

Category 1 (ID:3918)

Amount Requested: \$3,500.00

Autism Community Network

Mr Steven Drakoulis

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Summary

Q 1. Project Name

Caringbah Autism Support Group

Q 2. Brief Project Description (100 word maximum)

The Autism Support Network (ACN) provides free services to connect parents and carers, as well as individuals on the autism spectrum. Our objective is to help create communities of support for each other. We have been running the Caringbah support group for some years without any funding, but we are hoping that financial support will enable us to grow it. The group meets each month for parents to share information and receive support by others who understand them.

Project Details

Q 3. Please provide an outline of your project (250 words)

The Caringbah support group meets on the third week of each month. It is facilitated by a father of an autistic child who understands the issues other families like his face.

As such a support group is important for these families we have been providing it with all costs absorbed by our organisation. Funding will enable us to promote the group further, arrange more guest speakers and cover some of the costs incurred in us providing the group. This is in fact the only one of our 30+ groups in Sydney run by our Founder, whose years of experience are an asset to the group. .

Q 4. Please list your desired project outcomes * please note you will be required to report against these outcomes

Our aim is to continue providing a Sutherland Shire support group to the local community.

We want to provide more opportunities for families to learn and benefit through the group. The support group is the place where the community is able to plan more activities.

We would like to be able to promote the group further through flyers, posters and some media exposure.

We would like to create more volunteer driven social opportunities in the area for families which can be achieved by growing the number of people who learn about the support network.

Q 5. Which of the following ClubGRANTS priority areas below does your project address?

A4 - aged, disability or youth services

Q 6. What impact do you hope to have on your identified ClubGRANTS priority area?

To grow the number of families in the Sutherland Shire who are accessing support. To see a growth in support and social clubs to lessen the isolation many experience due to autism.

Q 7. How will you assess whether or not your project outcomes have been achieved?

We record all attendances at our events.

We conduct an annual survey

We take photos from time to time

We are always open to feedback from participants on best ways to support them.

We will consider the project successful if the overall growth of families registered with us in the LGA has increased significantly.

Q 8. Who will your program benefit?

People with disabilities

Q 9. Any other beneficiaries

Aside from the parents of these children (and the children) benefitting through being supported, the benefits extend to the wider community. Families who do not feel as outsiders, fearing their children's behaviour and they themselves will be judged will become more active in their local community. The more their children feel confident to participate, the more social, retail, and community involvement they will engage in. The benefits will also extend to the mental health of individuals impacted by autism, itself strengthening the community as a whole. We currently support 161 families with autism in the Sutherland Shire.

Q 10. Approximately how many local resident recipients will your project benefit?

161 ACN families in Shire, ABS 2016 shows 1130 individuals with autism in LGA

Q 11. Approximately how many local resident volunteers will be involved?

1

Q 12. Will ALL the ClubGRANTS funding you have requested be spent within the Local Government Area in which you are applying?

Yes

If not, approximately what percentage will be spent outside the local area?

Q 13. What is the proposed commencement date and completion date for the project?

Commencement date:

01/07/2018

Completion Date

30/06/2019

Q 14. Is this project a one-off initiative or will it require funding in future years?

While we would welcome ongoing support, funding we receive this year will allow us to achieve our goal of expanding the support network in the area. A bigger network of local families will maintain the momentum of growing social and support circles for many families.

Q 15. What are your plans to ensure that the benefits of the project will be sustained? (250 words)

When we started our model in 2011, we had less than 100 families connected through us for support. Today there are over 1,250 spread all over Sydney. This has been achieved largely only through word of mouth.

The model of providing largely volunteer based peer to peer, free support has proven successful. We know that when we grow the numbers in a region, we will see more hands put up to get involved, and that keeps the momentum going. With a little bit of funding support in the Shire, we will be able to promote and grow our model of bringing cares together, who can use their combined knowledge and experiences together to help each other.

Q 16. Are you working with other partners in this project, or have you asked for support from anyone else?

Yes

Q 17. If yes, please identify your partners and provide a brief explanation of how the partnership will work

Not at this stage but we hope Tradies Club may provide venue support.

Funding Information

Q 18. Can your project be broken down for part-funding? If so, how?

Yes it can, we can reduce the amount of carers events if need be. We are also hoping that Tradies may waive the room rental fee.

Q 19. Will your project still be viable if you receive less than the requested amount?

Yes

Q 20. Has your organisation received funding from another club in the past 12 months?

Name of Club	How much was received?	When was the funding received?	Purpose of funding
Club Merrylands Bowling and Guildford Leagues Club	\$3,450.00	2017	Cumberland Autism Active Kids
Club Rivers	\$4,950.00	2017	Cooking Club
West's Ashfield	\$4,950.00	2017	Music Therapy
City of Sydney RSL	\$2,750.00	2017	Sydney Social Family Days
	\$16,100.00		

Does your project have any other sponsors? If so, who and for how much?

No

Q 21. Project budget

Income Description	Amount	Expenditure Description	Amount
Sutherland Clubs Grants	\$3,500.00	IK 10 sessions x 1 facilitator @ \$40/hr x 2hrs	\$800.00
ACN In-kind volunteer	\$800.00	venue 10 sessions @ \$200	\$2,000.00

		2 X Carer events \$200 ea	\$400.00
		Travel x 10 sessions	\$100.00
		Admin \$50 x 10 sessions	\$500.00
		Promotion	\$500.00
	\$4,300.00		\$4,300.00

Q 22. Please provide your organisations banking details. (If you have an auspice, please provide that organisation's details)

Commonwealth Bank - Autism Community Network

Account Name

Autism Community Network

Account Number

10417253

BSB No:

062234

Q 23. The club may wish to provide applicants with a cheque, please advise as to who the cheque should be made out to for this purpose?

Autism Community Network

Previous Funding

Q 24. Note to applicants: only complete this section if you have received funding over the past three years.

Year Received	Amount Received	Purpose of funding	Report Submitted (Y/N)
2017	\$2,750.00	Sydney Social Family Days	N - program still running
2017	\$4,950.00	Music Therapy	N - program still running
2017	\$4,950.00	Cooking Club	N - program still running
2017	\$3,450.00	Cumberland Autism Active Kids	N - program still running
2016	\$5,600.00	Fit & Friendly Sutherland	Y
2016	\$2,357.00	Ryde Arts About Autism Club	Y
2016	\$5,300.00	Hurstville Fit & Friendly	Y
2016	\$5,300.00	St. George Art Club	Y
2016	\$5,300.00	St. George Cooking Up Life Skills	Y
2015	\$5,600.00	Fit & Friendly Sutherland	Y
2015	\$5,000.00	Canterbury Drama	Y
2015	\$5,300.00	Hurstville Fit and Friendly	Y
2015	\$4,800.00	Parramatta support group	Y
	\$60,657.00		

Authorisation

Title: Mr

Name: Steve Drakoulis

Position: General Manager