

Welcome to Different Journeys



We would like to welcome you to [Different Journeys Autism Peer Support Groups](#).

The Different Journeys Autism Peer Support Social Groups has been created to empower autistic people 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 of 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).

The **Banyule Adult Peer Support Event** commences at 6pm on the 1st Monday of every month (unless stated otherwise).

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. If you have any concerns, please speak with us about this.

Meals

Everyone will order and pay for their meal, so they will require money or EFTPOS card. We have trained support at the ordering station to assist you 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.

Service Providers

At this event, we generally have service providers who attend to provide you with information about their services which are generally Autism 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.

PowerPoint Presentation

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

- ◆ Timetable 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

THESE ARE AT OUR TEEN EVENTS

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

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. 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.

Contact Us



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