supports



about headspace Tweed Heads

headspace Tweed Heads is operated by Social Futures. All headspace services are funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. Administration of funding is carried out by the headspace centre's local Primary Health Network, in this case, Healthy North Coast.

Carmarco Building, 145 Wharf St, Tweed Heads NSW 2485

07 5589 8700

headspace Tweed Heads is located on the unceded lands of the Nganduwal and Coodjingburra people of the Minjungbul speaking clans within the Bundjalung nation. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people including Elders, past, present and future.

https://headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/tweed-heads

@headspacetweed



Thinking About Work: A customised approach for people with Disabilities

Community Resource Unit Ltd

Tuesday 23rd May 2023 from 9.30am – 4.30pm (please arrive from 9AM to sign-in) Cost:

\$50 per person with disability or the family members \$150 workers, allies and friends

> "Customised employment ignites what was learned in Discovery - creating mutually beneficial work for business and employee." Milton Tyree

About the Workshop

Along with an income and security, having a job can bring a sense of purpose and belonging and the opportunity to make friends. With some creative thinking, meaningful work is possible for everyone. Jobs come in many different shapes and sizes - the important thing is to find the right match between you and your job, including your interests and strengths and your plans for the future.

In this full-day, face-to-face workshop, international guest speaker Milton Tyree will explore Customised Employment, an evidence-based approach to finding and creating meaningful employment for people with disabilities based on the work of Marc Gold & Associates

Topics will include:

- An Introduction to Customised Employment and Job Development •
- Work Conditions, Interests and Contributions; planning for success •
- An Introduction to the process of Discovery ٠
- The Role of the Employment Supporter: Discerning When to Get involved and When to Step Aside
- Transitioning from school to work

About the Presenter

Milton Tyree has professional and personal experience over decades of helping people with disabilities have strong work roles. He uses the principles of SRV (Social Role Valorisation) as a foundation for his work

Milton lives in Kentucky in the USA and works with Marc Gold & Associates, the pioneers of Customised Employment and has worked closely with many families over the years to support the exploration of meaningful work in open employment.

For more information about MG&A click on this link: http://marcgold.com

Who Should Attend?

This event is for people with disability, their families and friends. We also welcome support workers, teachers and professionals who are interested in exploring how we can generate meaningful employment for people with disabilities.

Event Details

Date and Time

• Tuesday 23rd May 2023 from 9.30AM – 4.30PM (please arrive from 9AM to sign-in)

Venue Details

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Plaza level (use the Grey Street entrance), South Brisbane, QLD

Cost

- \$50 per person with disability or their family members
- \$150 per person for workers, friends and allies

Tickets

• Please register and book your tickets through the following link:

https://events.humanitix.com/thinking-about-work-may23

RSVP

Registrations close on Monday 15th May

Cancellations

• CRU's cancellation policy is on our website. Please use the following link: <u>http://cru.org.au/about/policies/#cancellation</u>

About Community Resource Unit Ltd.

- CRU has a 30 year track record of working across Queensland to help people with a disability take control of their lives and take their place in their community.
- Community Resource Unit (QLD), Resourcing Inclusive Communities, an initiative of Family Advocacy (NSW) and Imagine More (ACT) are working together on a three-year project called 'School To Work'.
- 'School To Work' aims to inspire, increase confidence and motivate students with disability to seek and find meaningful employment with the help and support of their family and community.
- The project is being provided as part of the Community Inclusion Capacity Development program through The Department of Social Services.

Contact Community Resource Unit Ltd.

Phone

07 3844 2211

Email cru@cru.org.au

Website

www.cru.org.au

Address

Level 2, 43 Peel Street, South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101

Your Caring Way Your new future begins today... call us on 1300 585 636.

Begin a new future that's all about you...

We understand what it's like to care for someone. We are here to make your life easier.

Your Caring Way (a Carers Queensland initiative) offers **FREE employment** services and **SUBSIDISED training** options for unpaid carers.

We're here to listen, assist in learning, and create a personalised step-by-step plan towards achieving fulfilment in your own life. Whether it's studying, volunteering, or finding a job, we can help you get started in many ways.

More than 600 carers accessed training, and over 200 gained employment last year with Your Caring Way's support. You can be one of them!

Let us support you while you support your loved ones.

Your new future begins today...

Get in touch

- <u>1300 585 636</u>
- info@yourcaringway.com.au



Perfectinizm. Prefectionism. Purfectionizm. URGH! I can't do it! Does this remind you of the children you know?

Making mistakes can be particularly frustrating for students with ASD. Teachers often tell me their students continue making the same mistakes, and get frustrated when they are corrected.

In this blog I hear from my wonderful Facebook community 5 categories of things they find upset perfectionists.

I also give 11 of my favourite tips to help support perfectionists and prevent meltdowns.

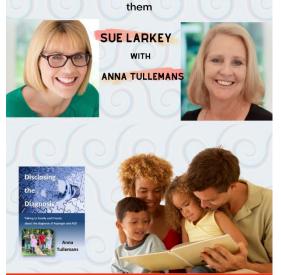
https://suelarkey.com.au/why_perfectionists_get_upset_what_can_you_do-2/

Additional Webinars and On-Demand courses available here: <u>https://elearning.suelarkey.com.au/</u>



DISCUSSING THE DIAGNOSIS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Who to tell, why it's so important and how to tell



SUELARKEY.COM.AU

In this podcast I interview the wonderful Anna Tullemans and get her insights on <u>Discussing the</u> Diagnosis with Friends and Family.

Anna knows firsthand how daunting it can be talking to family and friends about diagnosis. But it is also so important that those around your child understand their needs and can accommodate, adjust and support them.

In this episode Anna and I discuss strategies

- * who needs to know
- * how much to share
- * why it is so important

https://suelarkey.com.au/sharing diagnosis how friends/

INITIATIVES AND IDEAS TO HELP BUILD SOCIAL CONNECTION IN NEURODIVERSE TEENS AND ADULTS

Many neurodiverse teens and young adults struggle with social connections post school.

One solution I talk about is the range of community programmes for social connection.

Discussed in this Episode:

- Why social skills programmes need to be "driven" by individual's needs and their personal goals (HELP)
- How to build social capacity in teen years and beyond
- The importance of programmes/ relationships being

Two amazing programmes share insights and information on how programs support teens and young people to develop connections and friends

Range of fabulous options available in most communities to help build social connections

Listen to Episode 193 for more info:

https://suelarkey.com.au/social-connection-for-neurodiverse-teen-adults/



FOR FURTHER INFOMATION SURROUNDING THIS TOPIC GO TO : SUELARKEY.COM.AU



Tony Attwood and Michelle Garnett are internationally recognised experts in autism, with a combined knowledge and experience of over 70 years as clinical psychologists, authors, researchers and consultants. In addition to their regular events, Attwood & Garnett have an informative and insightful blog. Below are the recent blog offerings for your information. For more, visit: https://attwoodandgarnettevents.com/category/attwood-and-garnett-blog/



Autism and Bullying: New developments in research and support

by Prof Tony Attwood and Dr Michelle Garnett

Why are autistic students so frequently the victims of bullying? From our extensive clinical experience, we have found that there are usually many reasons. The biggest is that they are perceived as easy victims due to often being alone and not having a group of friends for protection. Due to low self-confidence, they often have the posture and body language of someone insecure and vulnerable. Due to both low self-esteem and social status they can be perceived as being a relatively 'soft target', i.e., someone unlikely to be assertive or able to retaliate in a way that could cause discomfort to the 'predator'.

Due to difficulties with social reasoning and Theory of Mind (perspective-taking) abilities, they may also lack the ability to determine if an action or suggestion was deliberate or accidental, whether teasing is friendly or malicious and the difference between humour and insult. Bullying can occur for autistic students of all ability levels, including children attending a special school (van Roekel, Scholte & Didden, 2010). The study found that autistic adolescents who were frequently bullied sometimes misinterpreted non-bullying situations as bullying. They had become over-sensitised and quick to react without analysing intentions.

Continue reading: <u>https://attwoodandgarnettevents.com/autism-and-bullying-new-developments-in-research-and-support/</u>



Autism and Trauma

by Professor Tony Attwood & Dr Michelle Garnett

There is increasing recognition that autism and trauma are associated in significant ways which contribute to our understanding of autism, our awareness of the importance of the assessment of trauma in the diagnostic assessment process, and the types of support and treatment offered.

What is Trauma?

Our current diagnostic manual, DSM5-TR defines trauma as "actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violence" (APA, 2022, page 301). To be diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) using the DSM5, the person must have experienced this type of trauma, and demonstrate trauma symptoms with functional impairment including:

- persistent re-experiencing of the event, via flashbacks and/or nightmares and/or involuntary distressing memories of the trauma;
- avoidance of internal and/or external thoughts or reminders about the trauma;
- signs of worsening cognition or mood after the trauma for eg, persistent and exaggerated negative beliefs about oneself, others and the world; inability to experience positive emotions;
- Changes in reactivity and arousal after the trauma, for eg, hypervigilance, sleep disturbance, problems with concentration.

However, it is possible to experience different types of trauma and still show the symptoms of PTSD. For example, children who experience high levels of exposure to neighbourhood violence, parental divorce, traumatic loss, poverty, mental illness, and substance abuse in the family (adverse childhood experiences or ACEs) may develop PTSD symptoms and meet criteria for Complex-PTSD (trauma symptoms in reaction to a series of traumatic events over time). These children have been found to be at higher risk for poorer medical, psychiatric, and socioeconomic outcomes across their lifetimes (Felitti, et al 1998). The higher number of ACEs they experience, the higher their risk of poor outcomes across multiple dimensions.

Continue reading: https://attwoodandgarnettevents.com/autism-and-trauma/

Upcoming Events



Autistic Girls and Women Live Webcast Date: <u>9 June 2023</u>

This presentation will celebrate the unique presentation of autistic girls and women. It will increase awareness and knowledge of autistic female presentation and share strategies we find useful in clinical practice. We will address key challenges, including self-understanding, adolescence, relationships and expressing and managing emotions. We will provide strategies to maximise the possibility of successful outcomes.

Exploring Friendships in High School Live Webcast Date: <u>17 July 2023</u>

We created this presentation for parents and professionals to explain the friendship challenges and provide ideas and strategies for increasing friendship success for autistic adolescents at high school.

Exploring Friendships in the Primary Years Live Webcast Date: <u>17 July 2023</u>

The webcast will focus on relevant research on friendship for autistic boys and girls during their primary school years, describe the stages of friendship during those years and strategies to improve friendship abilities, experiences, and confidence at school.

More events: https://attwoodandgarnettevents.com/upcoming-events/

We are inclusive of the autism spectrum, with members who are "young through to old". We provide support, information and advocacy to enable parents, carers and people with ASD to be more resilient, link with others and form valued networks across the local community.



We are not government funded group; and create opportunities and services with what we have, when we can.

Come join us and be part of our network - help create a supportive community for our families! Autism Gold Coast is a small community based charitable organisation, independent of Autism Queensland.

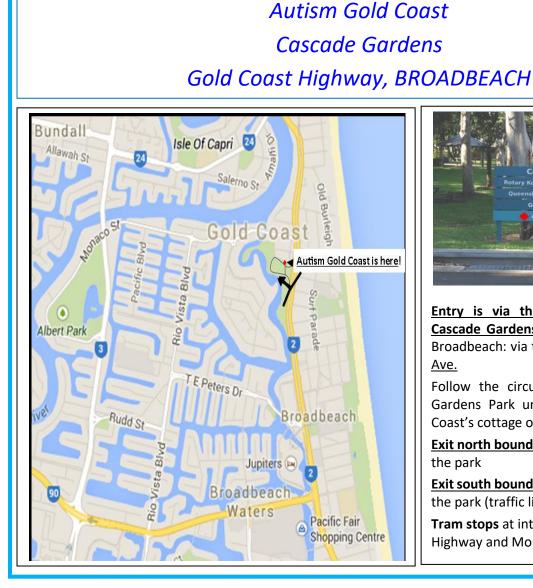
We encourage involvement in the events and activities we organise across the year. We create opportunities to meet and develop social networks, share our journeys and learn from others.

We would love to hear from you!

The **opportunities and services** that Autism Gold Coast provides into the future comes from **inspiration and ideas** that people in our community share with us.

What would YOU like to see created for the ASD community of families? **Share it** with the Management Committee and let's get together to see what can be generated!

Thoughts... ideas... Do you know someone who could help drive or support the idea into fruition? If so, email us: admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au, or leave a message on 0480 275 582





Entry is via the southern entrance to Cascade Gardens on Gold Coast Highway, Broadbeach: via the traffic lights at <u>St Kilda</u> <u>Ave.</u>

Follow the circuit drive around Cascade Gardens Park until you see Autism Gold Coast's cottage on the left.

<u>Exit north bound</u>, using the northern exit to the park

Exit south bound, using the southern exit to the park (traffic light)

Tram stops at intersection of Gold Coast Highway and Monaco St traffic lights

Make a tax deductible donation to Autism Gold Coast now!



Donations are vital to the ongoing work we do, and services we're able to provide. Your contribution helps us continue to provide support and assistance to people living with Autism and their families. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Donations can be made from our website using GiveNow.com.au or through our PayPal account

How you can help us...

At some time or another, everyone needs a helping hand. Autism Gold Coast doesn't receive any government funding. It's managed by a small group of dedicated parents. We'd love to hear from you if you can donate goods or services to help us achieve our dream of a safe and beautiful place to provide services for families – at the moment that's over 600 families.

- ▶ ideas for activities ▶ offer to do a sweep & mop ▶ offer to wash the handtowels
- weed the garden > share your talents with others > get involved at committee level



① 0480 275 582 (Please leave a message if unattended.

2023 Membership Application Form

TAX INVOICE

DESCRIPTION	QTY	PRICE	AMOUNT			
2023 Autism Gold Coast Inc Annual Membership (January to December) (GST free)□ Individual/Family - \$20OR□ Concession Card holder - \$15	1	\$20.00 or \$15.00	\$			
Donation to Autism Gold Coast Inc[Donations over \$2deductible]Ormake a secure online donation via autismgoldcoast.com.au/make-a			\$			
Payment: CHEQUE MONEY ORDER CASH TOTAL Make all cheques / money orders payable to: Autism Gold Coast Inc DIRECT DEPOSIT: Pls Reference YOUR SURNAME & POST/EMAIL Autism Gold Coast Inc, Suncorp Metway, Brisbane BSB: 484799 Ad 500400106 E&OE E&OE	this M'		\$			
If your membership details below have <u>not changed</u> (address / <i>email</i> / <i>children with/without diagnosis</i>), please tick this box, and post / email membership fee. >>> PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME BELOW <	ail this					
NAME/S:						
POSTAL ADDRESS & POST CODE:						
TELEPHONE / Mobile: EMAIL:						
ORGANISATION: (if applicable)						
I would like to receive the Newsletter by email YES INO <u>NB: Your email is undisclosed to other recipients.</u>						
I would like to be on the Email Newsgroup <i>(information-updates)</i> U YES D NO						
My association with ASD is: I am a Parent Adult with ASD Sibling Interested Professional Other:						
Name of diagnosed Child/ren: 1 2			_			
Date of Birth:			_			
School / Centre / Work:			_			
Sibling Names: DOB:						
If you have any questions concerning Autism Gold OFFICE USE ON	<u>NLY</u> :					
Coast Inc membership, please contact: Receipt No: [e] admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au Receipt No:		Date:				

Thank you for your support through membership!