



**Amaze (Autism Victoria)**

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## Victorian Parent Support Groups: September 2012

If you are attending a meeting or service for the first time, please call the contact person listed to confirm time, address, etc, in case details have changed since the release of this listing.

### Search by Location

<a href="#"><u>Altona</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Craigieburn</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Glenroy</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mildura</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Sale</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bacchus Marsh</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cranbourne</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Glen Waverley</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Moe</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Seymour</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bairnsdale</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dandenong</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Hamilton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mornington</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Shepparton</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ballan</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Drouin</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Hampton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Morwell</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Stawell</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ballarat</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Echuca</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Horsham</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Myrtleford</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Thornbury</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Benalla</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Emerald</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Keilor Downs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Narre Warren</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Wangaratta</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Bendigo</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Endeavour Hills</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Knox</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ormond</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Warrnambool</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Blackburn</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Epping</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Macedon</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pakenham</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Werribee</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Box Hill</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Footscray</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ranges</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Portland</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Brighton</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Frankston</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>(Woodend)</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Reservoir</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Camberwell</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Geelong</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Mansfield</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Ringwood</u></a>	
		<a href="#"><u>Maroondah</u></a>		

### Search by Specific Interest Group

<a href="#"><u>Biomedical</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Dads</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Online Support</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Chinese/Turkish/Vietnamese</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Grandparents</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Christian</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Teenagers</u></a>	

### Updates

Please update us of any changes or additions to this listing by email to [info@amaze.org.au](mailto:info@amaze.org.au).

## Groups By Location

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
Altona, Laverton, Point Cook	<a href="#">PAL Support Group</a>	Kylee Brealey: 0419 336 891 <a href="mailto:palsupportgroup@live.com.au">palsupportgroup@live.com.au</a>	For parents with children with any ASD. <b>Meetings:</b> monthly on a Monday at various cares in the area.
Bacchus Marsh	<a href="#">Bacchus Marsh Autism Awareness</a>	Snjezana Jalanski or Debra Doyle (03) 5367 2471 (03) 5367 4460 or email: <a href="mailto:bmaa@iprimus.com.au">bmaa@iprimus.com.au</a>	Group of local parents that provides information and support in a confidential and caring environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotes awareness and understanding of ASD's in our community.</li> <li>Creates a safe environment for our children to grow, learn and play</li> <li>Library for use free of charge</li> <li>Encourage social network for teens with ASDs</li> </ul> <b>Meetings:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month at the St. Bernard's Parish Centre in Lederberg Street in Bacchus Marsh.
	<a href="#">The Marsh Generation</a>	Coral Loader on 0438 187 882	For information on venue contact Coral.
Bairnsdale	<a href="#">East Gippsland Autism Spectrum Disorder Support Group</a>	Miranda Smith on (03) 5152 5970	<b>Meetings:</b> Bi-monthly during school terms in the evenings at The Shed, Wy Yung Pub, Bairnsdale.  Also hold bi-monthly social events. Contact Miranda for further information.
Ballarat	<a href="#">Ballarat Autism/Asperger Parent Support Group</a>	Elise Morten-Allen on (03) 5329 1361 or <a href="mailto:emortenallen@pinarc.org.au">emortenallen@pinarc.org.au</a> , <a href="http://www.pinarc.org.au">www.pinarc.org.au</a> ,  C/- PINARC Support Services, PO Box 1841 Ballarat VIC 3350	Information nights: 2 to 3 per term – contact Andrea Grant on 03 5336 3732.  My Time Playgroup: meets each Wednesday 9.30 to 11.30 during school term (for early diagnosed waiting for a service), no cost.  Asperger Kids Club: contact Sarah Cavanagh on 5329 1357  Adults Asperger group: meets every 6/8 weeks for lunch –

			contact Kris on 0417 413 994
	<b>Ballarat Autism Network</b>	Kris Schmidt on (03) 5341 2768 or <a href="mailto:kks@netconnect.com.au">kks@netconnect.com.au</a> or Andrea Grant on (03) 5336 3725, <a href="http://www.ballaratautism.com/">http://www.ballaratautism.com/</a> , PO Box 1442 Bakery Hill PO, Ballarat VIC 3350	Work with families of individuals with ASD – parent support, information sessions, family social activities. <b>Meetings:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month (day and time changes from time to time, please contact Kris to confirm). Information nights 2 to 3 per school term: call Andrea on (03) 5336 3732 for details.
<b>Ballan</b>	<b>Embrace ASD</b>	Parent support Volunteer: Amber Durante, T: 03 5368 7549, M: 0430 343 473	For more details please visit Embrace ASD's Facebook page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/EmbraceAsd">https://www.facebook.com/EmbraceAsd</a>
<b>Benalla</b>	<b>Benalla Support Group for Children with Special Needs * Not ASD Specific</b>	Sharon Fragomeni on 0418 575 387 or <a href="mailto:bsgroup@iinet.net.au">bsgroup@iinet.net.au</a> , PO Box 374, Benalla VIC 3672  Support Worker - Trudie-Ann Easton (03) 5762 7057: available Monday and Friday 9.00 to 3.00 and Wednesday afternoons.	Playgroup: Each Wednesday of the month 10am to 12.00 noon  Summer - Walking group meet every Monday 10am-12pm  Summer: 5.30pm, Ice-cream in the Park, Benalla Rose Garden, Winter: 4pm, Soup  <b>Note:</b> Not Autism specific but do have families with children with ASD.
<b>Bendigo</b>	<b>Bendigo Autism Asperger Group (BAAG)</b>	For upcoming events (outgoing message only) 0417 057 672, <a href="mailto:info@bendigoautism.org.au">info@bendigoautism.org.au</a> <a href="http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/">http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/</a> , PO Box 439 Bendigo VIC 3550	BAAG is a support group for parents, carers, individuals and families of those dealing with an ASD. Sharing experiences, knowledge, networking and support; sharing information and resources and raising the profile of ASDs within the Bendigo region. Please check our website for up to date information of meetings and events.
	<b>Bendigo Autism Family Support Group (BAFSG)</b>	Judy Sheaf or Marie Whitrow on 0417 057 672, <a href="http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/">http://www.bendigoautism.org.au/</a> , PO Box 439 Bendigo VIC 3550	Informal coffee get-togethers: 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month 10.30am–12.00 noon.
<b>Blackburn, Glen Waverley,</b>	<b>Asperger Syndrome Support Network (ASSN)</b>	(03) 9845 2766 (Answering Machine Service) Email: <a href="mailto:admin@assnvc.org.au">admin@assnvc.org.au</a> , <a href="http://www.assnvc.org.au">www.assnvc.org.au</a>	The ASSN holds regular coffee mornings and evenings, information sessions and social groups for Asperger's Syndrome teenagers, adults and parents

<b>Reservoir</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports research</li> <li>• Provides community education</li> <li>• Provides a resource library</li> <li>• Maintains a register of professionals familiar with Asperger's Syndrome</li> <li>• Maintains links with other associations</li> </ul>
<b>Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Blackburn</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.	<b>Meets:</b> 7.30pm on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. All welcome.
<b>AS Adults</b>	<b>Blackburn</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.	<b>Meets:</b> 7:30pm on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month except December & January: for AS adults to discuss relevant issues. Parents, carers and partners are welcome to attend.
<b>AS Partners Group</b>	<b>Blackburn.</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane. Email <a href="mailto:help@assnvc.org.au">help@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> 7:30pm on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday in odd months except January. A coffee evening where you can meet others in a similar situation. The AS Adults meet at the same time in a separate room.
<b>AS Girls</b>	<b>Blackburn</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane. Email <a href="mailto:girls@assnvc.org.au">girls@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> 7:30pm on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday in odd months except January: for AS girls, to discuss relevant issues. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.
<b>AS Girls</b>	Various locations, either on a Saturday or Sunday, varying times. Email <a href="mailto:girls@assnvc.org.au">girls@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> weekend of even months except January: a social event for AS girls. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.
<b>AS Boys</b>	Various locations depending on activities. Email <a href="mailto:boys@assnvc.org.au">boys@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> Saturday mornings fortnightly during term time. For primary-school age boys to get to know each other. Parents and carers supervise their children while discussing and sharing challenges.
<b>AS Teens</b>	<b>Blackburn</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane. Email <a href="mailto:teens@assnvc.org.au">teens@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> 7:30pm on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday in even months except December: for AS teenagers only, to discuss relevant issues. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.

	<b>AS Teens</b>	<b>Glen Waverley</b> La Porchetta 187-189 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley.	<b>Meets:</b> 7.30pm on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday in odd months except January: for AS teens as a social outing. Please note that ASSN Vic Inc cannot act as carer at this venue.
	<b>Northern Parents &amp; Carers</b>	<b>Reservoir.</b> Reservoir Neighbourhood House, 2B Cuthbert Road, Reservoir 3073. Email <a href="mailto:northern@assnvc.org.au">northern@assnvc.org.au</a> .	<b>Meets</b> 7-9pm on the 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month, except Jan. A coffee evening for parents and carers of pre- and primary-school aged children.
	<b>Parents &amp; Carers</b>	<b>Blackburn.</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane. Email <a href="mailto:parents@assnvc.org.au">parents@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> 7.30pm 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of even months except December. A coffee evening where you can meet others in a similar situation and where you can be heard. The AS Adults meet at the same time in a separate room.
	<b>Parents &amp; Carers Morning</b>	<b>Blackburn.</b> 'The Nerve Centre', 54 Railway Rd, Blackburn. Parking off Solwood Lane.	<b>Meets:</b> 10am on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday of each month except January: a coffee morning where you can meet others in a similar situation and where you can be heard.
<b>Box Hill &amp; Preston</b>	<b>Chinese Parents Special Net * Not ASD Specific</b>	Ada Poon on (03 9898 1965) or email: <a href="mailto:admin@ccssci.com.au">admin@ccssci.com.au</a> , <a href="http://www.ccssci.com.au">www.ccssci.com.au</a> , Suite 9A. Level 1, Professional Suite, Centro Whitehorse, Box Hill, 3128	Support services specifically for Chinese-speaking families; parent support groups.  <b>Meetings</b> at <b>BOX HILL</b> every Monday 10am to 12pm, phone Gigi on (03) 9898 1965, Suite 9a, Level 1, Professional Suite Centro Whitehorse, BOX HILL  <b>Meetings</b> at <b>PRESTON</b> every Tuesday 10am to 12pm, phone Vicki on (03) 9898 1965, Shop 3, 294 High Street, PRESTON  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Therapeutic groups for parents to learn to manage their stress and depression.</li> <li>• Parent skills training and workshops – autism-specific</li> <li>• Workshops and activities for children.</li> </ul> <b>Note:</b> Library and resource materials including videos. The dialect spoken is Cantonese and translation is available. All library material is in both dialects.
<b>Brighton East</b>	<b>DUCKS – Dads Understanding</b>	Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222	Not Autism Specific but lots of dads with ASD children

	<p><b>Challenging Kids</b></p> <p><b>* Not ASD Specific</b></p>		<p>attend.</p> <p><b>Meetings</b> held in a casual setting</p>
<b>Camberwell</b>	<p><b>Cross Purposes Christian Support Group</b></p> <p><b>* Not ASD Specific</b></p>	<p>Cameron Burgess on (03) 8809 3000 or 0411 658 995 or email <a href="mailto:cross-purposes@ucco.org.au">cross-purposes@ucco.org.au</a></p>	<p>Parent Workshops and support</p> <p><b>Meetings</b> held the 4th Friday of each month from 10am till 12.30pm at St Dunstan's Anglican Church, 163 Wattle Valley Road, CAMBERWELL</p> <p>Sunday Family worship commences at 2.15 pm, bi-monthly at St Dunstan's Anglican Church, 163 Wattle Valley Road, CAMBERWELL</p> <p><b>Note:</b> prayer, coffee and sharing all welcome. Quarterly newsletter and membership is a yearly gift of \$5 if possible</p>
<b>Cranbourne</b>	<p><b>Cranbourne Special Needs Support Group</b></p> <p><b>* Not ASD Specific</b></p>	<p>Christine McDonald on (03) 5995 8515 or 0418 108 474, email: <a href="mailto:bruce.christine@bcmcdonald.info">bruce.christine@bcmcdonald.info</a>, Tracey Slatcher on 0417 767 229, or Kerrie Rolfe (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222.</p>	<p><b>Meetings:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 10am to 12pm – contact us for details of venue.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> information sessions are organised regularly.</p>
<b>Craigieburn</b>	<p><b>POKITS – Parents of Kids on The Spectrum</b></p>	<p>Susie Ball, Coordinator 0402 245 086 <a href="mailto:susieandmichael@bigpond.com">susieandmichael@bigpond.com</a></p>	<p>Support group for parents of kids with autism spectrum disorders.</p> <p><b>Meetings</b> held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month from 7.30pm to 9pm at Mother Theresa's Catholic Primary School, 5-15 Windrock Ave, Mount Ridley, Craigieburn 3064</p>
<b>Dandenong</b>	<p><b>Grandparents Carer Support Group * Not ASD Specific</b></p>	<p>Kerrie Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222 or Marilyn Sparks 5990 8400</p>	<p>A support group for grandparents caring full time for a grandchild. Information and support, guest speakers, activities and children's facilities available.</p> <p><b>Meetings</b> are held on alternate Mondays (not in school holidays) at 10.30am to 12.30pm at 2 Hayes Road, HAMPTON PARK</p>

<b>Drouin</b>	<b>Supporting Parents Of Asperger /Autism Kids (S.P.O.A.K)</b>	Janice Eshuis on (03) 5625 3075 or 0407 554 080, email: <a href="mailto:pauljan@dcsi.net.au">pauljan@dcsi.net.au</a> ; or Joy Publiese on 0408 359 694 or Jill Howells on 0438 183 539	Support group for parents run on an informal basis. <b>Meetings</b> are held in cafes on a weekly basis except school holidays.  Occasionally organize speakers and seminars..
<b>Echuca South</b>	<b>S.P.O.C.A.A.S - Supporting Parents of Children with Autism and Asperger Syndrome</b>	Linke Smedts-Kreskas (03) 5480 2388 or email: <a href="mailto:spocaas@clrs.org.au">spocaas@clrs.org.au</a> , <a href="http://www.clrs.org.au">www.clrs.org.au</a> - then follow the link at the bottom of the left hand-side, 26A Percy Street, Echuca VIC 3564	For people in the Campaspe Shire and some outlying areas. Membership is free and open to anyone from anywhere. All ages and all abilities with no diagnosis needed.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee Club (morning and evening), Monthly Morning Teas with onsite fee free child care.</li> <li>• Monthly Evening Committee Meetings</li> <li>• Social Events</li> <li>• Awareness events and education opportunities</li> <li>• Monthly SPOCAAS Newsletter</li> </ul>
<b>Emerald</b>	<b>The Hills Autism and Special Needs Support Group</b>	Barb Brown or (03) 5968 9014	<b>Meetings</b> held on the 3rd Wednesday of each Month, from 12.30pm onwards at Jewels Café in Emerald, next to the Commonwealth Bank. <b>Note:</b> Children welcome
<b>Endeavour Hills</b>	<b>Endeavour Hills Asperger Syndrome Parents Group</b>	Chris Kirk (Mr) on (03) 9799 1429, 56 Green Valley Cres, Hampton Park, VIC 3976	<b>Meetings</b> are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30 to 9pm at the Hampton Park Baptist Church, Unit 1, Orient Place, HAMPTON PARK
<b>Endeavour Hills, Langwarrin, Patterson Lakes</b>	<b>Southern Autism Spectrum Family Support Group (SASFSG)</b>	Cristina on (03) 9795 0328 or Jill on 0419 885 967 or by email: <a href="mailto:asperger_vic@yahoo.com.au">asperger_vic@yahoo.com.au</a>	<b>Day Meetings</b> Patterson Lakes Community Centre, 54-70 Thompson Road, Patterson Lakes, 3197; Melway Map 97, H6 Third Tuesday of the month except during school holidays, 10am to midday <b>Teen Group and Parents of Teens Support Group</b> Endeavour Hills Uniting Care Neighbourhood Centre 10 Raymond McMahon Blvd, Endeavour Hills 3802, 6.30-9pm <b>Evening Meetings</b>

			Langwarrin Community Centre, Craig Room, 2-6 Lang Road, Langwarrin 3910 Third Thursday of month, 8-10pm Note: Participants are encouraged to bring a snack to share to the meetings.
<b>Epping</b>	<b>GALA Support Group</b> <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	(03) 9217 2192 or email: <a href="mailto:bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au">bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friendly and warm social group</li> <li>• Meets in Epping</li> <li>• No children</li> </ul> <p><b>GALA GUYS</b> is a group for Dads, <b>meets</b> on a Saturday every couple of months for breakfast at a local café.</p> <p><b>GALA SIBS</b> is a group for siblings, usually one activity a term (roller-skating, movies, bowling, etc.)</p>
<b>Footscray</b>	<b>Dads Together * Not ASD Specific</b>	Malcolm on 0438 667 343 or email <a href="mailto:mmibus@bigpond.com">mmibus@bigpond.com</a>	<b>Meets</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 7.15-9:00 pm Not ASD specific.
	<b>Vietnamese Parent Support Group</b>	c/- Parent to Parent, 118 Commercial Rd, Footscray VIC 3011, Nga Do on 9680 8444 (Only after 1.30pm Thursdays)	<b>Meetings</b> are held every Thursday 10.30am- 12.30 pm at Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall St, MARIBYRNONG  <b>Note:</b> Group includes many parents with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Occasional childcare is available, although families must book one week in advance.
<b>Geelong</b>	<b>Gateways Support Services</b>	Katy Mackenzie – Strengthening Parent Support Worker – <a href="mailto:katy@gateways.com.au">katy@gateways.com.au</a> , 03 5221 2984 <a href="http://www.gateways.com.au">www.gateways.com.au</a> , <a href="http://www.autismhelp.info">www.autismhelp.info</a>  10-12 Albert St, Geelong West VIC 3218	Gateways provides a range of services including early intervention, carer support, accommodation support and information.  Details of the various support groups follow.
	<b>Asperger Syndrome Information Group (Gateways)</b>	03 5221 2984, or <a href="mailto:katy@gateways.com.au">katy@gateways.com.au</a>	Aspergers specific; fathers welcome, topical informative group.  <b>Meetings:</b> held at Gateways Support Services, rotates



			between daytime (11am to 1pm) and evening (7.30pm to 9.30pm) at Gateways in Geelong and on occasions Lara and Ocean Grove. Meetings held third Thursday each month.
<b>Bellarine Parents Network</b>	You are welcome to contact Dyanne on 5248 7153 (leave message) or <a href="mailto:jackson.dyanne.b@edumail.vic.gov.au">jackson.dyanne.b@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>		<p>Network for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder on the Bellarine Peninsula.</p> <p><b>Meets</b> at Clifton Springs Primary School, Jetty Road, Clifton Springs from 9am on the last Thurs of each month (not hols).</p> <p>We aim to share resources, ideas, stories, have fun and meet others in the same situation.</p> <p>A yummy morning tea is provided!</p>
<b>PASKEY</b>	Contact Krista on 5241 4649 or 0427 414 649		<p>This is a support group for families with children on the Autism Spectrum, especially those in the early stages of diagnosis. The aim is to provide friendly support and a listening ear, along with tips and techniques learnt along the way.</p> <p><b>Meets</b> at the co-ordinator's home on the first Monday of each month, from 11am-3pm.</p> <p>If the first Monday falls in school holidays, usually a "Mum's Night Out" takes place instead. Children are most welcome.</p>
<b>DADS – Dads Appreciating Disabilities * NOT ASD SPECIFIC</b>	For further details, contact Steve on 0409 969 710 or <a href="mailto:steve_dads@bigpond.com">steve_dads@bigpond.com</a>		<p>The DADS group is for any male who would like to join a network that provides peer support by men for men, including Fathers, husbands, step fathers, grandfathers, uncles etc.</p> <p><b>Meets</b> at local venues for a meal and informal chat, a chance to share, and have a laugh.</p>
<b>The Treehouse</b>	John Demopoulos 0425 797 876 or Sharon Demopoulos 0425 792 161		An open house support group where everyone is welcome. Ring for dates.

		<a href="http://www.thetreehousegeelong.org.au">www.thetreehousegeelong.org.au</a>	<p>The Treehouse is located upstairs at 62 Ryrie Street, Geelong.</p> <p>There is also an after school chill session, Wednesday, 3.45 to 5.50pm.</p> <p>Ring for details about the social groups for children up to adults with ASD and the new father/mail carer support group.</p>
	<b>Step by Step Autism Parent Support Group</b>	The Parent Support Worker – 5221 2984 or <a href="mailto:katy@gateways.com.au">katy@gateways.com.au</a>	<p>Meet second Tuesday of each month, 10-12 excluding school holidays.</p> <p>This parent support group provides the opportunity for participants to ask questions of the facilitator, attendees and guest speakers about specific issues regarding their child with autism. A warm and friendly group for parents of children 0 to 10 years (flexible) who may have newly diagnosed with Autism or are in the first few years of primary school. Guest speakers range from psychologists to the DEECD Autism Coach in the Barwon region.</p>
	<b>Colac Parent Support Group (Autism Parent Support Group)</b>	Julie Minster – Parent Support Worker – Gateways Colac Office, 5232 2001	Meets at Gateways Colac office. For mutual support, friendship, networking with other parents and for current information. Currently operating an autism specific group and a general disability group.
<b>Glenroy</b>	<b>Asperger's Syndrome &amp; High Functioning Autism Support Group</b>	Rick Wright on (03) 9386 2502	<b>Meets</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday evening of the month at 7pm, but please call for meeting location.
	<b>Northern Autism Parent Support Group</b>	Thea Calzoni on (03) 9385 3235 or email <a href="mailto:tcalzoni@mcm.org.au">tcalzoni@mcm.org.au</a> , 48-50 Box Forest Road, Glenroy, VIC 3046	<p><b>Meetings</b> are held 9.30–11.30am on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (except school holidays) at Yooralla Kindergarten Building, 48-50 Box Forest Rd, GLENROY</p> <p><b>Note:</b> child care provided if notice is given in advance. Large range of children's ages. Very enthusiastic.</p>

			Online forum for parents – contact Thea to become a member.
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>Hamilton &amp; District Autism Support Group</b>	Mark and Robin Tonissen or (03) 5573 3226; Rhonda Zschech (03) 5571 2122, PO Box 454, Hamilton, 3300	The Autism group is in recess and so the members have amalgamated with the Hamilton Support Group.
<b>Hampton East</b>	<b>Primary School Autism Spectrum Support Group</b>	Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222	<b>Meetings:</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at the MOIRA Meeting room, 920 Nepean Hwy, HAMPTON EAST
<b>Horsham</b>	<b>Wimmera Autism Support Group</b>	Sharlene Hoyer on 0419 557 450 or Anne Page on (03) 5382 6789 or 0428 175 301 or email: <a href="mailto:happy73@aapt.net.au">happy73@aapt.net.au</a> , c/- Uniting Care, PO Box 442, Horsham VIC 3400	<b>Meetings</b> are held once a month in the evening at local Cafes or Pubs (changes regularly) <b>Note:</b> Telephone support is provided between meetings and a regular newsletter goes to all members.
<b>Keilor Downs</b>	<b>Autism Angels Inc</b>	0404 522 226 or 03 9362 1000, email: <a href="mailto:autism_angels@yahoo.com">autism_angels@yahoo.com</a> , <a href="http://www.autismangels.com">www.autismangels.com</a> , PO BOX 4086, Keilor Downs VIC 3038	Support group for parents and carers of children with autism. Meetings: at Cairnlea Community Hub, Carmody Drive, Cairlea – contact us on 9362 1000 for details and times.
<b>Knox</b>	<b>Carousel Project * Not ASD Specific</b>	Carole Bilney on (03) 8809 3080 or 0418 526 721 or email: <a href="mailto:carole.bilney@ucco.org.au">carole.bilney@ucco.org.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings</li> <li>• Information sessions and other events</li> <li>• Regular newsletter</li> </ul> <p>Local network of parents of special needs children who meet in various locations in the Knox Local Government Area. Parents who live in the Knox LGA are eligible (but it may be possible for other parents who live in the Eastern suburbs to attend)</p>
	<b>Spectrum Connections Knox (also Maroondah)</b>	Terri Hillier (Case Manager), Care Connect Eastern Metropolitan Region, <a href="mailto:thillier@careconnect.org.au">thillier@careconnect.org.au</a> , (03) 8805 4104	<b>Support Group for families of children with an ASD:</b> provides an environment for families and carers of individuals with an ASD to meet, engage with local community services and support each other. Drawing on the concept of a “circle of support” the group continues to focus on enabling families isolated due to disability to

			<p>develop friendships and a sense of community involvement.</p> <p>Meetings held fortnightly on Fridays during term time at The Pergola Room Coonara Community House, 20 Willow Road, Upper Ferntree Gully from 12.30 to 2.30pm.</p>
<b>Macedon Ranges (Woodend)</b>	<b>Macedon Ranges (Woodend) ASD Parent Support Group/Network</b>	<p>Fiona Le Nepveu at <a href="mailto:fiona@lenepveu.com">fiona@lenepveu.com</a> or 0414 891107</p> <p>Prue Southey at <a href="mailto:prue.southey@cobaw.vic.gov.au">prue.southey@cobaw.vic.gov.au</a> or 5421 1694</p>	<b>November 2011:</b> a new group is being set up in response to interest from many parents in the area. Contact Fiona or Prue for more information.
<b>Mansfield</b>	<b>Mansfield Support Group for Children with Special Needs</b> <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	<p>Anya Abela on (03) 5775 2538 or 0412 442 412 or email: <a href="mailto:snmansfield@bigpond.net.au">snmansfield@bigpond.net.au</a>; PO Box 675, Mansfield VIC 3722</p>	<p><b>Meetings</b> are held once a month at MACE, 145 High Street, MANSFIELD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newsletter each term</li> <li>• Family outings organised twice a year</li> </ul>
<b>Maroondah</b>	<b>Spectrum Connections Maroondah (also Knox)</b>	<p>Terri Hillier (Case Manager), Care Connect Eastern Metropolitan Region, <a href="mailto:thillier@careconnect.org.au">thillier@careconnect.org.au</a>, (03) 8805 4104</p>	<p><b>Support Group for families of children with an ASD:</b> provides an environment for families and carers of individuals with an ASD to meet, engage with local community services and support each other. Drawing on the concept of a “circle of support” the group continues to focus on enabling families isolated due to disability to develop friendships and a sense of community involvement.</p> <p>Meetings held on the second Thursday of each month at Chirnside Park Community Centre, Kimberley Drive, Chirnside Park, 3116 from 10am to 12pm.</p>
<b>Mildura</b>	<b>Sunraysia Autism Spectrum Support Group Inc</b>	<p>Sharon Middleton on (03) 5025 2816 or email <a href="mailto:midds5@bigpond.com">midds5@bigpond.com</a> or Donna Milne on 0420 389 504; 159 Langtree Ave, Mildura 3501 <a href="http://sunraysia.autism@gmail.com">sunraysia.autism@gmail.com</a>, <a href="http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/autismssg.index.html">mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/autismssg.index.html</a></p>	<p>Sunraysia Autism Support Group is coordinated by a small group of dedicated parents. Throughout the year we plan a variety of events, workshops, family get-togethers and social opportunities for caring families and people who have an ASD.</p>

			We aim to provide opportunities for families to meet and learn from each other and share information, knowledge and experience.
<b>Moe</b>	<b>Good Beginnings LaTrobe Early Years Centre</b>	03 5127 7270, <a href="mailto:Latrobe@goodbeginnings.org.au">Latrobe@goodbeginnings.org.au</a> , <a href="http://www.goodbeginnings.org.au">www.goodbeginnings.org.au</a>	Facilitated playgroups, parent education programs, fathering initiatives.
<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	<b>Peninsula Autism Spectrum Support Group</b>	Michelle on 0416 007 631	Parents/Carers of children with ASD or other disabilities who live on the Mornington Peninsula are welcome.  Meets at Balnarring: contact Michelle for further information
<b>Morwell</b>	<b>Noah's Ark Parent to Parent – Gippsland  * Not ASD Specific</b>	Yvonne Waite on 1800 010 453 or (03) 5135 3131, <a href="mailto:p2pg@noahsarkinc.org.au">p2pg@noahsarkinc.org.au</a> ,PO Box 3163, Gippsland Mail Centre VIC 3841, <a href="http://www.noahsarcinc.org.au">www.noahsarcinc.org.au</a>	Information, support and advocacy for families who live in Gippsland and have a child with additional needs aged between 0 and 18 years.  Contact Yvonne for additional Special Needs Support Groups in Gippsland.
<b>Myrtleford</b>	<b>Alpine Autism Support Group</b>	Leanne Novak, 03 5751 1661, Sandra Gourlay 03 5751 9386	<b>Meets:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Alpine Leisure Group building, Alpine Health, Myrtleford and Hospital House at Health Bright.  Share experiences with others, get information on Autism Spectrum Disorder or associated conditions, mutual self help, confidentiality within the group.
<b>Narre Warren and Hallam</b>	<b>Casey Asperger Syndrome Support Group (CASS)</b>	Jenni or Meghan on 0439 008 082 or email: <a href="mailto:caseyaspergersupport@hotmail.com">caseyaspergersupport@hotmail.com</a> , <a href="http://www.caseyconnect.net.au/cass">www.caseyconnect.net.au/cass</a>	Supporting families living with Asperger's and HFA.  <b>Meetings:</b> 2nd Thursday each month 7.30-9.30pm, at Narre Community Learning Centre, 1 Malcolm Court, NARRE WARREN  <b>Meetings:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of each month 12.30-2.30 pm at Hallam Community Centre, 56 Kays Avenue, HALLAM  Cost: \$2 per session plus centre insurance (approx \$10)  Please contact Jenni or Meghan if planning to attend.

			<p>Now also run school groups for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-school children</li> <li>• Primary school aged children</li> <li>• Teenagers – 12-16</li> </ul>
<b>Ormond</b>	<b>Sensational Kids</b>	(03) 9578 7560 or email: <a href="mailto:info@sensationalkids.com.au">info@sensationalkids.com.au</a> , <a href="http://www.sensationalkids.com.au">www.sensationalkids.com.au</a>	Parent support group facilitated by therapists from Sensational Kids.
<b>Pakenham</b>	<b>Cardinia Autism Spectrum Family Support Group</b>	Nicole (03) 5941 5858 or Rosalie (03) 5941 5446	<p><b>Meets:</b> 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month. (Children welcome)</p> <p>Support group meets from 11am to 12 noon then optional lunch from 12 noon to 1pm; at Cardinia Club, Racecourse Road, PAKENHAM</p> <p><b>Note:</b> open to anyone with a child with ASD or behavioral challenge, but more for parents of school age (not kinder) children. Very supportive group.</p>
<b>Portland</b>	<b>Portland Autism Support Group</b>	Kathryn Beauglehole on (03) 5523 6014	<p>Parents of individuals with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome are welcome to attend.</p> <p>The group aims to support members to learn about and live with ASD; share resources within the community and region; raise awareness of ASDs in the local community, arrange social events for the group; to be a voice for ASDs and a contact for state and national organisations.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month (excluding school holidays) from 10.00am to 12.00pm at Seaview House, Bentinck St, PORTLAND</p>
<b>Ringwood East</b>	<b>Parent Support Network - Eastern Region</b>  <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	Jenny Salgo on (03) 9259 4312 or email: <a href="mailto:psn-emr@bigpond.net.au">psn-emr@bigpond.net.au</a> , <a href="http://www.psn-emr.com.au">www.psn-emr.com.au</a> , 97 Bedford Road, Ringwood East 3135	<p>Information, support and advocacy to parents of children with a disability.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> held at various venues, times and dates throughout the year. Please contact us for details.</p> <p>Information workshops, professional &amp; community</p>

			education, social activities, art therapy courses, advocacy services, quarterly newsletter.
<b>Sale</b>	<b>Sale and District Autism Support Group</b>	Lisa Stokell on (03) 5144 4691 or Sharyn Dowton on (03) 5147 2738	<b>Meetings:</b> held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 10am to 12 noon at LCHS, 67 Macalister St, SALE <b>Note:</b> Babysitting may be available.
<b>Seymour</b>	<b>Lower Hume Parent Support Group</b> <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	Debbie Britton (Community Development Officer/Mytime facilitator) on (03) 5792 1122 or email: <a href="mailto:lhparentsupport@bigpond.com">lhparentsupport@bigpond.com</a> , PO Box 8036, Seymour South, 3660, VRI Building, 2 Railway Place, Seymour 3660	Parent support group for parents of children with special needs, not ASD specific but very ASD aware; hold monthly meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covers Mitchell and Murrindindi shires.</li> <li>• Advocacy and liaison with service providers</li> <li>• Respite information and access to resources</li> <li>• Attends Wallan once a month</li> <li>• My Time program in Seymour and Kinglake held fortnightly during school terms</li> </ul>
<b>Shepparton</b>	<b>Goulburn Valley Support Group for Children with Special Needs</b> <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	Maree Ingram (family support worker) on (03) 5814 3355 or email: <a href="mailto:gvsncsn794@yahoo.com">gvsncsn794@yahoo.com</a>  Maree is available in the office from 10am to 2pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays each week.	This group covers the greater Goulburn Valley area which encompasses the following towns; Shepparton/Mooroopna, Tatura, Nagambie, Yarrawonga, and Cobram and all areas in between  Regular events such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee mornings</li> <li>• Specific activities such as a Mum's weekend away, golf days &amp; footy trips for Dads.</li> <li>• Discussion groups (including on ASD and Learning Difficulties)</li> <li>• Bi-monthly newsletter</li> </ul>
	<b>RISE- Resource, Information, Support and Education</b>	Jenny Mallamaci (RISE Centre Coordinator) (03) 5822 1230 or <a href="mailto:gvsntl@inet.net.au">gvsntl@inet.net.au</a> , 38 Packham Street, Shepparton 3630	My Time parent support group - for families of children 0-18, playgroup for children provided on site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource lending library</li> <li>• PlayConnect Playgroup for children displaying</li> </ul>

	<b>* Not ASD Specific</b>		<p>characteristics of ASD aged 0-6 (don't need to have been diagnosed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASD Workshops run on a regular basis</li> </ul>
<b>Springvale and Preston</b>	<p><b>Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Vietnamese Carer Support Group</b></p> <p><b>* Not ASD Specific</b></p>	Shehani De Silva at ADEC on 9480 1666	<p>Two groups – Springvale and Preston – contact Shehani for details.</p> <p>This group is facilitated by ADEC</p>
<b>Stawell &amp; Ararat</b>	<b>Stawell/Ararat Autism/Asperger Support Group</b>	Julene Barnes (03) 5352 2129	Meets Monthly, please contact Julene for venue details
<b>Thornbury</b>	<b>Parents with Special Needs</b>	Susannah, 03 9402 1171, 0434 132 019, Thornbury Primary School, Vic 3071	<p>A group of parents of school-aged children on the autism spectrum.</p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> 9.30am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.</p>
<b>Wangaratta</b>	<b>Wangaratta Autism Resources Training &amp; Support (WARTS)</b>	Jacki MacLeish on (03) 5721 9110 or email: <a href="mailto:wartsinc@bigpond.com">wartsinc@bigpond.com</a> , <a href="http://www.wartsinc.com.au">www.wartsinc.com.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource library, books, CD's, videos, DVDs, information brochures</li> <li>Workshops and information evenings</li> <li>Parent support</li> <li>Regular newsletter</li> </ul>
<b>Warrnambool</b>	<b>Warrnambool and District Autism Support Group</b>	Jason Salt (Coordinator) or Chris (03) 5565 7885 or email: <a href="mailto:crjbsalt@dodo.com.au">crjbsalt@dodo.com.au</a> , PO Box 154, Koroit VIC 3282	<p>Resource library for members</p> <p>Day time meetings with occasional guest speakers.</p> <p>Dads support group meets after hours – contact Bruce Williamson on 0448 826 529 for details.</p> <p>For information contact Jason or Chris.</p>
<b>Werribee</b>	<b>Asperger West</b>	Jan De Witte, 03 8742 3975, email <a href="mailto:heathdalecc@wyndham.vic.gov.au">heathdalecc@wyndham.vic.gov.au</a> PO Box 197, Werribee Vic 3030	<b>Meets:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month at 10am to 12pm; informal group, contact through the Heathdale Community Centre.

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## DADS/ MENS ONLY GROUPS

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
West Footscray	<b>Dads Together</b> * Not ASD Specific	Contact Malcolm on 0438 667 343 or email <a href="mailto:mmibus@bigpond.com">mmibus@bigpond.com</a>	Meets 1 <sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 7.15-9:00 pm Not ASD specific.
Brighton East	<b>DUCKS – Dads Understanding Challenging Kids</b> * Not ASD Specific	Kerry Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222	Not Autism Specific but lots of dads with ASD children attend. Meetings held in a casual setting
Epping	<b>GALA Support Group - GALA Guys</b> * Not ASD Specific	(03) 9217 2192 or email: <a href="mailto:bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au">bridgid.keele@whittlesea.vic.gov.au</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not Autism Specific</li> <li>• Friendly and warm social group</li> <li>• GALA GUYS is a group for Dads, meets on a Saturday every couple of months for breakfast at a local café.</li> </ul>
Ferntree Gully	<b>Men's Group Meetings</b> * Not ASD Specific	Contact: 0401 870 467 or <a href="mailto:Christine.Badaway@knox.vic.gov.au">Christine.Badaway@knox.vic.gov.au</a>	Meet other Dads, have a coffee and play pool. Meet at Shop Front, 81 Station St Ferntree Gully. Call for information on meeting times.
Warrnambool	<b>Warrnambool and District Autism Support Group- Dad's Group</b>	Bruce Williamson 0448 826 529 or <a href="mailto:williamson101@bigpond.com">williamson101@bigpond.com</a> PO Box 154, Koroit VIC 3282	Father's Support group that meets after hours

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## BIOMEDICAL

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
Balwyn	<b>Biomedical Autism Group</b>	Contact: Dennis Crowley on 9592 7054 or email: <a href="mailto:biomedicalautismgroup@yahooroups.com.au">biomedicalautismgroup@yahooroups.com.au</a> , <a href="http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/biomedicalautis">http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/biomedicalautis</a>	You are warmly invited to attend the monthly meetings in order to share knowledge and experience with others. Come and hear from parents who are having success in

**CHINESE/TURKISH/VIETNAMESE**

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
Box Hill and Preston	<b>Chinese Parents Special Net</b> * Not ASD Specific	Ada Poon on (03 9898 1965) or email: <a href="mailto:ada@ccssci.com.au">ada@ccssci.com.au</a>	<b>Meetings</b> at <b>BOX HILL</b> Every Monday 10am to 12pm, phone Gigi on (03) 9898 1965, Suite 9a, Level 1, Professional Suite Centro Whitehorse, BOX HILL  <b>Meetings</b> at <b>PRESTON</b> Every Tuesday 10am to 12pm, phone Vicki on (03) 9898 1965, Shop 3, 294 High Street, PRESTON  Also organises workshops and activities for children.  <b>Note:</b> Library and resource materials including videos. The dialect spoken is Cantonese and translation is available. All library material is in both dialects.
Springvale and Preston	<b>Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Chinese Carer Support Group</b> * Not ASD Specific	Shehani Se Silva at DEAC on 9480 1666	This group is facilitated by ADEC.
Springvale and Preston	<b>Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) Turkish Carer Support Group</b> * Not ASD Specific	Shehani Se Silva at ADEC on 9480 1666	This group is facilitated by ADEC
Springvale and Preston	<b>Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) - Vietnamese Carer Support Group</b> * Not ASD Specific	Shehani De Silva at ADEC on 9480 1666	This group is facilitated by ADEC
Footscray	<b>Vietnamese Parent Support Group</b> * Not ASD Specific	c/- Parent to Parent, 118 Commercial Rd, Footscray VIC 3011, Nga Do on 9680 8444 (Only after 1.30pm Thursdays)	<b>Meetings</b> are held every Thursday 10.30am till 12.30 pm at Maribyrnong Community Centre, 9 Randall St, MARIBYRNONG  <b>Note:</b> Group includes many parents with children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Occasional childcare is available, although families must book one week in

advance.

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## CHRISTIAN

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
Camberwell	<a href="#">Cross Purposes Christian Support Group * Not ASD Specific</a>	Cameron Burgess on (03) 8809 3000 or 0411 658 995 or email <a href="mailto:cross-purposes@ucco.org.au">cross-purposes@ucco.org.au</a>	Parent Workshops and support <b>Meetings</b> held the 4th Friday of each month from 10.00am till 12.30 pm at: St Dunstan's Anglican Church, 163 Wattle Valley Road, CAMBERWELL Sunday Family worship commences at 2.15 pm, bi-monthly at St Dunstan's Anglican Church, 163 Wattle Valley Road, CAMBERWELL <b>Note:</b> Prayer, coffee and sharing all welcome. Quarterly newsletter and membership is a yearly gift of \$5 if possible.

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## GRANDPARENTS

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
Dandenong	<a href="#">Grandparents Carer Support Group</a> <b>* Not ASD Specific</b>	Kerrie Lyons (MOIRA) on (03) 8552 2222 or Marilyn Sparks 5990 8400	A support group for grandparents caring full time for a grandchild. Information and support, guest speakers, activities and children's facilities available. Meetings are held on alternative Mondays (not in school holidays) at 10.30am to 12.30pm at 2 Hayes Road HAMPTON PARK

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## TEENAGERS

Location	Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
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<b>Blackburn</b>	<b>Teens (Asperger Syndrome Support Network)</b>	(03) 9845 2766 (Answering Machine Service) or email: <a href="mailto:teens@assnvc.org.au">teens@assnvc.org.au</a>	<b>Meets:</b> See ASSN above (under Blackburn).
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## ONLINE SUPPORT

Group	Contacts/Details	Services/Times & Dates
<b>MAST – Moreland Aspie Team Online Forum</b>	<a href="http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/mast/index.html">http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/mast/index.html</a>	Online group for students with Asperger Syndrome, their parents and teachers.
	<a href="http://www.psn-emr.com.au">http://www.psn-emr.com.au</a> * Not ASD Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online Support Group</li> <li>• Eastern Region Parent Support Network</li> <li>• Workshops, information sessions, school information, newsletters and forums</li> </ul>

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