



Autism Victoria Inc. A14601C ABN 15 600 724 949
24 Drummond Street, Carlton VIC 3053
Postal Address: PO Box 374, Carlton VIC 3053
Telephone: (03) 9657 1600
Fax: (03) 9639 4955
Email: admin@autismvictoria.org.au

Victorian Parent Support Groups

Please note that while Autism Victoria makes every effort to keep up-to-date details of parent support groups, if you are attending a meeting or service for the first time please call the contact person listed to confirm time, address, etc.

Search by Location

Bacchus Marsh	Camberwell	Epping	Mansfield	Portland
Bairnsdale	Coburg	Footscray	Melton	Ringwood
Ballarat	Cranbourne	Frankston	Mildura	St. Albans
Balwyn	Dandenong	Geelong	Mornington	Sale
Benalla	Drouin	Glenroy	Morwell	Seymour
Bendigo	Echuca	Hamilton	Narre Warren	Shepparton
Blackburn	Emerald	Hampton	Ormond	Stawell
Box Hill	Endeavour	Horsham	Pakenham	Wangaratta
Brighton	Hills	Knox	Parkdale	Warrnambool

Search by Specific Interest Group

[Biomedical](#)

[Grandparents](#)

[Online Support](#)

[Chinese](#)

[Teenagers](#)

[Vietnamese](#)

[Christian](#)

[Turkish](#)

[Dads](#)

[Natural Therapies](#)

BACCHUS MARSH

Bacchus Marsh Autism Awareness

Location: Bacchus Marsh

Contacts: Snjezana Jalanski or Debra Doyle (03) 5367 2471 (03) 5367 4460 or email:

bmaa@iprimus.com.au

Services: Meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month at the St. Bernard's Parish Centre in Lederberg Street in Bacchus Marsh.

- Provides information and support in a confidential manner.
- Promotes awareness and understanding of ASD's in our community.
- Creating a safe environment for our children to grow, learn and play
- Library for use free of charge

The Marsh Generation

Location: Bacchus Marsh

Contacts: Mrs. Coral Loader on 0438 187 882

Services: For information on venue contact Coral.

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BAIRNSDALE

East Gippsland Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group

Location: Bairnsdale

Contacts: Miranda Smith on (03) 5152 5970

Services: Meetings: Bi-monthly during school terms in the evenings at:

The Shed, Wy Yung Pub, Bairnsdale. Also holds bi monthly social events. Contact Miranda for further information.

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BALLARAT

Ballarat Autism/Asperger Parent Support Group

Location: Ballarat

Contacts: Ms Helen Rennie on (03) 5329 1361 or hrennie@pinarc.org.au

Postal: C/- PINARC Support Services, PO Box 1841 Ballarat VIC 3350

Services:

- Mytime Playgroup Meet each Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30 during school term (for early diagnosed waiting for a service).
- Asperger Kids Club Please contact Sarah Cavanagh on 5329 1357
- Adults Asperger group meets every 6/8 weeks for lunch please contact Kris on 0417 413 994

Ballarat Autism Network

Location: Ballarat

Contacts: Kris Schmidt on (03) 5341 2768 or kks@netconnect.com.au or Andrea Grant on (03) 5336 3725

Internet: <http://www.ballaratautism.com/>

Services:

- Meeting 2nd Monday on a monthly basis at 1.30 pm (day and time changes from time to time, please contact Kris to confirm).
- Information nights 2 to 3 per school term, if interested please call Andrea Grant on (03) 5336 3732

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BALWYN

Biomedical Autism Group

Location: Balwyn

Contact: Dennis Crowley on 9592 7054 or email: biomedicalautismgroup@yahoogroups.com.au

Internet: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/biomedicalautismgroup/>

Services: You are warmly invited to attend the monthly meetings in order to share knowledge and experience with others. Come and hear from parents who are having success in improving and recovering their children.

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BENALLA

Benalla Support Group for Children with Special Needs * Not ASD Specific

Location: Benalla

Contacts: Sharon Fragomeni on 0418 575 387 or bsgroup@iinet.net.au

Postal: PO Box 374, Benalla VIC 3672

Support Worker - Trudie-Ann Easton (03) 5762 7057

Services:

- Support worker Trudie-Ann Easton is available Monday and Friday 9.00 to 3.00 and Wednesday afternoons.
- Summer - Walking group meet every Monday 10 am to 12 pm (if wet will go elsewhere)
- Playgroup: Each Wednesday of the month 10 pm to 12.00 noon
- In Summer Ice-cream in the Park at Benalla Rose Garden Summer months 5.30pm
- In Winter - Soup Cooler months 4.00pm

Other: Not Autism specific but do have families with children with ASD, newsletter, information, and support and advocacy.

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BENDIGO

Bendigo Autism Asperger Group (BAAG)

Location: Bendigo

Contacts: Marie Whitrow on 0417 057 672 or info@bendigoautism.org.au

Internet: <http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/>

Postal: PO Box 439 Bendigo VIC 3550

Services: Please check the website for all services and event details

Other: welcomes anyone who has an interest in ASD's

Bendigo Autism Family Support Group (BAFSG)

Location: Bendigo

Contacts: Judy Sheaf or Marie Whitrow on 0417 057 672

Internet: <http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/>

Postal: PO Box 439 Bendigo VIC 3550

Services: Informal coffee get-togethers. 1st Saturday of the Month 10.30 – 12.00

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BLACKBURN

Asperger Syndrome Support Network (ASSN)

Location: Blackburn, Box Hill, Glen Waverley

Contact: (03) 9845 2766 (Answering Machine Service) or email: assn@mssociety.com.au

Internet: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~asperger>

Services:

- The ASSN holds regular coffee mornings and evenings, information sessions and social groups for AS teenagers, adults and parents
- Sessions and seminars on Asperger Syndrome
- Supports research
- Provides community education
- Provides a resource library
- Maintains a register of professionals familiar with Asperger Syndrome
- Contact for calendar of events

COMMITTEE MEETING

Blackburn 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.

8.00 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. All welcome.

AS ADULTS

Blackburn 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.

7:30pm on the third Thursday in odd months except January. This one is for AS adults to discuss relevant issues. People with AS partners are welcome whether or not their partners attend.

AS ADULTS

Box Hill Upstairs at Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Rd. Melways map 75A - H4.

7:30pm on the third Thursday in even months except December. This one is for AS adults to discuss relevant issues. Note that the Parents/Carers meet concurrently in a separate room.

AS GIRLS

Blackburn 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.

7:30pm on the fourth Friday in odd months except January. This one is for AS girls, to discuss relevant issues. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.

AS GIRLS

Various locations Either on a Saturday or Sunday, varying times. Email us for details.

The fourth Saturday or Sunday in odd months except January. A social event for AS girls. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.

TEEN GIRLS AND BOYS

Blackburn 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.

7:30pm on the fourth Friday in even months except December. This one is for AS teenagers only, to discuss relevant issues. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.

TEEN GIRLS AND BOYS

Glen Waverley La Porchetta 187-189 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley.

7:00pm on the fourth Friday in odd months except January. This one is for AS teens as a social outing. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.

PARENT/ CARER/ PARTNER

Box Hill Upstairs at Box Hill Library, 1040 Whitehorse Rd. Melways map 75A - H4.

7:30pm on the third Thursday in even months except December. This is a coffee evening where you can meet others in a similar situation and where you can be heard. Note that the AS Adults meet concurrently in a separate room.

PARENT/ CARER MORNING

Blackburn. 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane. 10:00am on the first Friday of each month except January. This is a coffee morning where you can meet others in a similar situation and where you can be heard.

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BOX HILL

Asperger Syndrome Support Network (ASSN)

Location: Blackburn, Box Hill

Contact: (03) 9845 2766 (Answering Machine Service) or email: assn@mssociety.com.au

Internet: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~asperger>

Services:

- The ASSN holds regular coffee mornings and evenings, information sessions and social groups for AS teenagers, adults and parents

- Sessions and seminars on Asperger's Syndrome
- Supports research
- Provides community education
- Provides a resource library
- Maintains a register of professionals familiar with Asperger's Syndrome

See 'Blackburn' entry for more details

Chinese Parents Special Net * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Box Hill and Preston

Contacts: Ms Ada Poon on (03 9898 1965) or email: ada@ccssci.com.au

Services:

- Meetings at **BOX HILL** Every Monday 10am to 12pm, phone Gigi on (03) 9898 1965
Suite 9a, Level 1, Professional Suite Centro Whitehorse, BOX HILL
- Meetings at **PRESTON** Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm, phone Vicki on (03) 9898 1965
Shop 3, 294 High Street, PRESTON
- Also organises workshops and activities for children.

Other: Library and resource materials including videos. The dialect spoken is Cantonese and translation is available. All library material is in both dialects.

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BRIGHTON

DUCKS – Dads Understanding Challenging Kids * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Brighton East

Contacts: Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222

Services: Not Autism Specific but lots of dads with ASD children attend. Meetings held in a casual setting

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CAMBERWELL

Cross Purposes Christian Support Group * Not ASD Specific

Location: Camberwell

Contacts: Cameron Burgess on (03) 8809 3000 or 0411 658 995 or email:

cross-purposes@ucco.org.au

Services:

- Parent Workshops and support
- Meetings held the 4th Friday of each month from 10.00am till 12.30 pm at:
St Dunstan's Anglican Church
163 Wattle Valley Road
CAMBERWELL
- Sunday Family worship commences at 2.15 pm, bi-monthly at:
St Dunstan's Anglican Church
163 Wattle Valley Road,
CAMBERWELL

Other: Prayer, coffee and sharing all welcome. Quarterly newsletter and membership is a yearly gift of \$5 if possible.

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COBURG

In Spectrum Carer Support Group

Location: Coburg

Contacts: Emma Jenkin (03) 9350 3437 inspectrum.1@gmail.com

Services: Meetings held 1st Tuesday of every month. 7.30- 9.00 pm at Newlands Community House 20 Murray Rd, Coburg

Other: Gold coin donation

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CRANBOURNE

Cranbourne Special Needs Support Group * Not ASD Specific

Location: Cranbourne

Contacts: Ms Christine McDonald on (03) 5995 8515 or 0418 108 474, email:

bruce.christine@bcmcdonald.info , Tracey Slatcher on 0417 767 229, or Kerrie Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10am to 12pm

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DANDENONG

Grandparents Carer Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Dandenong

Contacts: Kerrie Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222 or Marilyn Sparks 5990 8400

Services: A support group for grandparents caring full time for a grandchild. Information and support, guest speakers, activities and children's facilities available. Meetings are held on alternative Mondays (not in school holidays) at 10.30am to 12.30pm at:

2 Hayes Road, HAMPTON PARK

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DROUIN

Supporting Parents Of Asperger/Autism Kids (S.P.O.A.K)

Location: Drouin

Contacts: Ms Janice Eshuis on (03) 5625 3075 or 0407 554 080, email: pauljan@dcsi.net.au

Services: Meetings are held in cafes on a weekly basis.

Other: Meeting not held in school holidays, parents and carers only. Meetings are friendly and informal.

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ECHUCA

S.P.O.C.A.A.S - Supporting Parents of Children with Autism and Asperger Syndrome

Location: Echuca South

Contact: (03) 5480 2388 or email: spocaas@clrs.org.au Linke Smedts-Kreskas

Internet: www.clrs.org.au - then follow the link at the bottom of the left hand-side.

Other: For people in the Campaspe Shire and some outlying areas. All welcome

Coffee Club (morning and evening), Monthly Morning Teas with onsite fee free child care

Monthly Evening Committee Meetings, Social Events

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EMERALD

The Hills Autism and Special Needs Support Group

Location: Emerald

Contacts: Mrs. Barb Brown or (03) 5968 9014

Services: Meetings held on the 3rd Wednesday of each Month, from 12.30pm onwards at:
Jewels Café in Emerald, next to the Commonwealth Bank. Children welcome.

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ENDEAVOUR HILLS

Endeavour Hills Asperger Syndrome Parents Group

Location: Endeavour Hills

Contacts: Mr. Chris Kirk on (03) 9799 1429

Services: Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30 to 9.00 pm at the
Hampton Park Baptist Church,
Unit 1, Orient Place,
HAMPTON PARK

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EPPING

GALA Support Group * Not ASD Specific

Location: Epping

Telephone: (03) 9217 2192 or email: bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Services:

- Friendly and warm social group
- Meets in Epping
- No children
- GALA GUYS is a group for Dads, meets on a Saturday every couple of months for breakfast at a local café.
- GALA SIBS is a group for siblings, usually one activity a term (roller-skating, movies, bowling, etc.)

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FOOTSCRAY

Dads Together * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: West Footscray

Contact: Malcolm on 0438 667 343 or email mmibus@bigpond.com

Services: Meets 1st Monday of the month 7.15-9:00 pm

Not ASD specific.

Vietnamese Parent Support Group

Location: Footscray

Postal: c/- Parent to Parent, 118 Commercial Rd, Footscray VIC 3011

Contacts: Nga Do on 9680 8444 (Only after 1.30pm Thursdays)

Services: Meetings are held every Thursday 10.30am till 12.30 pm at:

Maribyrnong Community Centre,

9 Randall St, MARIBYRNONG

Other: Group includes many parents with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Occasional childcare is available, although families must book one week in advance.

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FRANKSTON

Southern Autism Spectrum Family Support Group (SASFSG)

Location: Frankston

Contacts: Ms Cristina Isaac on (03) 9795 0328 or email: asperger_vic@yahoo.com.au

or Melanie on (03) 9782 8022

Postal: PO Box 8142, CARRUM DOWNS, VIC 3201

Services:

- Information evenings
- Quarterly newsletter
- Parent to parent support

Meeting: 3rd Monday of each month 10am to midday during term at the Lyrebird Community Centre,

203-25 Lyrebird Drive,

CARRUM DOWNS

and

2nd Thursday of each month 10am to 12pm during term

Location: Jan Wilson Community Centre, NOBLE PARK NORTH

Other: Participants are encouraged to bring a snack to share to the meetings.

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GEELONG

Gateways Support Services

Location: Geelong

Contacts: Julie Giles – Parent Support Worker

(03) 5221 2984, julie@gateways.com.au

10-12 Albert St, Geelong West VIC 3218

Services: Asperger Syndrome Information Group - These popular meetings are held at Gateways Support Services, 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month, excluding school holidays. (Access is only available through rear entrance near car park). Topics of interest and speakers, and a good catch-up each month! Contact: Parent Support Worker on 5221 2984, or julie@gateways.com.au.

AspieEd P2P - This dynamic parent group is a merging of previous smaller education-focused groups, with a view to sharing information and gaining knowledge about supporting young people with Asperger Syndrome, through their years at mainstream school. Meetings are held at Gateways Support Services, on the second Friday of each month throughout the school year, from 9:15am – 11am. Topics include requested school issues, with guest speakers as requested. Contact: Parent Support Worker on 5221 2984 or julie@gateways.com.au.

Bellarine Parents Network - This newly formed network for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder on the Bellarine Peninsula meets at Clifton Springs Primary School, Jetty Road, Clifton Springs from 9:15am on the last Wed of each month (not hols). It aims to share resources, ideas, stories, have fun and meet others in the same situation. A yummy morning tea is provided! You are welcome to contact Dyanne on 52487153 (leave message) or jackson.dyanne.b@edumail.vic.gov.au.

PASKEY is a support group for families with children on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in the early stages of diagnosis. The aim is to provide friendly support and a listening ear, along with tips and techniques learnt along the way. It meets at the co-ordinator's home on the first Monday of each month, from 11am - 3pm. If the first Monday falls in school holidays, usually a "Mum's Night Out" takes place instead. Children are most welcome. Contact Krista on 5241 4649 or 0427 414 649.

DADS – Dads Appreciating Disabilities * NOT ASD SPECIFIC The DADS group is for any male who would like to join a network that provides peer support by men for men, including Fathers, husbands, step fathers, grandfathers, uncles etc. They meet at local venues for a meal and informal chat, a chance to share, and have a laugh. For further details, contact Steve on 0409 969 710 or steve_dads@bigpond.com.

Grandparents Support Group * NOT ASD SPECIFIC This group meets at Gateways Support Services, for a friendly catch up and lunch. Open to all grandparents who are involved in the care of their grandchild/ren with a disability. The group meets on a Friday every second month, at Gateways offices, from 12:30 – 2:00pm. Contact: Parent Support Worker on 5221 2984 or julie@gateways.com.au.

Lara Coffee Group * NOT ASD SPECIFIC This parent group of children with various disabilities, meets to have a coffee and chat in a friendly, informal setting at Xpresso Café, Lara, monthly on Friday mornings. Contact Aileen on 03 5282 3414.

GLENROY

Asperger's Syndrome & High Functioning Autism Support Group

Location: Glenroy

Contacts: Karin Bashtannyk on (03) 9449 5599

Services: Meets 3rd Wednesday evening of the month at 7pm, but please call before attending.

Northern Autism Parent Support Group

Location: Glenroy

Contacts: Ms Thea Calzoni on (03) 9385 3235 or email tcalzoni@mcm.org.au

Services: Meetings are held 9.30am – 11.30am on the 1st Monday of each month (except school holidays) at:

Yooralla Kindergarten Building,

48-50 Box Forest Rd, GLENROY

- Parent education programs.
- Online forum

Other: Child care provided if notice is given in advance. Large range of children's ages.

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HAMILTON

Hamilton & District Autism Support Group

Location: Hamilton VIC 3300

Contacts: Mark and Robin Tonissen or (03) 5573 3226

Services: Meetings are organized when required

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HAMPTON

Primary School Autism Spectrum Support Group

Location: Hampton East

Contacts: Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222

Services: Meets first Thursday of each month.

MOIRA Meeting room

920 Nepean Hwy

HAMPTON EAST

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HORSHAM

Wimmera Autism Support Group

Location: Horsham

Contacts: Ms Sharlene Hoyer on 0419 557 450 or Anne Page on (03) 5382 6789 or email:

happy73@aapt.net.au

Postal: c/- Uniting Care, PO Box 442, Horsham VIC 3400

Services: Meetings are held at local Cafes or Pubs (Changes regularly)

Other: Telephone support between meetings and regular newsletter

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KNOX

Carousel Project * Not ASD Specific

Location: Knox

Contacts: Carole Bilney on (03) 8809 3080 or 0418 526 721 or email: carole.bilney@ucco.org.au

Services:

- Meetings
- Information sessions and other events
- Regular newsletter

Local network of parents of special needs children who meet in various locations in the Knox Local Government Area. Parents who live in the Knox LGA are eligible (but it may be possible for other parents who live in the Eastern suburbs to attend)

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MANSFIELD

Mansfield Support Group for Children with Special Needs * Not ASD Specific

Location: Mansfield

Contacts: Anya Abela on (03) 5775 2538 or 0412 442 412 or email:

snmansfield@bigpond.net.au

Postal: PO Box 675, Mansfield VIC 3722

Services:

Meetings are held once a month at

MACE

145 High Street, MANSFIELD

- Regular newsletter
- Family outings organised twice a year

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MELTON

Melton Autism Support Group

Location: Melton

Contact: Mary or Emma on (03) 9743 1516 or email: pacasg@ozemail.com.au

Internet: <http://www.meltonsupport.org.au>

Services: Meetings once a month at 7.30 pm at the Melton Shire Function Room 1.

- Workshops
- Training

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MILDURA

Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group

Location: Mildura

Contacts: Mrs Sharon Middleton on (03) 5025 2816 or email: midds5@bigpond.com or

Donna Milne on 0420 389 504

- Workshops
- Family outings

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MORNINGTON PENINSULA

Peninsula Autism Spectrum Support Group

Location: Mornington Peninsula

Contact: Michelle on 0476 007 631

Services: Morning tea held on the last Thursday of every month. Parents/Carers of children with ASD or other disabilities who live on the Mornington Peninsula are welcome.

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MORWELL

Parent to Parent – Gippsland * Not ASD Specific

Location: Morwell

Contacts: Ms Yvonne Waite on 1800 010 453 or (03) 5135 3131

Postal: PO Box 3163, Gippsland Mail Centre VIC 3163

Services: Information, support and advocacy for families who live in Gippsland and have a child with additional needs aged between 0 and 18 years. Contact Yvonne for additional Special Needs Support Groups in Gippsland.

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NARRE WARREN

Casey Asperger Syndrome Support Group

Location: Narre Warren

Contacts: Jenni or Meghan on 0439 008 082 or email: caseyaspergersupport@hotmail.com

Internet: www.caseyconnect.net.au/cass

Services: Open to parents of children with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Meets 2nd Thursday each month 7.30pm to 9.30pm at:

Narre Community Learning Centre

1 Malcolm Court, NARRE WARREN

and

4th Friday of each month 12.30 pm - 2.30 pm at

Hallam Community Centre

56 Kays Avenue, HALLAM

Please contact Jenni or Meghan if planning to attend.

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ORMOND

Sensational Kids

Location: Ormond

Contact: (03) 9578 7560 or email: info@sensationalkids.com.au

Internet: www.sensationalkids.com.au

Services: This is a parent support group facilitated by therapists from Sensational Kids.

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PAKENHAM

Cardinia Autism Spectrum Family Support Group

Location: Pakenham

Contacts: Nicole (03) 5941 5858 or Rosalie (03) 5941 5446

Services: Meets 3rd Monday each month. (Children welcome)

Support group meet from 11am to 12 pm then optional lunch from 12noon to 1pm at:

Cardinia Club

Racecourse Road, PAKENHAM

Other: Open to anyone with a child with ASD or behavioral challenge, but more for parents of school age (not kinder) children.

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PARKDALE

Natural Therapies Awareness Group * Not ASD Specific

Location: Parkdale

Contacts: Leanne on (03) 9580 2353

Services: NTAG is a support group whose main focus is the sharing of information, contacts and knowledge of complementary therapies and supplements that may be beneficial.

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PORTLAND

Portland Autism Support Group

Location: Portland

Contacts: Kathryn Beaglehole on (03) 5523 6014

Services: Parents of individuals with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome are welcome to attend.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month (excluding school holidays) from 10.00am to 12.00pm at:

Seaview House

Bentinck St, PORTLAND

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RINGWOOD

Parent Support Network - Eastern Region * Not ASD Specific

Location: Ringwood East

Contacts: Ms Jenny Salgo on (03) 9259 4312 or email: psn-emr@bigpond.net.au

Internet: www.psn-emr.com.au

Services: Meetings are held at various venues, times and dates throughout the year. Please contact the support network for details.

Other: All events are non-specific to the disability or age of the child and are open to all parents and carers who reside in the Eastern region.

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ST ALBANS

Autism Angels

Location: St Albans

Contacts: 0401 211 977 or email: autism_angels@yahoo.com

Internet: www.autismangels.com

Postal: PO BOX 221, Deer Park VIC 3023

Services:

- Proactive Parent Support Group
- Monthly Meetings
- Social skills group for Preschool and school-aged children.

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SALE

Sale and District Autism Support Group

Location: Sale

Contacts: Mrs. Lisa Stokell on (03) 5144 4691 or Sharyn Dowton on (03) 5147 2738

Services: Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon at LCHS, 67 Macalister St, SALE

Other: Babysitting may be available.

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SEYMOUR

Lower Hume Parent Support Group * Not ASD Specific

Location: Seymour

Contacts: Debbie Britton on (03) 5799 0039 or 0421 050 764 or email:

lhparentsupport@bigpond.com

Services: Monthly meetings, representative attends the Wallan district once a month to network with families. This group is a large parent support organisation in Hume Region (Mitchell, Murrumbidgee & Strathbogie Shires). The group is not ASD specific but very ASD aware.

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SHEPPARTON

Goulburn Valley Support Group for Children with Special Needs * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Shepparton

Contact: Maree Ingram (family support worker) on (03) 5814 3355 or email: gvsncsn794@yahoo.com

Services: Organise regular events such as

- Coffee mornings
- Specific activities such as a Mum's weekend away, golf days & footy trips for Dads.
- Discussion groups (including on ASD and Learning Difficulties Discussion Groups)
- Bi-monthly newsletter

This group covers the greater Goulburn Valley area which encompasses the following towns; Shepparton/Mooroopna, Tatura, Nagambie, Yarrawonga, and Cobram and all areas in between. Maree is available in the office from 10am to 2pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week.

RISE- Resource, Information, Support and Education * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Shepparton

Contact: 5822 1230 or gvsntl@iinet.net.au

Services:

- My Time parent support group
 - for families of children 0-18
 - Playgroup for children provided on site.
- Resource lending library
- ASD Workshops run on a regular basis.

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STAWELL

Stawell/Ararat Autism/Asperger Support Group

Location: Stawell/Ararat

Contacts: Julene Barnes (03) 5352 2129

Services: Meets Monthly, please contact Julene for venue details.

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WANGARATTA

Wangaratta Autism Resources Training & Support (WARTS)

Location: Wangaratta

Contacts: Jacki MacLeish on (03) 5721 9110 or email: wartsinc@bigpond.com

Internet: www.wartsinc.com.au

Services:

- Resource library, books, CD's, videos, DVDs, information brochures
- Workshops and information evenings
- Parent support
- Regular newsletter

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WARRNAMBOOL

Warrnambool and District Autism Support Group

Location: Warrnambool

Contacts: Jason Salt (Coordinator) or Chris (03) 5565 7885 or email: cjbsalt@dodo.com.au

Services: For any information please contact Jason or Chris.

Postal: PO Box 154, Koroit VIC 3282

DADS/ MENS ONLY GROUPS

Dads Together * Not ASD Specific

Location: West Footscray

Contact: Malcolm on 0438 667 343 or email mmibus@bigpond.com

Services: Meets 1st Monday of the month 7.15-9:00 pm

Not ASD specific.

DUCKS – Dads Understanding Challenging Kids * Not ASD Specific

Location: Brighton East

Contacts: Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222

Services: Not Autism Specific but lots of dads with ASD children attend. Meetings held in a casual setting

***GALA Support Group - GALA Guys * Not ASD Specific**

Location: Epping

Telephone: (03) 9217 2192 or email: bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Services:

- Not Autism Specific
- Friendly and warm social group
- GALA GUYS is a group for Dads, meets on a Saturday every couple of months for breakfast at a local café.

Mens Group Meetings * Not ASD Specific

Location: Ferntree Gully

Contact: 0401 870 467 or Christine.Badaway@knox.vic.gov.au

Services: Meet other Dads, have a coffee and play pool. Meet at Shop Front, 81 Station St Ferntree Gully. Call for information on meeting times.

Warrnambool and District Autism Support Group- Dad's Group

Location: Warrnambool

Contacts: Bruce Williamson 0448 826 529 or williamson101@bigpond.com

Postal: PO Box 154, Koroit VIC 3282

Services: Father's Support group that meet after hours

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BIOMEDICAL

Biomedical Autism Group

Location: Balwyn

Contact: Dennis Crowley on 9592 7054 or email: biomedicalautismgroup@yahogroups.com.au

Internet: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/biomedicalautismgroup/>

Services: You are warmly invited to attend the monthly meetings in order to share knowledge and experience with others. Come and hear from parents who are having success in improving and recovering their children.

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CHINESE

Chinese Parents Special Net * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Box Hill and Preston

Contacts: Ms Ada Poon on (03 9898 1965) or email: ada@ccssci.com.au

Services:

- Meetings at **BOX HILL** Every Monday 10am to 12pm, phone Gigi on (03) 9898 1965 Suite 9a, Level 1, Professional Suite Centro Whitehorse, BOX HILL
- Meetings at **PRESTON** Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm, phone Vicki on (03) 9898 1965

Shop 3, 294 High Street, PRESTON

- Also organises workshops and activities for children.

Other: Library and resource materials including videos. The dialect spoken is Cantonese and translation is available. All library material is in both dialects.

Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Chinese Carer Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Springvale and Preston

Contacts: Shehani Se Silva at DEAC on 9480 1666

Other: This group is facilitated by DEAC.

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CHRISTIAN

Cross Purposes Christian Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Camberwell

Contacts: Cameron Burgess on (03) 8809 3000 or 0411 658 995 or email:

cross-purposes@ucco.org.au

Services:

- Parent Workshops and support
- Meetings held the 4th Friday of each month from 10.00am till 12.30 pm at:

St Dunstan's Anglican Church

163 Wattle Valley Road

CAMBERWELL

- Sunday Family worship commences at 2.15 pm, bi-monthly at:

St Dunstan's Anglican Church

163 Wattle Valley Road,

CAMBERWELL

Other: Prayer, coffee and sharing all welcome. Quarterly newsletter and membership is a yearly gift of \$5 if possible.

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GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents Carer Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Dandenong

Contacts: Kerrie Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222 or Marilyn Sparks 5990 8400

Services: A support group for grandparents caring full time for a grandchild. Information and support, guest speakers, activities and children's facilities available. Meetings are held on alternative Mondays (not in school holidays) at 10.30am to 12.30pm at:

2 Hayes Road

HAMPTON PARK

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TEENAGERS

Teen Boys and Girls (Asperger Syndrome Support Network)

Location: Blackburn

Contacts: (03) 9845 2766 (Answering Machine Service) or email:

assn@mssociety.com.au?subject=Information

Services: On the 4th Friday in even months at 7.30pm – AS Teens only to discuss relevant issues. Please note that the ASSN cannot act as carer at this venue.

54 Railway Rd

BLACKBURN

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TURKISH

Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Turkish Carer Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Springvale and Preston

Contacts: Shehani Se Silva at ADEC on 9480 1666

Other: This group is facilitated by ADEC.

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NATURAL THERAPIES

Natural Therapies Awareness Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Parkdale

Contacts: Leanne on (03) 9580 2353

Services: NTAG is a support group whose main focus is the sharing of information, contacts and knowledge of complementary therapies and supplements that may be beneficial.

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ONLINE SUPPORT

Internet: <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/>

Services:

- Online Support Networks - parents of children with ASD, individuals with ASD
- Sharing information, strategies, new treatments, etc
- Type your area of interest into the search facility of the site and the existing groups will be listed. There is also the option to start new groups.

Internet: <http://www.psn-emr.com.au> * *Not ASD Specific*

Services:

- Online Support Group
- Eastern Region Parent Support Network
- Workshops, information sessions, school information, newsletters and forums.

VIETNAMESE

Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Vietnamese Carer Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Springvale and Preston

Contacts: Shehani De Silva at DEAC on 9480 1666

Other: This group is facilitated by DEAC

Vietnamese Parent Support Group * *Not ASD Specific*

Location: Footscray

Postal: c/- Parent to Parent, 118 Commercial Rd, Footscray VIC 3011

Contacts: Nga Do on 9680 8444 (Only after 1.30pm Thursdays)

Services: Meetings are held every Thursday 10.30am till 12.30 pm at:

Maribyrnong Community Centre,

9 Randall St, MARIBYRNONG

Other: Group includes many parents with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Occasional childcare is available, although families must book one week in advance.

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