

[amaze.org.au](http://amaze.org.au)

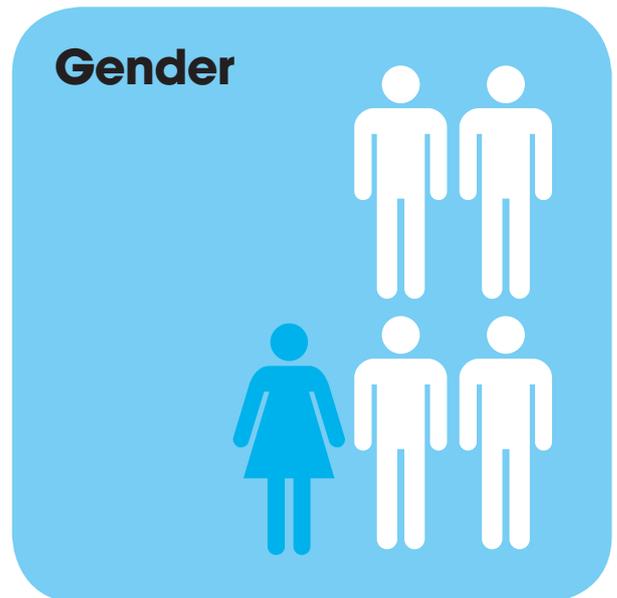
# Corporate Engagement Program

# About Autism

## Autism in Australia fast facts



Approximately 1% of the population is on the autism spectrum - 1 in every 100 people, equalling around 55,000 Victorians and 250,000 Australians.



Diagnosis of autism in Australia is currently: Male:Female = 4:1.



95% of students on the autism spectrum experience educational restriction. 6% of these not able to attend school due to the impact of their autism.



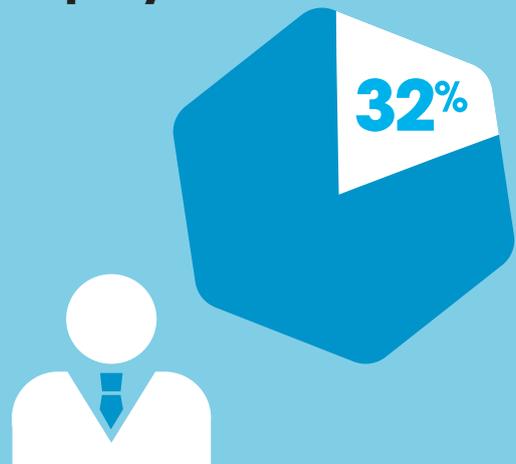
8 out of 10 students on the autism spectrum do not complete secondary school.

## Education



Of students on the autism spectrum who finish school only 19% complete a post-school qualification.

## Employment



Workforce participation rates for individuals on the autism spectrum are around 32% compared with about 83% for the whole population.

## Employment



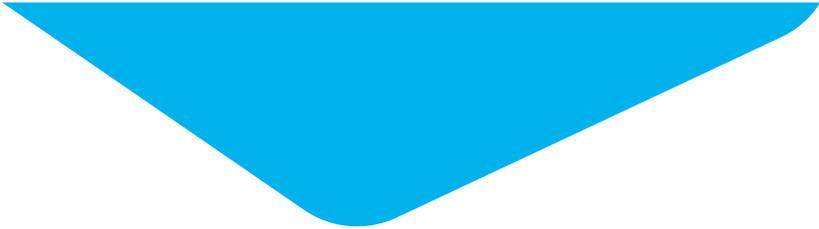
Less than 1/3 of adults on the autism spectrum are in employment.

## Homelessness/Crime



Individuals with autism are over-represented in the homeless population and in the justice system.

# About Autism



**A**utism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disability. Amaze uses the terms 'the autism spectrum' and 'autism' to refer to this group of conditions.

Autism is not a disease. People are born on the autism spectrum. It is a lifelong condition and there is no cure, but the way it affects people may change over time as a person grows and matures.

Autism is not caused by vaccinations or other medical treatment.

Every individual on the autism spectrum is different, but these features are present in some form:

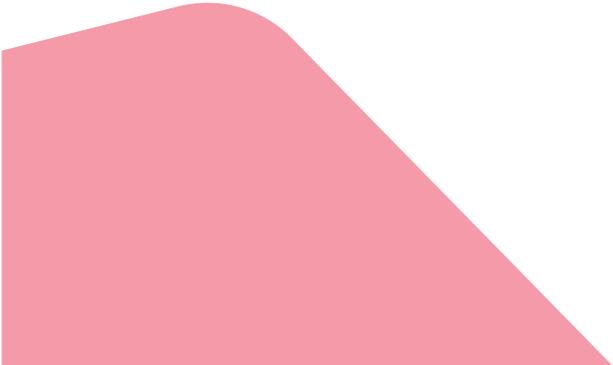
- Challenges in communicating and interacting with other people (language, social cues, two-way conversations)
- Repetitive routines in behaviour interests or activities (repetitive & restrictive interests, under or over responsive senses, structure and routine)

Autism may be present with other conditions. For example people on the autism spectrum may also be diagnosed with an intellectual disability (50%), anxiety and/or depression (70%), language delay, epilepsy or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

It is not known what causes autism. Much research is being done to try to find out more. Autism is not caused by parenting or social circumstances.

No two people on the autism spectrum are alike. This means each person on the autism spectrum has diverse needs for support in different areas of daily life to enable them to participate and contribute meaningfully to their community.

## What are the main issues facing autistic people and their families in Victoria?

- **Community attitudes and behaviours** – lack of understanding, adjustment and support
  - **Access to diagnosis** – early diagnosis is critical for early intervention
  - **Provision of therapeutic services** – requirements are unique to the individual on the autism spectrum
  - **Inclusive education** – adapted learning environments to ensure students on the autism spectrum are not left behind
  - **Access to employment** – work opportunities, work environment adjustments, social engagement
  - **Understanding the National Disability Insurance Scheme** – people who work for NDIS have the necessary expertise and understanding of autism, and that people on the autism spectrum can advocate for their own needs.
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# About Amaze

**A**maze is the peak body in Victoria for people on the autism spectrum and their supporters. Amaze is a member-based not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 that represents around 55,000 Victorians on the autism spectrum.

To achieve this, our three main goals are to:

- Increase community awareness and understanding of autism;
- Improve attitudes and behaviours towards people on the autism spectrum;
- Create more opportunities for people on the autism spectrum to participate and contribute to society in meaningful ways.

## Who does Amaze assist?

Amaze provides independent advice, information, training and support about autism to:

- Individuals on the autism spectrum
- Parents of children on the autism spectrum
- Families/carers of people on the autism spectrum
- Child Care Centres, kindergartens and playgroups
- Schools, Tafe and higher education

- Health professionals
- Allied Health professionals
- Community workers
- Employers
- Research organisations
- Media outlets and journalists
- The wider community

## How does Amaze assist?

### Amaze Autism Information Service

Amaze receives hundreds of calls each week from individuals and organisations seeking general information and resources about autism. The Amaze Autism Information phone line is available during business hours Monday to Friday and has responded to more than 28,000 calls since commencement in 2009. Our website information and fact sheets were downloaded more than 19,000 times in the past twelve months.

**i am making a better world**

# About Amaze

## Amaze Advisor Phone Service

Our Autism Advisor Service provides information, support and registration for the 'Helping Children With Autism' funding packages available to Victorian parents with children newly diagnosed with autism on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. The Amaze Autism Advisor Service has provided support to more than 13,000 families since commencement in 2008 and is available during business hours Monday to Friday.

## Autism Information Resources

Amaze develops and distributes a wide range of information resources and fact sheets on autism for individuals, families, professionals and the wider community on an annual basis. Amaze responds to an average of 2,000 website requests for information per annum. In 2015 there were 167,768 visits to the Amaze website and 19,152 direct downloads of our fact sheets. Amaze also delivers 'Early Days' workshops on behalf of the Government to parents of children with autism to help them understand their child and autism, behaviour and transitioning to school.

## Amaze Knowledge Services

Amaze regularly delivers Autism Education and structured training programs on a fee for service basis to community groups, schools and workplaces. Amaze also offers consultation and expertise to create Autism Friendly spaces and events.

## Amaze Advocacy

Amaze is uniquely placed to understand the everyday challenges and issues experienced by people on the autism spectrum and their families or carers. Through feedback provided on our Autism Information Line, Autism Advisor Service, delivery of our community education programs and our strong social media community (14,000+), we are continually advocating to all levels of Government to influence change to improve policy, programs and funding for all individuals on the autism spectrum in Victoria.

**i am part of something**

# About Amaze

## World Autism Awareness Day - Spectroscopic - Stories of Autism

For World Autism Awareness Day on 2 April 2016, Amaze imagined a project that would allow people on the autism spectrum to be seen and heard.

With an aim to generate greater awareness and understanding, Amaze invited people on the autism spectrum, their families and their supporters, to share their individual stories of autism via the creation of their own short film.

The films were submitted, and a short film, (17mins 40 secs in duration), was created to help convey the incredible diversity of life on the autism spectrum. The film was shown at select Village cinemas in Victoria, Tasmania and on YouTube. More information about Spectroscopic can be found here: <http://spectroscopic.com.au>

## Victorian Autism Conference (VAC)

Every two years, Amaze presents one of Australia's leading conferences on autism, the Victorian Autism Conference. VAC brings together individuals, family members, supporters, educators, researchers and practitioners who have one thing in common - the autism spectrum. VAC is a conference that caters more to people on the autism spectrum, including a quiet room in its own dedicated area away from the main conference activity, pre ordered lunch packs, social scripts and reserved seating. The program also features presentations by a range of people with a lived experience of autism.

More information about the Victorian Autism Conference can be found here: <http://vac2016.com.au>



# Organisational Engagement Levels

## **Amaze Major Partners**

**\$50,000 p.a.**

Major funding partners working strategically with Amaze to create a better world for people with autism.

## **Amaze Sponsors**

**\$20,000 p.a.**

Organisations sponsoring key annual/biannual events hosted by Amaze that are focussed on community education and raising awareness and understanding about autism.

## **Amaze Inclusion Champions**

**\$10,000 p.a.**

Organisations working directly with Amaze to make and support changes within built environments, social settings and workplaces to increase community inclusion and accessibility for people on the autism spectrum.

**Amaze Training Alliance**

**\$5,000 p.a.+**

Organisations undertaking, promoting and referring Amaze workplace training to their business networks.

**Amaze Business Supporters**

**\$5,000 p.a.+**

Organisations providing pro bono business or financial support to Amaze that enables us to create a better world every day for people on the autism spectrum.

**Amaze Workplace Supporters**

**\$500 p.a.**

Organisations demonstrating an annual interest and commitment to understanding and valuing people on the autism spectrum within their workplace setting.

**i am getting involved**

# Organisational Engagement Levels

	Workplace Supporter	Business Supporter	Training Alliance
Cost	\$500 p.a.	\$5,000 p.a. +	\$5,000 p.a. +
Benefits Provided	<p>A Workplace Supporter Pack upon joining.</p> <p>Provision of online workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>An opportunity to host supported fundraising events including the promotion of World Autism Awareness Day every April on behalf of Amaze within your workplace.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Workplace Supporter status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Discounted rate for training for customer facing staff and those managing staff on the spectrum.</p>	<p>A formal Business Supporter Certificate acknowledging your business support on an annual basis.</p> <p>Provision of online workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>An opportunity to host supported fundraising events on behalf of Amaze within your workplace.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Business Supporter status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Discounted rate for training customer facing staff and those managing staff on the spectrum.</p>	<p>An opportunity to host supported fundraising events on behalf of Amaze within your workplace.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Training Alliance status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Provision of online workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>Use of the Amaze Training Alliance logo on agreed materials/mediums.</p> <p>Other joint promotional activities relating to Amaze Training and Professional Development agreed between the organisations (i.e. resource production, promotions, etc).</p> <p>Discounted rate for training for customer facing staff and those managing/supervising staff on the autism spectrum.</p>
Relationship Management	Workplace Supporter Communications.	Dedicated Amaze Relationship Manager.	Dedicated Amaze Relationship Manager.  All Training Alliance relationships will include a letter/MOU agreement.
Recognition from Amaze	An annual certificate acknowledging your Workplace Supporter status.	An annual certificate acknowledging your Business Supporter status.	An annual certificate acknowledging your inclusion in the Amaze Training Alliance for the term of the MOU.  Recognition on the Amaze website.

	Inclusion Champion	Sponsor
<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$10,000 p.a.</b>	<b>\$20,000 p.a.</b>
<b>Benefits Provided</b>	<p>An 'Amaze Corporate Engagement' Welcome Pack upon joining.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Inclusion Champion status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Provision of online workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>Annual face-to-face visit/presentation to your staff by an Amaze Community Educator.</p> <p>Participation and promotion of World Autism Day (annually) and other supported workplace fundraising events for Amaze.</p> <p>Use of the Amaze Inclusion Champion logo on agreed materials/mediums.</p> <p>Other joint activities agreed between the organisations (i.e. resource production, promotions, research etc).</p> <p>Exploration of joint PR opportunities featuring agreed inclusion projects/work undertaken during the term of the relationship.</p>	<p>An 'Amaze Corporate Engagement' Welcome Pack upon joining.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Sponsor status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Provision of online workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>Annual face-to-face visit/presentation to your staff by an Amaze Community Educator.</p> <p>Participation and promotion of World Autism Day (annually) and other supported workplace fundraising events for Amaze.</p> <p>Use of the Amaze Sponsor logo on agreed materials/mediums.</p> <p>Other joint sponsorship activities agreed between the organisations (i.e. resource production, promotions, research etc).</p> <p>Exploration of joint PR opportunities featuring agreed inclusion projects/work undertaken during the term of the relationship.</p>
<b>Relationship Management</b>	<p>Dedicated Amaze Relationship Manager.</p> <p>All Community Inclusion relationships will include a letter of agreement.</p>	<p>Relationship Management by the Head of Fundraising &amp; CEO of Amaze.</p> <p>All Sponsorship relationships will include a sponsorship agreement.</p>
<b>Recognition from Amaze</b>	<p>An annual certificate acknowledging your Inclusion Champion status.</p> <p>Recognition on the Amaze website.</p> <p>Agreed annual social media promotions.</p>	<p>An annual certificate acknowledging your Sponsorship status.</p> <p>Recognition on the Amaze website.</p> <p>Agreed annual social media promotions.</p>

# Organisational Engagement Levels



	Partner
Cost	\$50,000 p.a.
Benefits Provided	<p>An 'Amaze Corporate Engagement' Welcome Pack upon joining.</p> <p>Opportunity to showcase your Partnership status with Amaze on your Intranet, via social media and organisational newsletters.</p> <p>Provision of workplace educational materials to support raising awareness and understanding of autism.</p> <p>Annual face-to-face visit/presentation to your staff by an Amaze Community Educator.</p> <p>Participation and promotion of World Autism Day (annually) and other supported workplace fundraising events for Amaze.</p> <p>Use of the Amaze Partner logo on agreed materials/mediums.</p> <p>Joint partnership activities agreed between the organisations (i.e. resource production, promotions, research etc).</p> <p>Exploration of joint PR opportunities featuring agreed inclusion projects/work undertaken during the term of the relationship.</p> <p>Invitations to key Amaze events or program launches on an annual basis.</p> <p>Access to skills-based or general volunteering opportunities for employees with Amaze.</p>
Relationship Management	<p>Relationship Management by the Head of Fundraising &amp; CEO of Amaze.</p> <p>All Partnership relationships will include a partnership agreement.</p>
Recognition from Amaze	<p>An annual certificate acknowledging your Partner status.</p> <p>Recognition on the Amaze website.</p> <p>Agreed annual social media promotions.</p>

**For people on the spectrum, timely and relevant support, advice and information can be critical to quality of life outcomes, and allow meaningful participation and contribution to society.**

**i am making a difference**

# Get in touch

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