# MEDIA RELEASE



### **Autism Awareness Week**

Monday 27 March - Sunday April 2, 2017



Autism Awareness Week is a very special time for the Autism Community here in Western Australia, especially as it culminates in World Autism Day on April 2.

This year it is particularly special with the Autism Association of Western Australia celebrating its 50th anniversary of supporting and providing services to people with Autism and their families.

To acknowledge this special time, the Autism Association is hosting a series of events including:

**WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY FAMILY FESTIVAL:** Sunday April 2, 2017: Market Square, Subiaco on Sunday 2 April, (10am – 2pm). A time to embrace difference and increase awareness of autism we have a fun day planned with something for everyone – live music, bouncy castle, face painting; balloon twisting; gym bus; sausage sizzle, coffee, ice cream and much more. **Everyone is welcome.** 

### LIGHT IT UP BLUE: Sunday April 2, 2017

Perth's Bell Tower will light it up in blue on Sunday. Blue is the international colour in recognition of Autism.

### UNDERSTANDING AUTISM Free Workshop: Thursday March 30, 2017

This no-cost event will provide an introduction to Autism

Perth City: 9.30am-11:30am: The State Library, Perth Cultural Centre, 25 Francis Street

**LEARN MORE ABOUT AUTISM**; across the week and beyond, the Autism Association have many training opportunities for people with Autism, their families, teachers and community members. Visit our website for more information.

**School Autism Awareness Pack**- Every Primary School across Western Australia received their autism awareness pack, filled of information on activities to increase awareness of Autism across the school community.

**Autism in Sport-** Workshops for sports coaches are available to enhance inclusion and participation in sport for people with Autism.

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### **ABOUT AUTISM**

Autism is a complex, disability which is neurobiological in origin. Approximately one in every 160 children in Australia is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD).

### ABOUT THE AUTISM ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

The Autism Association of Western Australia is the largest specialist lifespan organisation providing services to people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in Australia. Services are best practice and based on leading international peer-reviewed research in the field of Autism. The Autism Association has well established links both nationally and internationally.

#### Services include:

- Autism Advisors and family support for newly diagnosed children.
- Multi-disciplinary Early Intervention Services
- School Support Service and Therapy Services for school age children
- Therapy and Clinical services for adults with ASD
- Community Living Support: Shared and Individual Homes
- Short Breaks for Children (Respite Service)
- Individual Support Programs tailored to individual-need, including Post School Options
- Employment Placement and Support Program
- Professional Development and Training Services
- State-wide Consultancy Service.
- Family Support

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