

# Family Camp



A camp for the whole family!  
A time to relax, recharge and connect with others while supported by caring, compassionate, autism-trained professionals.

Our camps build social, recreational and communication skills. We have professional expertise in autism and offer individualised strategies and supports in a purpose built camp environment.

## Our support is autism-specific.

### **Making connections**

It is the community of camp that makes it so special. Families find immense value from the support of other families going through similar experiences. Autistic young people meet and support each other. Parents connect and have time out together. Siblings enjoy their own program. Camps provide parents with much needed respite, as children are supported for the duration of the camp by trained staff.

### **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 our camp facilities for the whole family. Our camps run from our beautiful farm in Mansfield for five nights, with a focus on being in nature. Camps are available to all Victorian families.

### **A range of activities**

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

### **2025 dates**

Jan 13-18 | Jan 20-25 | Mar 31-Apr 5 | Apr 7-12  
Jun 30-Jul 5 | Jul 14-19 | Sep 15-20 | Sep 29-Oct 4  
Dec 15-20 | Jan 5-10 2026 | Jan 19-24 (TBC) 2026



"My husband and I have not had a real rest together since having our child. Our lives are a constant relay taking turns looking after our children. We actually unwound on this camp knowing everything was sorted"

"This was life-changing for us...we still use the strategies we learned from camp, and they still work!"

## Key details:

- Camps are held at our beautiful 100-acre farm in Mansfield, Victoria for five nights, from Monday to Saturday.
- Each autistic young person has a 1:1 support worker for the duration of the camp and engages in a range of activities.
- Siblings are supported in small groups with other siblings their age.
- Parents attend autism-specific sessions and workshops throughout the camp. Parents are also supported individually to learn effective ways to support their child, for example at mealtimes and during daily living routines.
- Parents receive autism training from behaviour support practitioners and learn management strategies which can be practiced immediately on camp.
- Our camp sizes are small. Each camp supports up to 6 autistic young people and their families.
- Camps provide parents with much needed respite, as children are supported for the duration of the camp.
- Families enjoy quality time together and have fun.
- Camps are for autistic young people up to the age of 18 years and their families.
- Accommodation is in three-bedroom cabins with views over Mt Buller, with one cabin per family.
- All camps are fully catered (family fee covers meals for the family).
- Family camps have a limited capacity. We will confirm availability following a service request.
- Participants require NDIS funding in their Core and Improved Daily Living budgets.
- For the family, there are funding options available to subsidise the cost of attending camp. Families are supported to apply for funding, and if successful, will be out of pocket only the registration fee of \$150 per family.

## In our service, we aim to:

- Build 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.

### Family Camp Costs

We are currently reviewing the way our camps are costed to bring them in line with new NDIA guidelines that are being developed.

**The approximate cost will be \$11,350.**

NDIS funding will largely be drawn from Core and Improved Daily Living budgets with some flexibility. We will provide the updated costing in the coming weeks. We recommend families that are plan-managed seek pre-approval from their Plan Managers before registering for camp for peace of mind. We can provide quotes to help with pre-approval - please ask our team.

#### Subsidised family registration fee

While our camps are for the whole family, the NDIS funding covers only the NDIS participant. Families attending a Mansfield Autism camp may be eligible for support from Carer Gateway. Carer Gateway provides free services and supports for carers. Upon application and approval, Carer Gateway may cover the cost of accommodation, meals and activities for parents and siblings, and/or support workers for the sibling program. Carers will be contacted by a Carer Gateway Assessment Officer, and funding may be provided based on individual needs and eligibility.

Other funding options are also available for families who are not eligible for Carer Gateway support.

To register for camp, visit [autismmansfield.org.au](http://autismmansfield.org.au)

#### Contact Us!

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Mansfield Autism Statewide Services are committed to promoting and protecting at all times the best interests of children and young people involved in its programs. Any child having contact with Mansfield Autism Statewide Service, has the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse.



An Australian Government Initiative



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