

Membership Form

(all information provided will be strictly treated as confidential and will not be distributed without prior permission)

Name:

Address:

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Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Tick the box that best describes you:

- I am a Parent/Carer
- I am on the Autism Spectrum (AS)
- I work with people on the AS
- Other

Cost: \$15.00

Child's Name:

Child's DOB:

Diagnosis:

Other Information:

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Our Groups

Groups have been formed to cater for the needs of people with Autism and their family members.

The **Brothers and Sisters Group** (or **Siblings Group**) is for children who have a brother or sister on the spectrum and meet once a school term, where they participate in many fun activities. Through their participation, they develop friendships and share in a non-threatening environment what it means to have a brother or sister on the autistic spectrum.

The **Adolescents Group** (or **Teenagers Group**), for those on the autism spectrum, meets fortnightly at the PCYC Aitkenvale in Wellington Street.

The **Adults Social Group** gathers monthly and enjoys social outings and activities together.

Members are also welcome to borrow from the group's resource library of books, papers, CDs, DVDs and videos. These items about Autism and related disorders are authored or presented by people with extensive subject knowledge, like Tony Attwood, Wendy Lawson or other learned people.



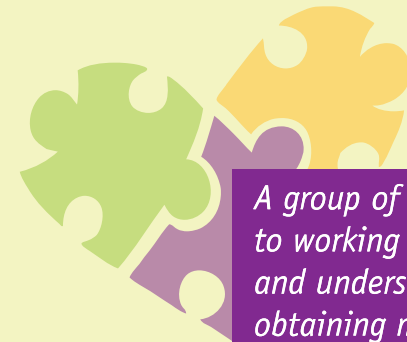
Contact Details

Gwenyth Cutler
 Phone/Fax: (07) 4774 0637
 Email: secretary@nqasg.org.au

Postal
 P.O. Box 1659
 Aitkenvale QLD 4814

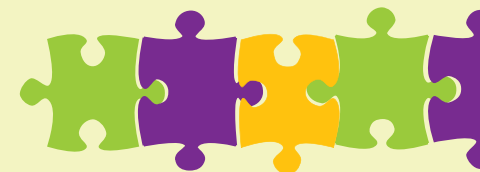


working together to make a difference



A group of volunteers committed to working towards awareness and understanding, with a goal of obtaining much needed support and services for families of, and those on the Autism Spectrum.

www.nqasg.org.au





The Autism Spectrum (AS)

Those on the Autism Spectrum have a lifelong neuro-developmental disability affecting the central nervous system. Latest figures suggest that 1 in 80 children are now receiving a diagnosis of Autism and in Queensland, more than 150 children are diagnosed annually. Autism affects four times more males than females.

An AS diagnosis is based upon behavioural symptoms using the DSM V, and **all** of the following, not accounted for by general developmental delays, must be met:

- Problems initiating and/or reciprocating social or emotional interaction;
- Severe problems maintaining relationships eg. engaging in age-appropriate activities or lack of interest in other people;
- Nonverbal communication problems eg. abnormal eye contact or voice tone; and

at least two of the following must be present:

- repetitive speech or use of objects;
- excessive adherence to routines;
- obsessive restriction of interests; and
- hyper or hypo sensitivity to stimuli.

Symptoms need to be functionally impairing and must be present in early childhood, but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed capacities.

The term Autism covers a spectrum since individuals may be affected to differing degrees.

Awareness and Understanding

Every individual child will display symptoms differently. For instance, a child may have little trouble learning to read but exhibit extremely poor social interaction. However all will display communication, social and behavioural patterns that are individual, but fit into the overall diagnosis of AS.

Those on the Autism Spectrum demonstrate:

- Developmental delay and deficits in social interaction;
- Verbal and non-verbal communication problems eg. abnormal eye contact, facial expressions, posture, voice tone, gestures;
- Repetitive behaviours and stereotyped patterns of behaviour, interests and activities; and
- sensory processing issues which include unusual mild to severe responses to
- sensory experiences, such as certain smells or even the way objects look.

Recognising Autism

Some of the symptoms that may be displayed are:

- Displays indifference;
- One-sided interaction;
- Lacking eye contact;
- Talks incessantly about only one topic;
- Echolaic - copies words like a parrot;
- Lack of creative/pretend play;
- Doesn't play with other children;
- Inappropriate laughing or giggling;
- Fears changes to routines and strangers;
- Becomes obsessive with certain objects and rituals; and
- Has allergic reactions and/or problems with their metabolic and immune systems, affecting the gastro-intestinal tract.

The North Queensland Autism Support Group

is a non-profit organisation of parents, carers and anybody who is involved in or has an interest in the life of someone affected by Autism. Members of the organisation work towards awareness and understanding.

The support group advocates for better services and support for those affected by Autism.

While the group are working within the community to achieve this, it also recognises those individuals and organisations who are "Autism-friendly".

The parents in the support group have children that range in age from the very young to adults. The group also has adults who themselves have been diagnosed on the autism spectrum. Annually the group nominates and awards those who have demonstrated care and consideration towards the Autism community.

People are invited to be a part of the NQ Autism network and are kept current by email with information about local and worldwide autism news and events.

The group has monthly meetings and many also gather informally for a social morning. While having a cuppa, members can share information, ideas and experiences with others who know and understand.