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1. Being on the Autism Spectrum - Understanding the Journey in Tasmania Focus Groups

The Autism Advisory Panel want to consult with people on the autism spectrum and/or their parents/guardians. To do this, focus groups will be held in Burnie, Launceston and Hobart see below.

Burnie

- Adult - Sunday 14 May 7:30pm
- Pre-school - Monday 15 May 9:30am
- School aged - Monday 15 May 12 midday

Launceston

- Pre-school - Tuesday 16 May 9:30am
- School aged - Tuesday 16 May 12 midday
- Adult - Tuesday 16 May 5:15pm

Hobart

- Pre-school - Thursday 18 May 9:30am
- School aged - Thursday 18 May 12 midday
- Adult - Thursday 18 May 5:15pm

Venues to be confirmed on registration

To take part in these focus groups, you will need to have read the information sheet and sign the consent form available via the Autism Advisory Panel website:

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/disability/autism_panel/being_on_the_autism_spectrum_-_understanding_the_journey_in_tasmania

If you have any questions or to submit your consent form, please contact independent consultant Adele Spencer from Banks Spencer Consulting via email bs@banksspencerconsulting.com or by phone on 0450 889 036.

2. NDIS Information Sessions June 2017

Advance Notice

Autism Tasmania in collaboration with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is again hosting information sessions in June to provide

Autism Tasmania recognises that the participation in a group setting may not be suitable or practical for many of our members and therefore invite those that would not otherwise participate to contact us by phone, in person or by email to share any information they see as relevant and would like us to convey to the Autism Advisory Panel. It is noted that this is not part of the above approved research project, but is offered to members to capture their feedback and comments.

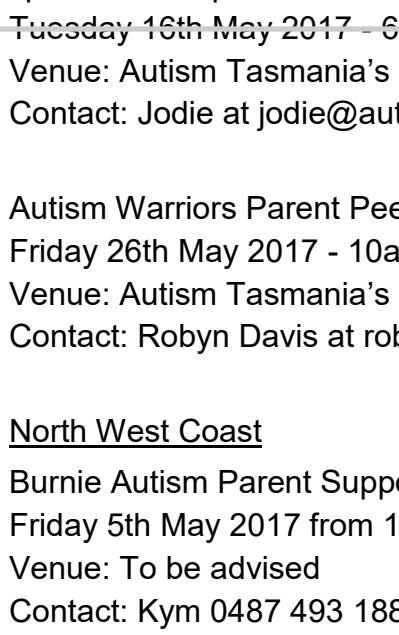
up to date information about the expansion of the scheme to 4– 11 year olds from the 1 July 2017, the process for those wishing to access the scheme and how to navigate their first Plan.

We will be in contact when the session dates, times and venues have been finalised.

3. Developing a National Guideline for autism diagnosis in Australia

4. Expression of Interest for Young Adults/ Adult Peer Support Groups

In recent months there has been a number of requests for the



Developing a National Guideline for Autism Diagnosis in Australia

VIEWPOINT SURVEY

We are seeking input from:

- **Adolescents and Adults** on the autism spectrum
- **Carers or family members** of anyone of any age on the autism spectrum

View the study here:
<http://www.autismcra.com.au/developing-national-guideline-autism-spectrum-disorder-diagnosis-australia-viewpoint-study>

Or email Emily.Darcy@telethonkids.org.au for more information



establishment of Peer Support Groups for Young People 15 to 24 and Adults 25 to 40 who identify as being on the autism spectrum.

Please email us at autism@autismtas.org.au with your name, contact details, age and address if you would like to be involved in the initial planning for a group in your region. Dependent on responses we will facilitate these planning sessions and promote these to other members who may wish to be involved.

5. Peer Support Group Sessions - May

Southern Region

Southern NDIS Peers (a peer support group for people on the autism spectrum and parents/carers)

Tuesday 16th May 2017 - 6pm-7pm

Venue: Autism Tasmania's office, 21 Goulburn Street, Hobart

Contact: Jodie at jodie@autismtas.org.au

Autism Warriors Parent Peer Support Group

Friday 26th May 2017 - 10am-12pm

Venue: Autism Tasmania's office, 21 Goulburn Street, Hobart

Contact: Robyn Davis at robyn@autismtas.org.au

North West Coast

Burnie Autism Parent Support Group

Friday 5th May 2017 from 11.30am

Venue: To be advised

Contact: Kym 0487 493 188

North

Adult Asperger's Group

Saturday 6 May 2017 from 1:30pm-3:30pm

Venue: Pilgrim Centre, Patterson Street, Launceston

****New participants are always welcome****

For a full list of Peer Support Groups registered with Autism Tasmania [follow this link](#).

6. Statewide Parent/Carer Information Sessions

We are now taking registrations for the upcoming workshops on *Sensory Sensitivities and Autism* in May and *Family Resilience and Autism* in June. [Follow this link](#) for venues and how to register.

What topics interest you?

We are currently planning Statewide member information sessions for July to December and we would prefer these to focus on what is most important to you. Please contact us with your suggestions at autism@autismtas.org.au.

7. Article - The Good Doctor by Dr James Best

Dr James Best is a GP and an autism dad. In this article, recently published by Autism Awareness Australia, Dr Best explains why when visiting the GP their knowledge of autism may not be what you are expecting.

[Click here](#) to read article.

8. Entertainment Book 2017/18

****Keep up to date with current events by going to our website****

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Autism Tasmania Inc. is raising funds. Here's how you can help...

The NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Memberships are available now, just in time for Mother's Day! Help our our fundraising by buying the new Membership from us for your Mum, other family members, or even spoil yourself this Mother's Day. You'll receive hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and help our fundraising at the same time!

BUY FROM US NOW.

The Entertainment Book is such a great way to try new restaurants. It's also a great opportunity to help community organisations. – Ali M

