





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ignite Change This World Autism Week

World Autism Week started on the 27th of March and runs through to the 2nd of April. This international week is an opportunity to learn more about Autism and to ignite change to create a more inclusive community.

We are lighting well known buildings in the colour spectrum over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of April to mark the end of this special week. This year's **Light Up the Spectrum** is bigger than ever, with over 30 participating buildings and landmarks across regional and metro Western Australia.

The Autism Association of Western Australia is hosting a range of activities and events throughout the week. You can be a part of it by getting engaged on social media, participating in one of the planned fun activities, heading along to one of the *Light up the Spectrum* landmarks or sharing photos of your fundraising event in support of World Autism Week. There are so many ways you can show your support.

The CEO of the Autism Association of Western Australia, Joan McKenna Kerr said, *"Each and every person places their handprint on our community and this month we share the unique handprint of Autistic individuals. World Autism Week builds understanding and ignites change for good, allowing us to grow together."*

Joan McKenna Kerr continued, "We want to see that every child gets a great start in life, is included in a positive way at school, and goes on as an adult to be a valued member of the workforce and the broader community.

World Autism Week is a great time to learn together, spread awareness and ignite change for Autism to ensure every individual with Autism has the opportunities they deserve.

We encourage families and workplaces to join us by participating in an event in their community, as well as visiting the 'Light Up the Spectrum' landmarks across regional and metro areas.

We are partnering with each of these landmarks to light up WA in a spectrum of colour to signify that we are a diverse community where each person has something to contribute and is valued."

Landmarks that will be lit up in different colours over the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of April include the King's Park Trees, Mia Yellagonga – Woodside Energy, the Bell Tower, Elizabeth Quay, Fremantle Prison, Perth Cultural Centre, Esperance Council Chambers, Albany Town Hall, Manjimup City Centre, Geraldton Queens Park Theatre and the Karratha Red Earth Arts Precinct and many more!

You are invited to join the Autism Association in igniting change for Autism by visiting your closest landmarks and sharing a photo with the hashtag *#LightUptheSpectrum*. A map of the locations and the colours each building will light up can be found here: <u>https://bit.ly/LearnTogetherGrowTogether/</u>.

For more information about how you can participate, to access resources, or help make a difference and ignite change visit <u>https://bit.ly/LearnTogetherGrowTogether/</u>.

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MEDIA CONTACT

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