



Mansfield Autism Statewide Services

Information about our Day School



Welcome to our Day School!

We aim to provide a warm, friendly and individualised educational service that helps your child grow, learn discover, belong and connect with others and the environment. We are passionate about getting to know our students' strengths, interests, and motivators. We provide an active and engaging program that builds new skills within the classroom, the outdoors and within the life skills domains.

Mansfield Campus is an independent school from ages 5 – 18 years. We are passionate about our health and wellbeing approach, where we create opportunities to embrace healthy choices from diet to exercise, as well as the skills to strengthen a student's sense of connection and communication with others. We have a strong emphasis on understanding all of our students and families that are a part of our school.

We know how autism can impact on individuals and families in unique ways and we understand and respect the diversity that is autism. We are extremely proud of our program, and we celebrate all successes and achievements.

We look forward to forming a genuine, open, and authentic partnership with you and your family.



About MASS

We are an independent not-for-profit organisation, which supports young people living with autism and their families. We offer a wide range of services for autistic people and their families. Our services have been designed as a 'wrap around' model – each service complements and enhances the quality of care we provide our clients.

We are based in Mansfield in Northeast Victoria but offer a state-wide service to the whole of Victoria. Our local-based services operate within the heart of the Mansfield community, enjoying the idyllic location and warm community support. We also recognise the importance of working within the family home and provide an in-home service where we travel across Victoria to join in the lives of our families.

MASS is staffed by a group of professionals who are passionate about upholding and promoting the unique culture which is MASS. We aim to enhance a client's quality of life by building skills of independence through a strengths-based approach.

The service was started in 1968 by a parent, Dr Joan Curtis, who identified that 'the child's family are their most important teachers'. At MASS we seek to uphold this philosophy by working alongside families, education settings and service providers to instill understanding, confidence and determination to create the best outcomes for people with autism.



Our Philosophy

"The client with Autism's family are their most important teachers, and we aim to give them the understanding, the confidence and the determination necessary for the successful parenting of their child/adult – That is our goal, and nothing less is enough." Joan Curtis "Autism - a Family Affair"

Our Mission

To empower and support autistic people to achieve their goals. We build capacity and confidence through our best practice services and supports.

Our Vision

Autistic people reaching their goals and aspirations within their family and community.

Our Culture

At Mansfield Autism Statewide Services, we believe our culture drives our success:



Values

We are guided by our values: honesty, integrity, loyalty, dedication and a sense of fun



Focus

As driven by our history, our focus is on our clients and their family. We work together to build their capacity and confidence. We willingly share our knowledge and work in partnership with other services.



Goals

We set clear goals and have high expectations. We actively model our approach, are willing to take calculated risks and have a will to succeed.



Wellbeing

We promote health, wellbeing and time spent in nature. Our service is built on exercise, healthy eating and sleep routines.



Teamwork

Our staff work together, are open and willing to learn, support each other and are part of the bigger collective that is Mansfield Autism.



Child Safe at Mansfield Autism Statewide Services

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services (MASS) takes Child Safety responsibilities very seriously and has a dedicated team of Child Safety officers who regularly check in with staff and clients. MASS supports the Victorian Child Safe Standards:

We welcome
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
clients and families
and supports them
to enjoy their rights
and culture. We do
not allow racism.

Child Safety is
important to
everyone at MASS.
We document how
we find, avoid, and
stop risks of child
abuse or harm.

We support our
clients to know their
rights to be safe
from abuse.

We help families to
take part in decisions
that affect their child.
We tell families and
the community what
we do to keep our
clients safe from
harm and abuse.

We understand that
every child is
different, and we
make sure they can
get the information
and help they need
in an autism friendly
way.

We have strict
policies about
background checks
for staff who work
directly with our
clients. Our staff are
trained in recording,
reporting, and
sharing information
about child safety.

Our clients, families
and staff know how
to make a complaint
and what happens
when a complaint is
made.

Our regular Child
Safe training helps
staff know the signs
of child abuse and
harm and what to do
if there are concerns
about abuse or
harm.

We are an IT-free
environment for
clients and students,
minimising the risk
of online abuse or
harm.

We have clear risk
assessment
processes to ensure
the safety of children
when they use our
settings, services,
and activities.

We are always
checking and
improving the ways
we keep children
safe from abuse and
harm.

We have policies,
posters and training
programs about how
we keep children
safe from abuse and
harm.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding Child Safety at Mansfield Autism, please feel free to contact
Trish Wilks, Senior Child Safety Officer on 0428 784 600 or by email patricia.w@autismmansfield.org.au

Our School

The programs at our Mansfield Campus are individualised and flexible. We have a strong emphasis on health and wellbeing, building personal and social capabilities and life skills. We want students to feel a sense of belonging and connectedness while at school.

Current programs at the Mansfield Campus are:

- Local students aged 5 years to 18 years old. The school hours are 9am to 3pm.
- Students may be enrolled full time or part time.
- We support dual enrolments for students who may be enrolled in our local primary or secondary schools. We work collaboratively with our local schools and help coordinate support group meetings to discuss individual goals and learning plans.
- Some families may access our Local Programs program (NDIS Funding) for after school or school holiday program care.

The school is committed to offering students a safe and supportive environment which allows students a chance to explore a range of activities and interest areas in a safe and supported way. As with all our services, our students are at the centre of our planning. We believe that all people should be supported to realise their individual capacities for physical, social, emotional and intellectual development. Here at MASS, we place a strong emphasis on health and wellbeing, building relationships, social skills and confidence in learning. We are committed to offering students a safe and supportive environment wherein students develop foundational skills alongside the skills and capabilities outlined in the Victorian Curriculum learning areas.

Our model prioritises building an understanding of the person, as well as the interplay between autism and the person's life and learning. All students have an Individual Learning Plan, developed in consultation with a student's family, carers and Care Team. It forms part of the ongoing assessment, planning, teaching and evaluation cycle we engage in for each of our students.

We seek to establish respectful relationships with our students and their families. We ask that all families work with our teaching staff and that our teaching staff collaborate and communicate with our parents and families. Together, we work to provide a transparent and open educational service.



Our Learning Program

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development, and active and informed citizenship.

The objectives of the Victorian Curriculum are the same for all students. The curriculum offers flexibility for teachers to tailor their teaching in ways that provide rigorous, relevant and engaging learning and assessment opportunities for students with disabilities.

Most students can engage with the curriculum provided the necessary adjustments are made to the complexity of the curriculum content and to the means through which students demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding.

For other students, appropriate adjustments to the complexity of the curriculum content, focusing instruction on content different to that taught to others in their age group will need to be made.

For some students, their learning will be below the Victorian Curriculum Foundation standards. 'Towards Foundation Level Victorian Curriculum' (also referred to as 'Levels A to D') provides this cohort of students with access to curriculum content and standards that enables them to move toward the learning described at Foundation level.

Levels A to D are not associated with any set age or year level that links chronological age to cognitive progress – they focus on progressing students from a pre-intentional to intentional engagement in learning and support students to develop their independence as they explore, participate, and engage in the world around them. As they progress through these levels, students become more independent learners and the amount of support can be faded out.

*Note: we are exempt from teaching languages and digital technologies at our Mansfield Campus



Our Learning Program

This is an example of the timetable at the Mansfield Campus for our day students:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Walk	Morning Walk	Morning Walk	Morning Walk	Morning Walk
Literacy - All About Me	Personal and Social Capabilities	Numeracy	Personal and Social Capabilities	Literacy - Social Stories
Morning Tea: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Morning Tea: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Morning Tea: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Morning Tea: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Morning Tea: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence
Sensory Activity	Sensory Activity	Sensory Activity	Sensory Activity	Sensory Activity
Literacy	Literacy	Community Access - Excursion Geography • Functional skills • Communication	Dance	Numeracy
Functional Skills/ Independence	Functional Skills/ Independence		Functional Skills/ Independence	Functional Skills/ Independence
Lunch: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Lunch: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence		Lunch: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence	Lunch: Nutrition, Social Skills, Games, Independence
Relaxation	Relaxation		Relaxation	Relaxation
Health/Personal Capabilities	Health/Personal Capabilities		Physical Health and Wellbeing	Fun Friday! • Social Skills • Games • Music
Physical Health and Wellbeing	Physical Health and Wellbeing			
Independence Skills / Pack up & Goodbye	Independence Skills / Pack up & Goodbye	Independence Skills / Pack up & Goodbye	Independence Skills / Pack up & Goodbye	Independence Skills / Pack up & Goodbye

Cognitive Skills & Knowledge
Health/Physical Wellbeing Skills & Knowledge
Self-Regulation Skills & Knowledge
Relational Skills & Knowledge
Independence Skills

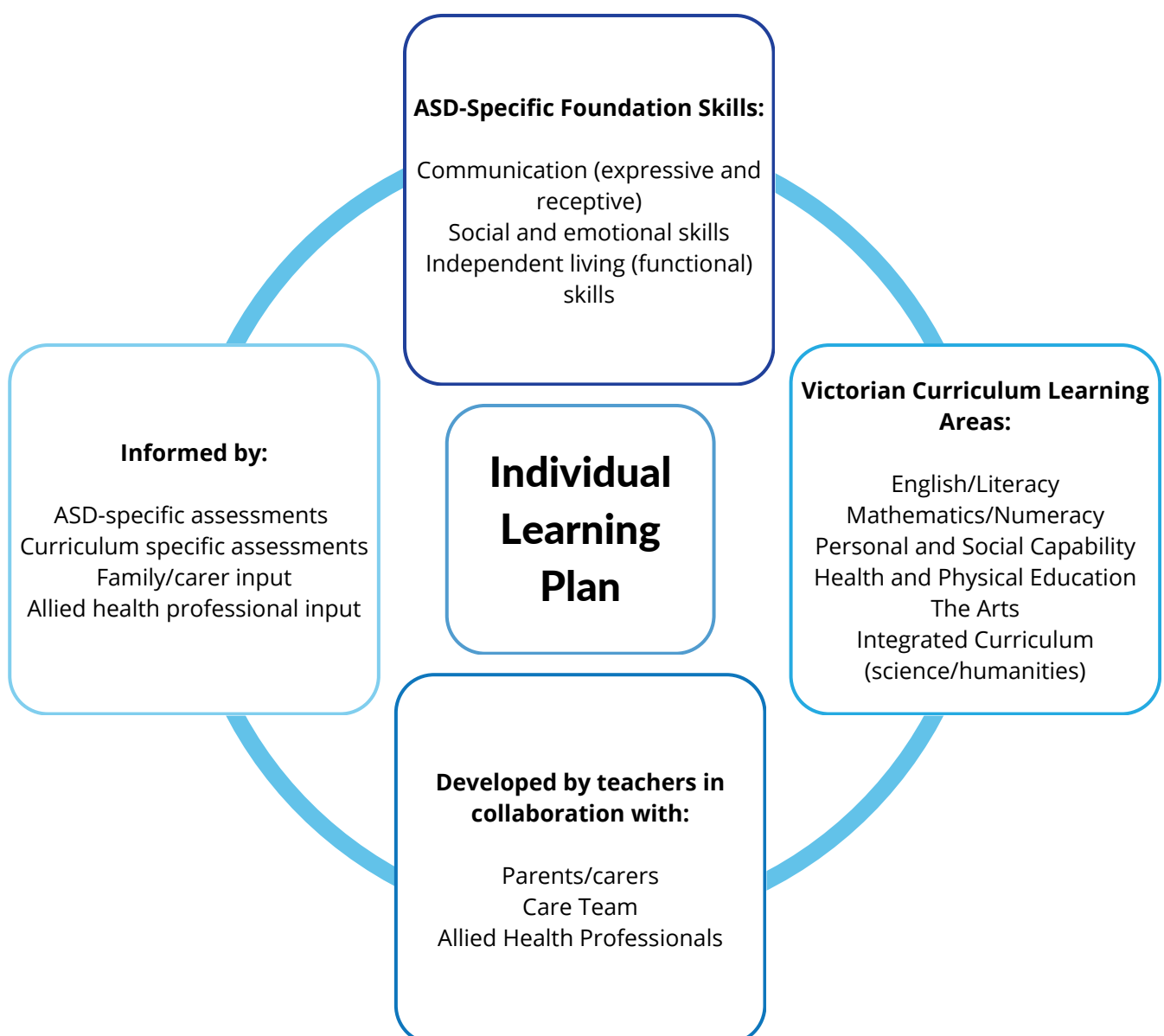
Individualised Approach

All students have Individual Learning Plans with goals set for ASD-specific foundational skills and each of the key learning areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

We take a holistic view when planning and encourage pediatricians and allied health staff to contribute the individual's learning plan.

The classes at each campus are grouped based on the needs of the students and their individual programs.

All ILP's will be discussed at our Student Support / Care Team meetings, parents will be provided with a copy of the ILP which are updated twice per year (Term 1 and Term 3).



Further Information

Schedule of School Fees - Day Students

Application Fee	We do not charge an application fee or an administration fee to process an application for enrolment.
Mansfield Campus Day School Fees	Fees are \$11,200 per annum. Part time student fees are pro rata \$560 per term per day Fees are invoiced at the beginning of each term and are due 30 days from invoice date.
Additional Costs	Most activities are included within the annual fee. There may be some additional (subsidised) activities throughout the year.
<i>The information outlined in the table above is effective as of 1 January 2024 but may be subject to change. For further information, please contact MASS.</i>	



School Times

Term Dates and other Holidays

The school day is from 9am to 3.00 pm.

MASS Day School Terms run according to the Victorian state school term dates – with the exception of an additional week holidays mid-year.

Approximately three days per term are allocated to student free days for staff to be involved in professional development, report writing and planning.

Term Dates 2024

Term 1: 31 January - 28 March

Term 2: 17 April - 21 June

Term 3: 17 July - 20 September

Term 4: 9 October - 13 December

Student Support/Care Team Meetings

Parent teacher meetings are conducted twice per year, in Term 1 and Term 3.

Parents can contact staff at Mansfield School regarding any day-to-day queries. We encourage a collaborative approach and have regular communication with our parents.

Feedback, Compliments & Complaints

Any feedback, compliments or complaints may be given through the website www.autismmansfield.org.au or by emailing feedback@autismmansfield.org.au.

Policies

Our annual reports, strategic plan and a copy of our policies can be found on our website: www.autismmansfield.org.au.

Healthy Food: Students are required to bring their own fresh fruit snack, lunch and water bottle. To keep in line with our health and wellbeing focus, we request that students be provided with a healthy lunch. We have kitchen facilities available for students.

Uniform: There is no uniform at our school. We encourage practical clothes and sneakers for walking.

Disability Standards for Education 2005

The Disability Standards for Education articulate the rights of students with disabilities; and the responsibilities of the school or 'standards' and 'measures of compliance' in the areas of enrolment, participation, curriculum accreditation and delivery, student support services and harassment and victimization.

The School must take reasonable steps to ensure that a student with a disability can access the same or comparable opportunities and choices provided by the school 'on the same basis' as those opportunities and choices offered to a student without a disability. This may necessitate the determination and implementation of 'reasonable adjustments'.

At MASS typical adjustments to learning include personalised modifications to learning programs and activities, intensive individualised instruction, highly structured learning

Further Information

Disability Standards for Education 2005 (cont.)

programs, learning activities specifically designed for the student, highly structured approach, high supervision and communication supports.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005, in line with the NCCD guidelines (2019).

Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- year of schooling
- category of disability: physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional
- level of adjustment provided: support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive.

This information assists schools to:

- formally recognise the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools
- consider how they can strengthen the support of students with disability in schools
- develop shared practices so that they can review their learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability.

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process. The school will provide data to the Australian Government in such a way that no individual student will be able to be identified – the privacy and confidentiality of all students is ensured. All information is protected by privacy laws that regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. To find out more about these matters, please refer to the [Australian Government's Privacy Policy](#) can be found on the [NCCD Portal](#)

Our Services

At Mansfield Autism Statewide Services, we offer a number of different services.

You will find information about some of them on the following pages.



FAMILY CAMP

A camp for the whole family!
A time to relax, recharge & connect with others.
You will have the support of caring, compassionate autism-trained professionals.

Our camps incorporate positive behaviour support and visual supports into the daily program. We have professional expertise in autism and offer individualised strategies and supports within the camp environment.

Making Connections

It is the community of camp that makes it so special. Our camps are a place for the whole family to build connections. Our families find immense value from the support of other families going through similar experiences. Parents connect and have a dinner out together. Siblings enjoy their own program. Autistic young people meet and support each other.

Health and Wellbeing

We ditch the screens and engage in simple activities for health and wellbeing. We love getting outdoors and enjoying nature.

Camp Based

Practical and inclusive support and respite in a camp environment, for the whole family. Our camps run for 5 nights, with a focus on being in nature. Camps are available to all Victorian families.



Activities

We offer a camp that has a balanced program of relaxation, outdoor experiences, nature, art and craft, yoga, games, healthy foods and exercise.

"I was a little apprehensive about coming, but the MASS staff made me feel at ease and are so professional. Big tick to our support worker who has been so patient with our child. You have an amazing organisation and should feel very proud".



FAMILY CAMP INFORMATION

Families require funding under the NDIS Short Term Accommodation and Improved Daily Living Skills categories.



Key details:

- Camp locations vary. Currently our camps are located in Harrietville or Mt Evelyn. Families have their own room/s and facilities at both sites. We are currently building a campsite at our Mansfield farm which we look forward to having operational in the near future
- Each autistic young person has a 1:1 support worker for the duration of the camp
- Siblings are supported in small peer to peer groups
- Our camp sizes are small. We offer short term accommodation and support for approximately 10 autistic young people and their family at each camp
- Our camps run from Sunday to Friday for 5 nights
- We offer camps for clients up to the age of 18 years and their families
- All camps are fully catered
- Parents have the opportunity to attend educational workshops
- We provide parents with much needed respite, as children are supported for the duration of the camp
- Family camps have a limited capacity. We will confirm availability following a service request.



In our service, we aim to:

- Improve functional capacity for autistic young people in daily living skills, self care, social and emotional skills, independence, and communication
- Enable parents, siblings and autistic young people to build social networks and reduce social isolation
- Enhance family relationships and increase understanding of autism
- Build capacity of parents and siblings to maintain informal supports of their autistic child/sibling.



MANSFIELD AUTISM PRACTITIONERS



A MAP is a professional who joins in the lives and routines of families living with autism, providing compassionate, caring and proactive support.

Our MAPs incorporate positive behaviour support and visual supports into the daily program within the home, school and community. MAPs have professional expertise in autism and offer a wide range of individualised interventions.

Family Routines & Continuity of Care

Our MAPs stay in the home which helps to observe critical times and to provide individualised and relevant ideas and strategies that fit in with the family routine. We provide continuity of care, supporting our young people through times of transition and change.

Home Based

We offer practical support in the family home. Our MAPs live (where possible) with the family for 3 - 5 days at a time, multiple times a year. We travel to all Melbourne, rural and regional Victorian families.

Strengths-Based & Solution-Focused

Parents note the importance of a service that focuses on solutions and outcomes for their child. Parents importantly feel optimism and hope.

Personal Qualities

Parents often talk about the personal qualities of our MAPs and describe our MAPs as: "compassionate, caring, flexible, genuine, honest, proactive, respectful, and non judgmental".

"I would be completely lost without this service and I truly believe my child would not have developed and improved in daily life skills and positive behavioural changes without my MAPS's expertise, understanding and guidance".



Mansfield Autism Practitioners NDIS Information

MASS is a registered provider of Capacity Building - Improved Relationships and Improved Daily Living. Our MAP team consists of Occupational Therapists and Teachers who are registered Behaviour Support Practitioners



Key details:

- MAPs travel to the family home. They stay 3 - 5 days at a time (approx. 100+ hours per year), dependent on complex behaviours, additional diagnosis and needs. If MAPs are unable to stay within the family home, MAPs stay in accommodation that is near to the family home.
- MAPs travel across Victoria to regional and rural families, as well as servicing Melbourne.
- We visit clients from 0 - 18 years old and we aim to provide continuity of care, supporting our families through times of transition and change.
- Our MAP service is provided in natural environments - the home, school and community.
- We are a family centred practice, providing individualised and holistic support to meet each family's needs.
- We are person centred, all strategies and supports are based on the individual client needs, strengths and capacity.
- We model all strategies and upskill families and support workers.
- Our model of service was evaluated by Monash University, Dr Avril Brereton & Kerry Bull, 2011 as an effective ASD model and a broader adoption of the model across the sector was justified and recommended.



In our service, we aim to:

- Reduce behaviours of concern and increase self-regulation and communication skills.
- Increase adaptive behaviours (daily living skills such as toileting, sleeping, diet & self-care).
- Increase the social and emotional wellbeing of our families, reducing anxiety and stress within the family environment.
- Build our families' confidence and understanding of autism, empowering families to use evidence-based strategies.
- Increase participation of both individual and the family within the community.
- Increase the health and wellbeing of our clients.



LOCAL PROGRAMS

Offered to local clients who live in the Mansfield Shire. Outreach supports clients to reach their NDIS goals. Respite offers overnight stays in MASS accommodation.

Our support workers are familiar with the needs of people with autism. They support participants with tools that often prove helpful in reducing anxiety and keeping things calm and predictable.

Community Based

Our support workers work with clients in the local community helping them to reach their NDIS goals. Sometimes we support leisure and recreation goals and sometimes we support employment goals. We aim to increase community access, participation and expand social networks wherever possible.

Small Groups

We can offer participants of the same age with similar goals the opportunity to participate in small group sessions. These have a focus on building social skills, self-confidence and problem-solving skills. We support people to make decisions about what they would like to focus on during these sessions.

"Thank you for an amazing service. The outreach service has been invaluable for our son. He feels included, respected and listened to."

Outreach

Support can be provided in the home to help people build and develop their daily living skills, their confidence and independence. We support people in the community to access new experiences and increase their self-confidence and interpersonal skills. These sessions are participant led, giving opportunity for choice making wherever possible.

Respite

We have several houses in which we can provide overnight Respite.



Local Programs NDIS Information

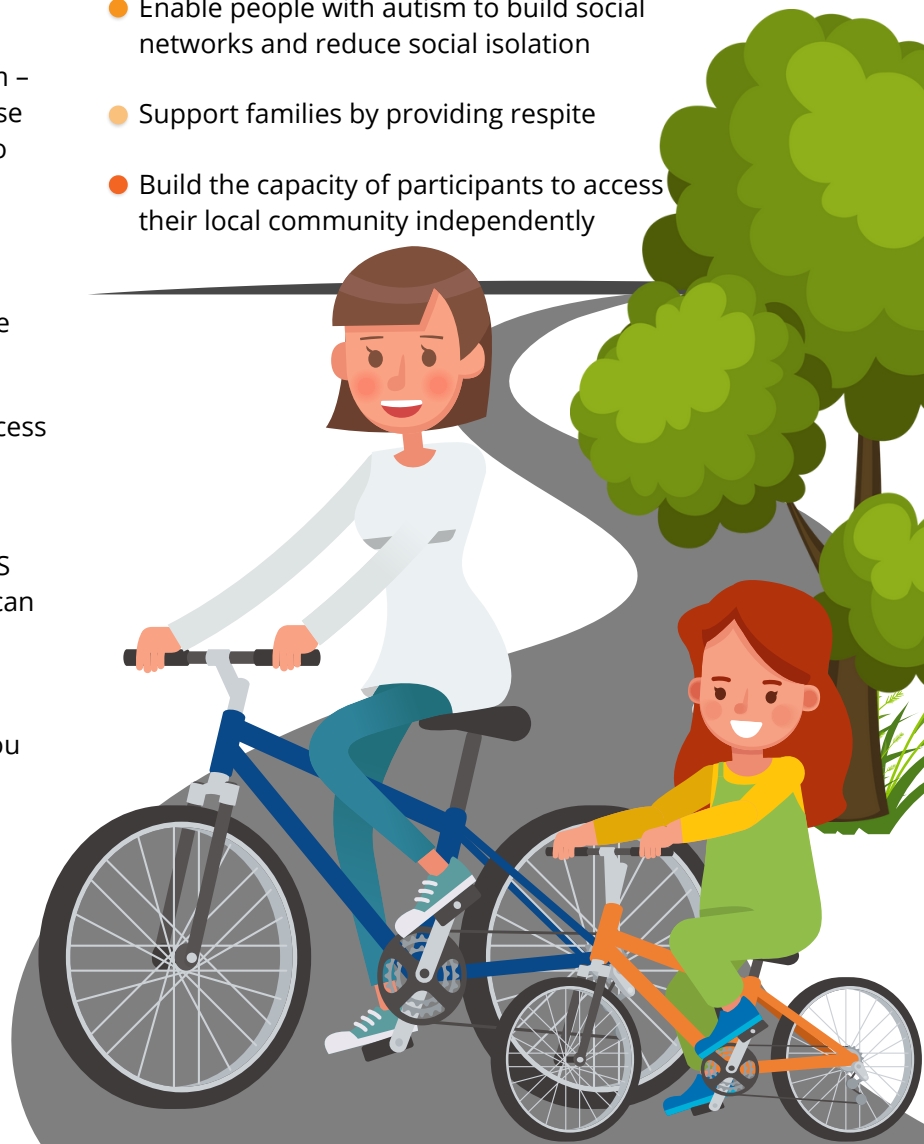
Participants require funding under Improved Daily Living Skills, Assistance to Access Community, Social & Recreational Activities and Short Term Accommodation & Assistance.

Key details:

- Local Programs is currently only available to participants living in the Mansfield Shire
- Participants can choose to be supported 1:1, or in a small groups where appropriate
- Participants NDIS Goals 'set' the program – we will work with you to decide how these will be measured. We can support you to identify what you would like to work on during sessions
- Outreach usually occurs in the local community with opportunities to explore further should funding be available
- Outreach can support participants to access the local community for recreation and leisure
- Respite usually occurs in one of the MASS Residences. Depending on capacity this can be for between 1 -5 nights
- We try to be responsive to the needs of participants, if there is something that you would especially like to do but need support to do it – ask us

In our service, we aim to:

- Support participants to reach their NDIS Goals, we can help break these down and make them more specific
- Enable people with autism to build social networks and reduce social isolation
- Support families by providing respite
- Build the capacity of participants to access their local community independently



To apply, visit:
www.autismmansfield.org.au

THERAPEUTIC BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT PLACEMENT

Up to nine weeks of supported accommodation and skill building opportunities for those aged 6 - 18 years. Delivered by our team of caring and passionate autism professionals.

Our care team incorporate positive behaviour support and visual supports into the daily program. All staff have professional expertise in autism and apply a wide range of person centred interventions when working with the spectrum of young people. Our individualised planning and behaviour support are all designed to build the capacity and skills of our clients.

Mansfield Based

We offer a nine-week residential placement in Mansfield, Victoria. This is supported accommodation and intervention for those aged 6-18 years who need a little extra help to develop important life skills. This placement is supported by our autism practitioners (MAPs) who help families transfer the skills learnt back to the home environment.

Health and Wellbeing

No screens! Our program is built around 'no technology'. We explore new activities and build healthy outdoor habits and social skills for our young people. We run equine facilitated learning, yoga, massage, swimming, and many outdoor adventures to support our young people with their health & wellbeing

Skill Building

Our program is rich with skill building opportunities. The placement is flexible and responsive to participant needs and goals. In general, we work on skill development in daily living skills such as toileting, self-care, personal hygiene, eating programs, sleep hygiene, night-time, morning and afterschool routines, social and communication skills, emotion regulation.

Family Respite

Everyone needs a chance to rest and recharge! Many of our parents report that they experience additional stress. Our placement provides families with some quality time to focus on their own health and wellbeing.

The therapeutic placement was extremely beneficial and gave us hope for the possibilities for our child



Therapeutic Behaviour Support Placement NDIS Information

Families require
funding under
Short Term
Accommodation and
Capacity Building -
Improved
Relationships.

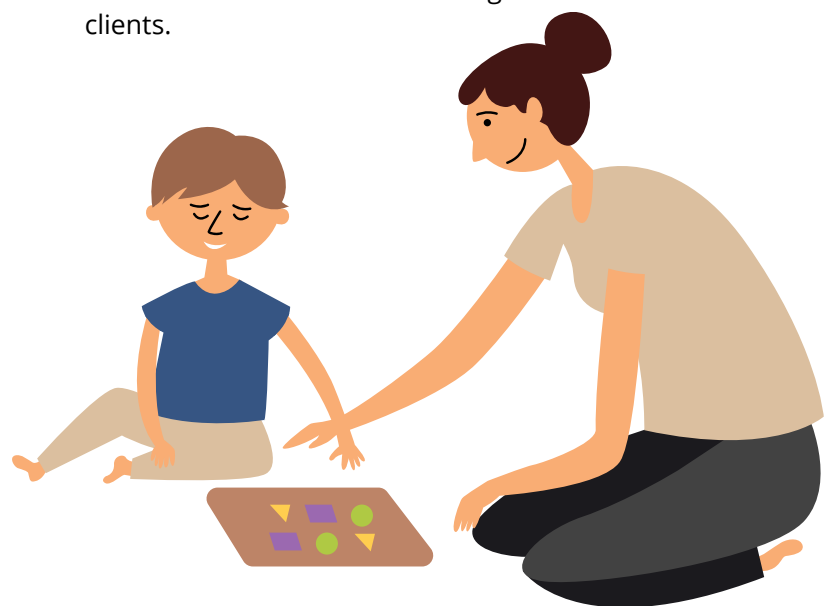


Key details:

- The Therapeutic Placement is delivered in Mansfield, Victoria.
- The placement runs for 9 weeks and provides 24/7 care.
- Our young people are supported by a staff ratio as determined by need.
- Clients stay in safe, supportive and caring residences that support person centred goals for daily living and community access.
- We are family centred practice, our families are helped by our MAPs (Behaviour Practitioners) who model and coach the family on implementing the strategies back into the home environment.
- We are person centred, all strategies and supports are based on the individual client needs, strengths and capacity.
- Clients have home weekends where they connect and spend time with family during the placement and practice skills learned.
- Our farm is currently in its growth phase, we are building and creating new experiences and spaces.

In our service, we aim to:

- Reduce behaviours of concern and increase self regulation and communication skills.
- Increase adaptive behaviours (daily living skills such as toileting, sleeping, diet & self care).
- Increase the social and emotional wellbeing of our families, reducing anxiety and stress by offering 9 weeks 24/7 care & supported accommodation.
- Build our families confidence and understanding of autism, empowering families to use evidence based strategies and supports for their child.
- Increase participation of our young people within the community.
- Increase the health and wellbeing of our clients.



To apply, visit:
www.autismmansfield.org.au



Contact Us:

www.autismmansfield.org.au

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