

Stronger Families



A 5 day/night program for the whole family!

A time to relax, recharge and connect with others while supported by caring, compassionate, autism-trained professionals.

Our program builds social, recreational and communication skills. We have professional expertise in autism and offer individualised strategies and supports in a purpose-built rural setting.

Our support is autism-specific.

Making connections

It is the community experience of our program 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. Our Stronger Families program provide parents with much needed respite, as children are supported for the duration 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.

A supportive family getaway

Practical and inclusive support and respite in our camp facilities for the whole family. Our Stronger Families program runs from our beautiful farm in Mansfield for five nights, with a focus on being in nature. Stronger Families is open to families from across Australia.

A range of activities

We offer a balanced schedule with 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

2026 summer dates: Jan 5-10 | Jan 19-24



"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 on camp, and they still work!"

Key details:

- Run from 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 stay 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. 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.
- Our group sizes are small. Each program supports up to 6 autistic young people and their families.
- The experience provides parents with much needed respite, as children are supported for the duration of the stay.
- Families enjoy quality time together and have fun.
- The program is for autistic young people up to the age of 18 years and their families. We also run young adult camps for young autistic adults aged 18-25 and their families.
- Accommodation is in three-bedroom cabins with views over Mt Buller, with one cabin per family.
- All programs are fully catered (family fee covers meals for the family).
- Programs 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. Families are supported to apply for funding, and if successful, will be out of pocket only the registration fee of \$150 per family.

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.

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.

Stronger Families Program Costs

Below are the NDIS costs for a family with 1 child with autism. We have flexibility to quote for other family situations. We recommend families that are plan-managed seek pre-approval from their Plan Managers before registering for peace of mind. We can provide quotes to help with pre-approval - please ask our team.

Core funds = \$8,258.39

Improved Daily Living funds = \$3,091.92

Total NDIS cost = \$11,350.31

Family registration fee = \$150

Subsidised family food, accommodation and activity fees

While the Stronger Families program is for the whole family, the NDIS funding covers only the NDIS participant. Families 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, visit autismmansfield.org.au



An Australian Government Initiative



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