

Category 1 (ID:3147)

Amount Requested: \$5,200.00

Autism Community Network

Mr Steven Drakoulis
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Summary

Q 1. Project Name

Menai Autism Kids Club

Q 2. Brief Project Description (100 word maximum)

Menai Autism Kids Club is an unstructured, low impact fitness and socialisation program for children aged 3-13 years with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their siblings. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability with deficits in communication, socialisation and behaviour.

Project Details

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

The Autism Community Network runs a range of structured programs designed to assist children with autism develop their social skills. For children whose level of autism however inhibits their ability to follow detailed instructions, they struggle to participate in such programs. By providing this kind of simpler program, we enable them to come together in a relaxed environment to play and enjoy the same social opportunities as other children.

While giving these children access to an appropriate play centre is a simple notion, it is the perfect environment for them to be challenged with a range of physical activities that support their gross motor development and give them the vestibular work out that their bodies need to self-regulate. In addition, they will learn to engage with other children like themselves in a safe and supportive environment where they can practice communication, turn taking, eye contact and many other basic but vital social skills.

While the children enjoy play and develop their social skills, their parents are able to meet other parents who understand them, and share their experiences and knowledge for mutual support. When funding ran out last June, families were so disappointed at the loss of this program that they looked at helping to fund it themselves. This proved unachievable, but with a donation from the Lions Club, we were able to bring it back. We are now asking for support to keep it going.

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

We already support 161 families with autism in the Sutherland Shire. According to ABS data, the Shire is home to almost 300 people with autism. This program will outreach to those families. It is our plan to grow this group to support more children with autism disorders in the area. We want to see their families become more involved in the community by taking part in more activities.

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?

We want to see more families with severely autistic children accessing this type of support, and to see some of these kids at other events as well.

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

All attendances to our groups and events are recorded and reported. We seek feedback from participating families and take photos of these activities.

Q 8. Who will your program benefit?

Children (0-14yrs)

Q 9. Any other beneficiaries

Their families and their local community. The more used to engaging with others they become the more often their parents can take them to social outings, shopping and community events.

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

161 ASD families supported by us in Sutherland Shire. ABS2016 = 1130 individuals in Shire.

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

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?

As we need to hire the facility it would require future funding. However even if it were to run for just another year, the benefit to these children and their community would be great.

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

If we can help these children adapt to social clubs we will see them accessing more opportunities. If the group continues to grow, it may be that parents continue to attend the play centre as a community whether we are involved or not. The key is to help the parents through this project to connect and form their own social and support networks.

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

The owner of Funtime 4 Kidz, Louise Byrom, opens the venue for our use each time at a fee which covers her costs, to enable the program to run.

Funding Information

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

The facilitator has to date offered her time as a volunteer. If it came down to it she will continue to give her time at no charge as she knows how important this group is to these children and their families. If we have the option however we want to cover some of her time and effort over the year.

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
Georges River Clubs Grants	\$5,200.00	Venue hire \$100/hr x 1.5 hrs x 20 sessions	\$3,000.00
		Facilitator \$30/hr x 2 hrs x 20 sessions	\$1,200.00
		supervision / administration/promotion 20 sessions x \$50	\$1,000.00

	\$5,200.00		\$5,200.00
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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