



North Queensland  
**Autism**  
Support Group

*working together to make a difference*

# Newsletter



July 2016

Issue #6: Winter's here!



## Our Mission

To provide a strong voice and support for people and families affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, and to make the community aware of Autism Spectrum Disorder by sharing information.

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## From the Secretary

Hello Everyone,

I hope you are all enjoying winter in North Queensland and that school holidays have been a relaxing time. School has started back with all the transitions and stresses that can bring to our families.

This edition of the NQASG newsletter has a number of links to information about sensory processing issues. We are currently in talks with Disability Services (Queensland Government) and hope to be able to present a Sensory Talk on 30 July at Aitkenvale Library. Please look out for announcements across the network for confirmation and further information.

Gwenyth Cutler



“Encourage people with autism to stretch out of their comfort zones. Help them to build up a catalogue of successes so that they can take on new challenges based on the confidence that they’ve gained from succeeding before”. *Dean Beadle, journalist and motivational speaker living with Aspergers.*

## Monthly Roundup

What our community has been up to

Around Townsville, our Adults and Adolescents Groups are meeting each month and look out for a potential outing with our Siblings Group between now and Christmas.

Autism Queensland is visiting Townsville in August – please contact your child’s school if you would like AQ to visit your child and suggest some strategies forward. See p.5 of our newsletter or the Autism Queensland website for more details.

James Cook University is looking for research participants to explore issues around post-secondary education involvement for those on the spectrum. See p.4 of our newsletter for more details.

Autism Townsville is a Facebook page (closed group) for parents and relatives of those on the autism spectrum where participants can post queries and share

information and ideas with each other. See <https://www.facebook.com/groups/456898937713139/>

Disability Services (Queensland Government) plan to hold a sensory issues workshop in Townsville in late July. Please watch notices across our network for further details.

The roll out of the NDIS continues. For more details see the NDIS website. <https://myplace.ndis.gov.au/ndisstorefront/index.html>

# Sensory Issues

The Centre for Research in Autism and Education in the UK developed *Seeing the World Differently* project, funded by the UK's Medical Research Council, and was designed to understand the ways in which autistic children and young people process information coming into their senses. Materials arising from that research are available at this link:

<http://crae.ioe.ac.uk>

Spectrum News carried an article about sensory processing disorders in children with an autism diagnosis and without an ASD diagnosis.

<https://spectrumnews.org/features/talking-sense-what-sensory-processing-disorder-says-about-autism/>

Education Queensland has introductory materials about sensory processing disorder and tips for parents

[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/schools/curriculum\\_access/strengths\\_barriers/sensory\\_processing.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/schools/curriculum_access/strengths_barriers/sensory_processing.html)

Sue Larkey has sensory tip sheets and recommended resources

<http://suelarkey.com.au/sensory-shop/>

In Townsville, sensory tools can be purchased at businesses such as Autism Mentor.

<http://www.autismmentor.org/#!/about/cjg9>

Telethon Kids Institute Autism Research Team (University of Western Australia) posts regular videos. This video post is about research into the links between sensory processing disorder and social interaction.

<https://www.facebook.com/TelethonKidsAutismTeam/videos/vb.1424503241101921/1772955339590041/?type=2&theater>



## Online Picks

### *Can You Make it to the End?*

Is a brilliant 90 second video which allows you to experience what the sights and sounds of life can feel like for someone with autism (via UK National Autistic Society). With millions of views proving its popularity, this is a useful tool for explaining sensory processing disorder to friends, family, schools etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NationalAutisticSoc>

## Upcoming Workshops/Activities

### ***Discover Therapy Playgroup (Montrose Therapy and Respite Services)***

- Who:** Any child between 3 years and Pre-Prep
- When:** Thursday mornings, Term 3: 14 July - 1 September (8 weeks)
- Time:** 9:30-11:00am
- Where:** Clinical Practice Building, JCU
- Cost:** Various funding options accepted (eg NDIS, HCWA, Private Health Insurance – please call for details).
- Phone:** (07) 4417 7100

Individual therapy sessions also available. Montrose employs a speech pathologist, an occupational therapist and a physiotherapist. Montrose will be conducting a regular clinic in Charters Towers and is interested in conducting services in a number of Townsville areas. Please see the website for details.

<http://www.montrose.org.au/montrose-townsville>

### ***Research Project***

Dr Jessie Wilson from JCU is recruiting for a research project looking at factors which encourage/discourage participation in education after high school for students on the autism spectrum. If you are a university or TAFE student with ASD and wish to participate please contact Jessie on (07) 4781 5577 or at [jessie.wilson1@jcu.edu.au](mailto:jessie.wilson1@jcu.edu.au).

### ***Bringing Up Great Kids – 6 week Parenting Program (Relationships Australia)***

- Day Group:** Mondays 10am-12noon (commencing 18 July)
- Evening Group:** Thursdays 5pm-7pm (commencing 21 July)
- Cost:** Free
- Contact:** 1300 364 277

## Upcoming Workshops/Activities

### *Autism Queensland Visit to Townsville*

The Autism Queensland Outreach Team will be visiting Townsville 15-19 August 2016.

The multidisciplinary team visits school age children with ASD in their education setting (prep through to high school) and then works with parents and teachers to develop strategies to improve the child's educational outcomes. **Families interested in accessing this service should let their child's school know.** For more information, please see the Autism Queensland website link <https://autismqld.com.au/page/school-advisory-visits>

Autism Queensland staff will be available to provide additional sessions for children, families, schools and community organisations during their visit. As the team will already be in the region, the cost of additional services will be significantly reduced as this will not include travel costs from Brisbane. Please contact Jen Catts (Team Leader for Outreach Services at Autism Queensland [jennifer.catts@autismqld.com.au](mailto:jennifer.catts@autismqld.com.au)) to discuss your specific requirements and to determine exact costings.

### *The Sycamore School (Brisbane)*

Providing autism-friendly learning in Queensland's first ASD-specific school.

ASD Learning has been granted provisional accreditation for the Sycamore School by the non-State School Accreditation Board. The intended site is on the campus of the Alexandra Hills TAFE and it is anticipated that the first student cohort will start in January 2017. Enrolments will open in the second half of 2016 and the school will cater for 70 primary school aged students. See links below:

<http://www.asdlearning.org.au>

<http://thesycamoreschool.qld.edu.au>

<https://au.news.yahoo.com/a/31958633/queenslands-first-school-for-autistic-children-set-to-open/#page1>

### *Autism CRC Art Prize 2016*

Artists on the ASD spectrum are encouraged to create a work of art that celebrates "autistic strengths". Registrations must be made by Friday 22 July.

<http://www.autismcrc.com.au/news/autism-crc-art-prize-2016>

# What's On

## NQASG Groups



### Coffee and a Chat

Join us to share information, ideas and experiences with others who know and understand. These mornings are usually held the last Friday of each month and often have a guest speaker.

**When:** Friday, 29 July

**Where:** McDonalds, Aitkenvale

**Time:** 10am-12noon

**Guest speaker:** Jessie Wilson, Occupational Therapy Lecturer, JCU. Jessie has a particular interest in ASD and is researching in the area of post-school transitions for young people with ASD.

### Siblings Group

Open to all school age children who have a brother or sister who is on the spectrum. Social outings are often conducted during school vacations. For more information contact Kirsty Maggary at [kirstyanne\\_magarry@hotmail.com](mailto:kirstyanne_magarry@hotmail.com).

### Adults Group

A social group for adults on the ASD spectrum and their friends to meet socially. Meetings are held the first Saturday of the month.

**When:** Saturday, 6 August

**Where:** Pot luck dinner at Joyce-Lyn's apartment, Apartment 601, T1 Apartments (151-273 Sturt St)

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Contact:** Joyce-Lyn Smith,  
M: 0404 207 948

### Adolescents Group

A social group for young people on the autism spectrum. Meets last Sunday of the month.

**When:** Sunday, 31 July

**Where:** Community Hall, Hodges Cres, Vincent

**Time:** 2-4pm

**Contact:** Linda Eggert

M:0414 224 654 or E:  
[s00120751@myacu.edu.au](mailto:s00120751@myacu.edu.au)



## North Queensland Autism Support Group

*working together to make a difference*

## Contacts & Resources

### Your NQASG Contact

Gwenyth Cutler

**Secretary**

E: [Gwenyth.Cutler@bigpond.com](mailto:Gwenyth.Cutler@bigpond.com)

T: (07) 4774 0637

### Autism Townsville

A page for parents to come & share their ideas, experiences, funny moments, frustrating moments & to remind ourselves we are not in it alone.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/456898937713139/>

### Defence Special Needs Support Group

DSNSG provides support, information, assistance and advocacy for all ADF families who have a dependent (child, spouse or other dependent) with a special need or it may be the ADF member with a special need. You do not need to be a current serving member to be a member of DSNSG. For further information consult the website

<http://dsnsg.org.au/region/queensland/townsville/>

### Leisure Accessible Inc

Provides recreational opportunities for people with a disability and senior citizens. The club operates "ROSIE", a purpose built wheelchair accessible 7.9m vessel with a flat deck. ROSIE is a smooth riding, stable boat that travels in a flat attitude, suitable for the carriage of people with a disability and seniors on fishing trips and river cruising. For further information contact Ken Turner on (07) 4770 7276 or visit the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/leisureaccessible/>