



FUNDING OF COMMUNITY IDEAS

APPLICATION FOR ABILITY LINKS BROKERAGE

Name	Autism Community Network (ACN)
Organisation	Autism Community Network
ABN number	64 103 662 535
Contact Details	Steve Drakoulis, 02 9543 9036
Project Title	Richmond Support Group
What is the Proposed Project?	Provide a support group for parents and carers of children affected by autism. We want to create a relaxed, welcoming environment where they can connect with others who understand them and share information and ideas for mutual support.
Proposal Background	The ACN provides support for families and individuals impacted by autism, to help create a better supported and more inclusive community. We run groups and activities across 13 Sydney regions and the Illawarra. As there is little support available in the Hawkesbury, we responded to local families' requests and introduced a group for the area.
Where will the project be held?	Richmond Golf Club has granted us free use of space at their club for carers to meet once a month.
How will it benefit the community?	Parents of autistic children experience isolation, anxiety, mental health issues and a higher rate of marriage breakdowns. We need to be able to create a social and support network where they can find help, information and fellowship.
How does this project support the aims of social inclusion and community capacity building?	As per above, creating a community of families who can connect based on their need to learn how to better support their families' needs, is a bonding experience. We have seen across all our groups that carers look forward to seeing each other and many begin to connect independently of the network and develop friendships. The more confident they grow in their ability to engage with others despite their children's issues the more they will participate in their local community and give their kids a chance to learn as well.
Target Group	Parents and carers of children affected by autism.
What difference will the project make to the target group?	The success of the group will be gaged by attendance numbers, and if we see these families who often feel isolated start to attend more of our groups in the area. Attendances at all our groups are recorded. We also take photos, record testimonials and seek feedback.



Uniting

How can people with a disability be included in the development and implementation of this project?	Our policy is to allow the structure of our groups to be flexible to respond to the community's needs. This project serves as a beginning, as parents meet and discuss issues and express what they would like to see in their area. We work with them at a local area to grow those options, presenting opportunities for their autistic children.
Partners	Richmond Lions Club, Richmond Golf Club
Stakeholders/collaborators	All members of the local community caring for someone on the autism spectrum; local clubs, such as Richmond Golf Club and The Richmond Club, who provide venue support local Member for Richmond, who has been introduced to our local coordinator and is happy to promote the group Lions Club of Richmond, who have helped us raise awareness and funds
Duration	Ongoing
Project Start and End	1 July 2018 to 20 June 2019
Resource Requirements-other	Venue, Facilitator, Admin, Special Events budget, Refreshments.
Anticipated project costing- please include as many details as possible including GST breakdown if applicable. Approved applicants will be required to submit detailed expenditure reports during the implementation of the project.	We require a budget of \$1,950 to provide this support for 12 months. This is made of of the following: Facilitator \$40/hr x 2 hrs x 10 sessions (no GST) Special Events \$300 x 1 carer event (inc GST) Refreshments \$30/session x 10 = \$300 (inc GST) Administration (manage, report, training, promotion, printing) \$50 x 10 sessions = \$500 (no GST) In Kind Support provided for venue by Richmond Golf Club \$100/hr x 2hrs x 10 sessions = \$2000
Is your Organisation GST exempt? (this has no influence on the outcome of the application)	No, we have registered for GST
Funding source	We do not receive any recurrent government funding, we rely on grants, fundraising, donations and community support.
Is the project sustainable without Ability Links funding support in the future?	It is. Our aim is to develop awareness in the area, grow the numbers of carers involved, and create a team of local volunteers helping support their community.
Date Developed	28/03/2018
Developed By	Steve Drakoulis



Uniting

Please complete these reflective questions.

At what level does this project support people with a disability to build their skills, abilities and confidence?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

To what extent does this proposal promote collaborative relationships amongst organisations, services and communities in the region?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does this project support people with a disability to more easily connect with wider community resources rather than disability services?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does this project support the rights of people with a disability to be included, valued and belong?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does this project support deep community connections for people with a disability as opposed to a token presence?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does this project provide wellbeing and safety for all involved?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Will the project contribute to improved physical access of the physical and sensory environment?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does the project contribute to training and develop awareness of inclusion?

1 2 3 4 5



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Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does the project include education awareness opportunities?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Does this project contribute to changes in policy and attitude to build inclusiveness?

1 2 3 4 5

Minimal

Core Part
of Project

Please forward this application and any supporting documents to:
Met North: klindberg@uniting.org and loknight@uniting.org
Southern: Rstuttard@uniting.org and Jbowker@uniting.org



Uniting

Internal use

Overall Assessment (Comments):

Linker:

Project Officer:

Coordinator:

Program manager:



Outcome (Signatures required):

Project Officer			
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Declined <input type="checkbox"/>	Project Officer:	
Signed:		Date	
Details/Explanation (Project title, approved amount & conditions)			
Amounts up to \$2000			
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Declined <input type="checkbox"/>	Coordinator:	
Signed:		Date	
Details/Explanation (Project title, approved amount & conditions)			
Amounts up to \$10,000			
Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Declined <input type="checkbox"/>	Program Manager:	
Signed:		Date	
Details/Explanation (Project title, approved amount & conditions)			
** For amounts over \$10000 approval is obtained via purchase order approval.			