



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

Background Paper

About

Positive Partnerships is a national program funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and delivered by Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) to improve support for school-aged students on the autism spectrum.

Positive Partnerships provides:

- Professional Learning for teachers, school leaders and other school staff to build understanding, skills and expertise of education personnel in working with students on the autism spectrum.
- Workshops for parents and carers of school-aged children to assist them to work in partnership with schools to improve their child's educational outcomes.
- A comprehensive website and online learning platform to support anyone with an interest in learning more about autism: www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Vision

The best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum.

Mission

We deliver high quality professional learning, resources and support for parents/ carers and school staff that strengthens their capacity to support and advocate for young people on the autism spectrum.

At Positive Partnerships we value:

Relationships - We understand respectful relationships are fundamental to our work.

Diversity - We accept and respect diversity in everyone.

Partnerships - We know the best outcomes for young people occur when parents, schools and community work together.

Learning - We embrace opportunities to continuously learn, grow, innovate and share.

Objectives

The overall objective of Positive Partnerships is to **improve the educational outcomes of school-aged children on the autism spectrum.**

To achieve this, we aim to:

- Inform parents and carers about current evidence-informed knowledge of autism spectrum disorder, and how this directly impacts on their child's learning.
- Increase the understanding, skills and expertise of teachers, school leaders and other school staff working with students on the autism spectrum.
- Foster an 'autism friendly' culture in schools, and the development of productive connections and partnerships between school and home and the broader community.
- Equip parents and carers with information and strategies on how they can best work in partnership with their child's school to support success and learning.

Current programs

The underlying focus of all our programs is to foster good home/school relationships.

Co-located professional learning and parent/carer program

Whole school professional learning (including parent/carer) program

Concurrent professional learning and parent/carer program

Parent/carer program (1 day / 2 day)

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander programs (whole school community and get-togethers)

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse programs

Achievements to date

Over 2008-15, Positive Partnerships delivered high quality, nationally consistent and evidence-informed training in best practice approaches to supporting children on the autism spectrum to over 12,000 parents and carers and over 7,000 school staff across Australia.

Why is your support important?

Autism is an issue that is present in and affects all communities.

Support from your organisation/school will assist parents/carers to receive information, resources and support for their child on the autism spectrum. Your support will allow us to reach the widest possible audience to best serve and support the community.

By working together, we can help families affected by autism to achieve better service access and greater support.

For more information, please contact us on 1300 881 971 or
positivepartnerships@autismspectrum.org.au