

Welcome to Different Journeys



[We would like to welcome to Different Journeys Autism Spectrum Disorders \(ASD\) Peer Support Groups.](#)

The Different Journeys Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Teen Peer Support Social Groups has been created to empower people with ASD and their carers by providing a social platform that fosters an environment to create connections, build relationships and interact with peers.

We support our New Families Table with Peer Support throughout the evening - if you have any questions, ask.

Starting time

The Maroondah teen peer support event commences at 5pm on the 3rd Sunday of every month (unless stated otherwise). We will not open the doors until 5pm. If you attempt to enter the event earlier, you will be asked to wait until the designated time.

The Banyule teen peer support event commences at 5.30pm on the 4th Sunday of every month (unless stated otherwise).

The Maroondah adult peer support event commences at 6pm on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (unless stated otherwise). We will not open the doors until 6pm. If you attempt to enter the event earlier, you will be asked to wait until the designated time.

The Banyule adult peer support event commences at 6pm on the 1st Monday of every month (unless stated otherwise).

Name Badges

When you first arrived you would have been advised to collect your name badge. As we want to foster a connective environment, we have name badges for everyone who attends the event. For families and teens it is an opportunity to “break the ice” and assists remember names. At the end of the night the name badges are recycled and used for the next event. All we ask is that at the end of the night you place the name tags in the green tubs located at the door on your way out.

All our volunteers also wear identification badges to make it easier for you to identify one of us, if you require assistance.



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Seating

Although all teens are encouraged to sit with other teens, we know that this can be quite daunting so your teen is welcome to sit with you or at the teen quiet table. We may be able to assist with transitioning your teen to sit with other teens-Max, Daniel and Shadia from the ICAN Network are some of our Peer Support and Emma our Youth Committee Member can assist with this. If you have any concerns, please speak with us about this.

Meals

Your teen will order and pay for their meal, so they will require money. We have trained support at the ordering station to assist your teen navigate the process of ordering and paying for their meal (independent skill).

If you are caring for someone in receipt of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), you may be (especially if self-managed) be able to claim expenses related to our peer support program, as such we will issue a receipt for your purchase.

Registration

Every family is required to complete a registration form. We ask you complete the form so we can accurately add you to our database and keep you updated on future events and information which may assist or support you. We are required to report at times to the Federal Government regarding attendance, the information is de-identified. If you have any issues or questions about the registration form, please let us know as soon as possible, if you do not complete and return the form, we will follow this up with you.

Code of Conduct

We want to create a safe environment that creates opportunities to connect, without fear or malice; as such we have created a Code of Conduct which outlines our expectations of what is acceptable behaviour.

As part of your condition of entry as a parent/ carer, you are always required to be at the event that your teen is attending. You are also responsible to ensure your teen adheres to the Code of Conduct/ Rules too. If you have any concerns regarding this or you fear your teen may struggle, please do not hesitate to speak with us as we understand and want to help you.

We have a Code of Conduct for you as a Parent/ Carer and for your teen to complete. We ask everyone to read the Code of Conduct (rules) and sign it acknowledging you understand what is required and the penalties for breaching the Code of Conduct. We require you to complete the form(s) and return it to our Peer Support worker immediately. If you have any issues or questions about the form(s), please let us know as soon as possible, if you do not complete and return the form, we will follow this up with you.



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Service Providers

At this event, we generally have service providers who attend to provide you with information about their services which are generally ASD or Carer related including NDIS. We encourage you to ask as many questions of the service providers as they may provide support that you are not aware of. We have very different service providers that have attended our events from researchers to respite providers.

Resources

On the night of the event we do provide a large number of resources for your perusal. If there are any issues or questions about these resources, please let us know as we try to provide you with the most up-to-date information. We also have a Facebook page which is also a great resource; our team posts articles, special events or general information for you to access immediately. The other resources are our own community whether it is the peer support volunteers or other parents/ carers/ families. Our community has a lot of lived experience and are a great resource.

PowerPoint Presentation

Throughout the night we display a Presentation, it provides the following information:

- Time table of the night;
- Service Providers and any Special Guests we have in attendance on the night;
- Picture and name of our volunteers, so if you need any assistance, you will be able to identify them;
- Our supporters;
- Club Kilsyth/ Greensborough RSL free Wi-Fi password and
- Kahoot Quiz details.

Speech and Announcements

Just prior to the Kahoot Quiz, we have a speech and announcements that is generally completed by the teens. This is an opportunity for the teens to develop presentation and public speaking skills. We give every teen a chance as we consider this a safe place and understand you need opportunity and experience to develop and master skills.

Kahoot Quiz

The Kahoot Quiz conducted at the end of the night. It was initially designed for the teens to participate; we have found everyone likes to participate - so everyone is welcome. The Kahoot Quiz is created by a teen each month (generally in their special interest), learning another new skill. The Quiz is online; as such you will need technology such as a smartphone, tablet or computer to participate.



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Club Kilsyth provides free Wi-Fi to our events; the password to access this will be displayed in the PowerPoint Presentation.

Safety

Everyone who attends the event is responsible for the safety of themselves or others. For example, if you walk past a chair that is not put away under the table, we ask that you do so. If you identify a more serious safety issue, please report it to us and we will work on it to minimise safety risks immediately.

Assistance and/ or Feedback

If you require assistance at all at any time of the event, please speak with us. Likewise if you are not happy with anything including a service, etc. please speak with us. All we ask is that you approach us in an appropriate (calm) manner. If this requires further follow up from yourself, we will speak with you.

Coming Back to Future Events

Whether it is a teen or adult peer support group, we require you to RSVP. You are required to purchase a ticket which attracts a \$6.50 administration fee, however, you also receive a free soft drink with this ticket. If you do not book and you attend on the night you may be able to purchase a ticket on the spot. However, if the event is sold out -you will be turned away (which we do not want to do).

With regards to the adult peer support groups (aged 18+), we ask if the adult does not know how to do so, the parent/carer or support worker will show them how to purchase a ticket.

If you believe your teen requires assistance transitioning from the teen to the adult event, please let us know, as we can assist. One way is allowing the teen to commence attending the adult event prior to 18, aged 17 but the Parent/Guardian/Carer must be in attendance.

If you are struggling to get to the event, please let us know as we do have social stories that may assist. If we don't hear from you for a while, we will try and make contact as we know how important connections are.

Volunteers

If you or your teens are interested in becoming a volunteer, please speak with us.

Contacting us

Our Website: www.differentjourneysasd.com

Phone: 0490774068

Email: differentjourneys@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/differentjourneysASD



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LinkedIn: au.linkedin.com/in/different-journeys-9949a2149

Instagram: [Instagram.com/differentjourneysasd](https://www.instagram.com/differentjourneysasd)

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