

# Our Keys to Success



Different Journeys builds community.

We create places where Autistic people can be themselves and celebrate who they are.

We create spaces where whole families can relax and enjoy each other's company.

Our peer support events overcome isolation and create life changing connections.

We do more than simply run dinners, trivia, swim nights and social gatherings. Our success is based on more than simply being exceptional event organisers. Our success is deeply rooted in the principles that govern what we do and how we do it.

Sometimes we support each other. Sometimes we help each other navigate the service system. Sometimes we laugh together and sometimes we cry together.

We celebrate difference and diversity. We are non-judgmental.

We recognise that all of us are unique and at the same time we all share a common humanity.

We know how Autism can be misunderstood and create isolation and loneliness. We know about overcoming ignorance and prejudice.

We understand how to navigate the fragmented and complex service systems. We know how to inform and train organisations that help run our social events. We know how to create and sustain partnerships.

We know how to honour autistic people and put their needs first.

We know how to explain to others how to meet the needs of our community and how to celebrate living with Autism. Sometimes we work together to reshape the service system.

Most importantly we focus on recognising, honouring and building on the strengths, interests and abilities of our Autism community.

We draw on our own knowledge, our own skills and our lived experience of the issues we encounter in living with Autism.

These intangible and crucial understandings guide our practice and form the basis of the principles that allow us to succeed. They cannot be documented as a standard set of operating steps or a to do list. They are much more. They are deeper. Our lived experience informs the principles and values that guide us and are the keys to our success.

We reflect and develop and improve.

As we expand and diversify in order to support and celebrate more Autistic people, we will continue to honour these principles and embed them into all we do.