



Autism CoP Newsletter

ISSUE 1

JULY 2010

Topics for Future Direction:

The first Community of Practice launched on 27 July 2010. The forum was a great success with some very interesting shared discussions and considerations.

The initial meeting attracted Case Managers, Team Leaders, a Parent Support Worker, and Respite Coordination. The members have a very wide range of expertise and knowledge in Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The main themes that were discussed will form the basis for future discussion:

EDUCATION/VOCATION

- Increasing understanding and awareness of autism to mainstream schools and Special Developmental Schools
- Increase understanding and awareness of autism to adult training facilities i.e. TAFE and Adult Training Support Services
- Creating consistency across all settings
- Creating clear pathways on how to apply for funding for integration aides, increase qualifications, training and consistency of knowledge
- Creating better access to school bus transportation such as zone restrictions, managing behaviours on bus, etc.

BEHAVIOUR

- Increase awareness and professional development to disability professionals and school teachers about Behaviour Support Plans. Support parents and disability support staff on how to implement

strategies within home environment

- How restrictive intervention (i.e. chemical, mechanical, physical and seclusion) affects individuals with autism. Supporting services through strategy implementation
- Supporting disability services and schools who do not feel confident in supporting individuals with autism who have concerning behaviours

FAMILIES

- Supporting families through emotional turmoil (e.g. guilt, isolation) when there has been a recent diagnosis of autism and to get supports for the individual as quickly as possible
- Supporting siblings
- Supporting the pathway to access services more easily and understand how the services assist the family so they can make an informed choice
- Supporting families who have an individual with autism at risk of living in respite
- Supporting families in understanding terminology around behavioural supports and building confidence in implementing Behaviour Support Strategies

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- Working in partnership with community organisations to increase awareness and understanding of people with autism
- Strengthen supports to services to create a knowledge base the general community can easily access
- Linking with all services to increase accessibility



Community of Practice for Autism

Your current contact for Eastern and North/Western Metropolitan Regions is:

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Your current contact for Southern Metropolitan Region is:

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The Community of Practice is a project supported by Autism Victoria and Windermere Support Services.

The Department of Human Services from the Eastern and North-West Regions have chosen Autism Victoria, and Windermere Support Services for the Southern Region to train and skill case workers on the awareness of autism through the Secondary Case Consultative Initiative. A component of this initiative is the development of a Community of Practice (CoP) to the community that supports individuals with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), their families and their supports.

This Community of Practice is aimed toward Case Managers, Intake Workers, Case Workers, Coordinators, Team Leaders, Behaviour Intervention Support Team, Residential Workers and other relevant professionals.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday 1 September

Time: 10am-12pm

Venue: Autism Victoria

RSVP: Email or call Tracey or Luke on the contacts above by 27 August

Parking: There is 1hr metered parking on Drummond Street & secured parking in close proximity to the venue

Public Transport:

The closest train station is Parliament Station, click on the following link for a map

http://maps.google.com.au/maps?f=d&source=s_d&saddr=parliament+station&daddr=24+Drummond+Street,+Carlton+North,+Victoria&hl=en&geocode=&mra=ls&sl=-25.562265,135.703125&sspn=44.387936,92.724609&ie=UTF8&ll=37.808682,144.969771&spn=0.00968,0.022638&z=16

OUTLINE FOR NEXT MEETING

Education and Transport Concerns

At the next Community of Practice forum, we have invited a **guest speaker** who was chosen due to participants' discussions about school buses; their restriction zones, behavioural concerns and funding issues through the 'Education/Vocation' theme that was derived during the initial Community of Practice forum.

*The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) have agreed to attend the next Community of Practice forum. **Kristy Teo** is a **Senior Policy Advisor** from the Student Transport Unit.*

The forum will provide an opportunity to share experiences and concerns in an open environment to brainstorm possible solutions about transporting. Members will then be able to provide their expertise on the issue to assist the professional in supporting the individual with autism effectively.