This Local Services Guide for the Autism Spectrum Disorder community, compiled by Autism Gold Coast Inc, lists some of the local service and support networks that are available for families on the Gold Coast.

Please contact Autism Gold Coast if you find additional information or information has changed:

**Autism Gold Coast:**
PO Box 2272, Burleigh Heads Q 4220
Phone: 5539 9903
admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au
www.autismgoldcoast.com.au

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This information has been distributed in the interest of informing you about available products and services related to ASD. This information does not necessarily imply endorsement by Autism Gold Coast. We encourage you to research all products and services prior to deciding if they are relevant or suitable to your individual circumstances.
Advocacy

Gold Coast Advocacy [www.gca.org.au]
- Provides independent individual advocacy for vulnerable people with a disability under the age of 65 years.
- Shop 1804, 56 Scarborough St, Southport Central Tower 1, 8th Floor, Southport
- Email: gca@.gca.org.au
- Ph: 5564 0355    Fax: 5571 1499

Australian Association of Special Education [www.aase.edu.au]
- The Australian Association of Special Education Inc. (AASE) is a broad-based non-categorical association concerned with all who have special education needs
- AASE has chapters in each state and territory, as well as a National Council
- AASE organises a very successful and informative national conference each year

Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland [www.adcq.qld.gov.au]
- This is an independent statutory authority which administers the Anti Discrimination Act 1991. The core business is to receive and deal with complaints of discrimination and other contraventions of the Act, and to promote human rights in Queensland. Offices are located in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns
- Email: info@adcq.qld.gov.au
- Telephone: 1300 130 670 or TTY 1300 130 680

- Education is one of the Commission's main roles.
- For information and resources, follow the links under “Education”.

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia [www.icpa.com.au]
- ICPA (Aust) is a voluntary, non-profit, apolitical parent body dedicated to ensuring that all rural and remote students have equity of access to a continuing and appropriate education.

Queensland Advocacy Incorporated (QAI) [www.qai.org.au]
- This is an independent, community based systems advocacy and legal advocacy organisation for people with a disability in Qld. QAI's mission is to promote, protect and defend, through advocacy, the fundamental needs and rights of people with a disability in Qld. QAI also provides individual legal advocacy in support of persons whose disability is at the centre of their legal issue.
- Address: 2nd Floor, South Central, 43 Peel Street, South Brisbane QLD 4101
- Ph 07 3844 4200      1300 130 582  (in Qld)

Queensland Parents for People with a Disability Inc (QPPD) [www.qppd.org]
- QPPD’s mission statement is to defend justice and rights for people with disabilities by exposing exclusionary practices, speaking out against injustices and promoting people with disabilities as respected, valued and participating members of society. The organisation is involved in Systems and Family Advocacy and has a state-wide membership.
- Address: QPPD, PO Box 158, Virginia BC, QLD 4104
- Phone: 0447 010 260      email: office.manager@qppd.org

Queenslanders with Disability Network Inc (QDN) [www.qdn.org.au]
- QDN is a state-wide network of people with a disability. It is funded by the QLD Disability Community Care Services (DCCS). Its vision is to connect people with disability to build a voice of Queenslanders with disability to represent views and issues that impact on them.
- Mail Address: Reply Paid Suite 11, 7 O’Connell Terrace, Bowen Hills, QLD. 4006
- Phone: 07 3252 8566 or 1300 363 783

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Queensland Aged and Disability Advocacy Inc (QADA) [www.qada.org.au](http://www.qada.org.au)
- QADA is an initiative of the Commonwealth and Qld Governments which works to support rights in residential aged care, Community aged care packages, (CACPs) and Home and Community Care Services (HACC). There are offices located in Brisbane, Townsville, Rockhampton and Hervey Bay.
- Address: 121 Copperfield Street, Geebung QLD 4034
- Gold Coast: PO Box325, Varsity Lakes Qld 4227
- Phone: 07 3637 6000 or 1800 700 600

**Counselling Services**

**Lifeline Australia** [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)
- Provides support to families/individuals in crisis through trained volunteer telephone counsellors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Phone: 13 11 14

**Family Relationship Centre** [www.familyrelationships.gov.au](http://www.familyrelationships.gov.au)
- Provides information about family relationships and overcoming difficulties
- Phone: 1800 050 321

**Mensline Australia** [www.menslineaus.org.au](http://www.menslineaus.org.au)
- Counselling, information and referral for men with relationship and family concerns.
- 24 hours / 7 days a week
- Phone: 1300 789 978

- A telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents and carers
- 8am-10pm in QLD 7 days a week
- Operated by BoysTown and funded by the Queensland and Northern Territory Governments
- Phone: 1300 30 1300

- Free Online counselling service specifically for young people aged between 5 and 25
- Phone: 1800 55 1800

**Carers Qld** [www.carersqld.asn.au](http://www.carersqld.asn.au)
15 Abbott Street, Camp Hill Ph: 07 3900 8100
- The peak body for family carers, Carers Queensland has a number of programs and services available to support carers. These include:
  - Support Groups
  - No Interest Loans scheme
  - Counselling and therapeutic groups
  - Individual support
  - Registered Training Organisation
  - Young Carers program
  - Registration for the Better Start Initiative
  - Carer Advisory Service (1800 242 636)
  - Advocacy service – Guardianship
  - The CARE Program. Discounts on goods and services for carers.

- Carers Queensland has 12 regional offices in Queensland.
  - Brisbane North (Stafford)
  - Brisbane South (Mt Gravatt)
  - Ipswich
  - Sunshine Coast (Maroochydore)
  - Hervey Bay
  - Gold Coast - 2/1154 Gold Coast Highway, Palm Beach 4221 Ph: 5534 2899 Fax: 5534 7182

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Call the Carer Advisory Service on 1800 242 636 to be referred to your nearest office.

**Relationships Australia**  [www.relationships.org.au](http://www.relationships.org.au)
- Provides relationship support services to enhance human and family relationships
- Office: 5 Markeri St, Mermaid Beach
- Ph: 1300 364 277  (in Qld)

- (07) 5537 5040  Intake 07 5508 3822
- gcintake@actforkids.com.au
- Contact House is a community based non-government agency which operates under the auspices of the Abused Child Trust. The treatment program for children and families offers individual counselling, couple counselling, family therapy and group therapy for children and families who are 'at risk' which includes bullying. A program teaching management skills for parent - child interaction is also available.
- Contact House: 31 Olsen Avenue, Labrador  QLD  4215

**FANTAM (Family Adolescent Therapy & Mediation)**
- Intake 5527 7211
- Thru Centacare. Provides mediation and family counselling to young people and their families where there is conflict between the young person and his or her parents/care-giver.
- Also general counselling available – fees apply with concessions available
- Clear Island Waters, 50 Fairway Drive. Same Street as Italo-Australia Club

**Oxenford & Coomera Community Youth Centre**  [www.youthcentre.org.au](http://www.youthcentre.org.au)
- Intake 5529 8087
- Northern Gold Coast For Communities for children offers free Hub activities, parenting courses, family support and counselling, Health & fitness programs, visiting volunteer accountant & lawyer (bookings required)
- 25 Tambourine-Oxenford Rd, Oxenford

- 5574 6853  Runaway Bay Hospice 5563 2930
- Support programs for children (3 to 15 years) who are experiencing grief & loss due to:
  - separation from one of their parents and/or siblings through separation or divorce, or
  - the death or illness of one or both parents, siblings or someone special in their life.
- Programs are tailored for specific age groups. Structured groups and individual counselling available

**Educational Options**

**Early Intervention & Child Care:**

- Child care & early intervention Centre for children with Autism
- 1 Allied Dr, Arundel Q 4214
- 07 5563 1490  email: admin@littlesouls.com.au
AEIOU (Autism Early Intervention Outcomes Unit) www.aeiou.org.au/

- A not for profit organisation, dedicated to providing a professional, full-time early intervention and learning program of the highest quality for children aged 2 ½ to 5 who have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs).
- Head Office: Building N70, Recreation Road, Nathan, Brisbane 07 3320 7500
- Parent Help Line: 1300 273 435  Email: info@aeiou.org.au
- Gold Coast Centre, 5-7 Glenmore Dr, Ashmore Q 4214  Ph: 07 5597 0122

Tweed Valley Early Childhood Intervention Services Inc. (incorporated in NSW) www.tvecis.com.au

- Florence Street, Tweed Heads, NSW 2485
- PO Box 105, Tweed Heads, NSW 2485
- Ph: (07) 5506 7558 / (07) 5536 1320  Fax: (07) 5536 1235  email: tvecis@alphernet.com.au

Department of Education and Training  www.education.qld.gov.au

Contact closest Regional Office and speak to Principal Education Officer: Student Services (PEO SS)

Central Queensland Region  Ph: 4951 6800
Darling Downs South West Region  Ph: 4616 9111
Far North Queensland Region  Ph: 4046 5222
Metropolitan Region  Ph: 3422 8352
North Coast Region  Ph: 3881 9600
North Queensland Region  Ph: 4726 3111
South East Region  Ph: 5562 4888  PO Box 557, Robina DC Qld 4226

Education for children with disability - a guide for parents

Autism Spectrum Disorder - Online Resource Transition Package

Catholic Education:

For specific information contact closest Diocese

Brisbane Archdiocese  Ph: 3033 7412  www.bne.catholic.edu.au
Rockhampton Diocese  Ph: 4931 3704  www.rok.catholic.edu.au
Townsville Diocese  Ph: 4773 0913  www.tsv.catholic.edu.au
Cairns Diocese  Ph: 4050 9722  www.ceo.cairns.catholic.edu.au
Toowoomba Diocese  Ph: 4637 1545  www.twb.catholic.edu.au
School Service Centre South  5-7 Laurinda Cres, Springwood  Ph: 07 3440 7900

For more general information about Catholic Education in Queensland is available from the Qld Catholic Education Commission  Ph: 3336 9320  http://www.qcec.qld.catholic.edu.au/

Supporting Children with a Disability at School – A Guide for Parents

Independent Schools:

Contact Principal of school

For more general information about education in independent schools, go to www.aisq.qld.edu.au
Funding options

‘Helping Children with Autism’ Program

‘Helping Children with Autism’ Early Intervention Funding

Helping children with Autism’ is a National Government Funding Initiative to assist families and carers of children aged zero – six diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The Autism Advisors will provide families a gateway to the $12,000 funding ($6,000 max per financial year). Families applying for the $12,000 must provide eligibility documentation before application can be processed.

Contact the Autism Advisor Program on 1800 428 847 for more information.

Information on funding available through Helping Children with Autism Package can be obtained from the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs website at http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/HelpingChildrenWithAutism

‘Helping Children with Autism’ Medicare Rebates

- Families have the option of using the Medicare rebate system to help pay for private assessments. A Paediatrician or Child Psychiatrist can refer families to see therapists (up to 4 visits in total, not per therapist) to help make a conclusive diagnosis, including Psychologist, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist. This is called the ‘Helping Children with Autism Increased Access to Diagnosis’
- With a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, the child will be eligible for 20 sessions shared between a speech therapist, an occupational therapist or a psychologist. Your pediatrician will develop a treatment plan for your child with you. This is called the ‘Helping Children With Autism Treatment Plan’.
- These rebates can only be used once in the child’s life time, and must be written by the child’s 13th birthday, and used by the child’s 15th Birthday.

Medicare Australia www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

- Chronic Disease Allied Health Services – GP Management Plans (GPMP). You need a referral from your GP to receive five services per calendar year for any of the following – Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology, Psychology.
- Mental Health Care Plan. You need a referral from your GP or Paediatrician to access up to 10 visits to a Psychologist, Clinical Psychologist, Social Worker or Occupational Therapist within a calendar year.
- For more information call Medicare on 132 150 or at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

Centrelink Payments www.centrelink.gov.au

- **Carer Allowance (child)** is a supplementary payment for parents or carers who provide daily care and attention for children with a disability or severe medical condition at home.
- Carer Allowance (child) may be paid on top of **Carer Payment (child)** or other payments, such as **Age Pension**.
- Also available **Carer Allowance (person over 16 years)** and **Carer Payment (person over 16 years)**.
- There is also a **Carer Supplement Payment** to families in receipt of the Carer’s Allowance or the Carer Payment.
- For more information about these payment go to www.centrelink.gov.au and search for carer allowance or phone 13 2717 (Disability & Carers)
Government Departments

CRS Australia: Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service [www.crsaustralia.gov.au]
- Assistance to people aged 14-65 years with a disability to find and maintain employment.
- Zurich House, 8-10 Karp Court, Bundall Q 4217
- Ph 07 5583 0614

Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
- Formally named Disability Services Queensland (DSQ)
- Direct and funded support to people with disabilities, eligible for service under Disability Service Act 2006, families and carers. Programs, specialist’s, funding of community based organisations that provide service to people with disabilities.
- My child has autism - information for Queensland families of young children. Provides information for parents of children with autism aged 0-8 years.
- Phone: 1800 177 120 or 07 3896 3471
- Level 2, Campus Alpha, 2 Investigator Dr, Robina Q 4226 Ph: 07 5656 5800
- 24 Tansey St, Beenleigh Q 4207 Ph: 07 3884 7001

- FAMILY & EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (FECS) 5656 8500 intake
- Children 0-6 with disability esp cognative or intellectual impairment
- Offer range of early intervention therapies depending on the individual
- Also pathway for AEIOU, respite assessments & other Disability Programs

Dept Of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services
- Investigate complaints where young people are placed in danger.
- Protects the rights, welfare & view points of young people (and their parents).

- The Child Safety After Hours Service Centre (formerly Crisis Care) ... 1800 177 135 (Queensland only) For emergencies requiring immediate police attendance, call 000.
- The Child Safety After Hours Service is an after hours telephone service for the Dept of Communities, Child Safety & Disability Services. Crisis assistance for child protection and emergency accommodation for youth in crisis situations & juvenile justice matters. Administration of foster care programs in the Gold Coast.

Queensland Disability Information and Awareness Line (DIAL) [www.disability.qld.gov.au/dial.cfm]
- DIAL is a free, state-wide information and resource service. Information available includes: information about services for a person with a disability, information about different disabilities, journals and newsletters, government publications, student fact sheets, information kits and information about trends, philosophies and legislation.
- 75 William St, Brisbane Q 4000
- Phone: 07 3224 8444 or 1800 177 120

Childrens Commission Of Queensland [www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au]
- Level 17, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane, Queensland 4000
- 07 3211 6700 or freecall (within QLD) 1800 688 275 - calls from mobile phones may attract charges
- Blue Card Contact Centre: 1800 113 611 (freecall within QLD - calls from mobile phones may attract charges)
Queensland Health


- Provides specialist mental health services for children and young people and assistance to their families or carers.
- CYMHS combines hospital and community-based facilities to provide free and confidential consultation, assessment and treatment of children and young people, 0-18 years, whose emotional and behavioural disorders are severe or complex; or at risk of becoming so; and whose needs cannot be met by other services.
- CYMHS Central Gold Coast, Southport Ph: 5537 0622
- CYMHS Southern Gold Coast, Robina Ph: 5635 6200

Community Child Health

All Child Health Programs Intake/booking 07 55192600

- Including Continence (Bed wetting) Advice and info CASS & MASS Continence Aid program
- Free Developmental Assessments, community support, parent wellbeing, drop ins for weighing babies, Triple P parenting groups, referrals Clinic Psychology, paediatric speech Pathology or to private providers
- Coomera Springs, Upper Coomera, Helensvale, Nerang, Labrador, Mermaid waters, Robina, Palm Beach

Child Development & Behaviour Services Bundall 5570 8500

- Psychology service, paediatric speech pathology services, child health assessments provided.

Community Child Health Services, Bundall, Palm Beach, Helensvale

- Therapy team, family support, and the Child Development and Behaviour Service
- CDABS Intake Officer on 5570 8553 General Ph: 5570 8500


- Disability Parking Permit (RED) Application forms available on the website: severe mobility problems including safety issues.
- Ph: 13 23 80

North Gold Coast Early Years Centre – Nerang [www.benevolent.org.au](http://www.benevolent.org.au)

- Provides families who have young children (0-8 years) with a parenting 'one stop shop' – somewhere they can access a range of support and services to improve their children's health, well-being and safety.
- The Early Years Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5pm, Saturday mornings, and is also available after hours to deliver programs as required. They also offer individual advice and support to families as required, at the centre or in people's homes. Free child-minding by trained volunteers is available for many of their groups.
- Corner of Martin and White Streets, Nerang
- Ph: 5578 1346 (due to change in June 2013) Fax: 5578 1215
- Email: EYCEnquiry@benevolent.org.au

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Information and Support Services

Autism Queensland [www.autismqld.com.au]
- A great place to start!
- Information and referral, early intervention, group placements, family support, therapy services, outreach training, vacation care, respite, research, adult services, support groups
- Phone: 07 3273 0000 or 1800 657 077

TADQ – Technical Aid to the Disabled [www.technicalaidqld.org.au]
- TADQ is a non-profit organisation that accepts requests for assistance from clients or by referral through professional or self referral. Volunteers design, construct, adapt, install and maintain technical aids for people with disabilities where such suitable aids cannot be otherwise obtained. There are regional coordinators throughout the state.
- 1/23 Ashtan St, Banyo Q 4014 Ph: (07) 3216 1733 1300 663 243 in Qld)
- www.tadq.org.au

The Australian Psychological Society [www.psychology.org.au]
- The Australian Psychological Association Ltd web site provides a data base of psychologists in private practice throughout Australia.
- Phone:1800 333 497 (03) 8662 3300 email: contactus@psychology.org.au

Speech Pathology Australia [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au]
- Speech Pathology Australia provides an online database of its members throughout Australia. Enter your postcode to search for therapists in the private and public sector in your area.

The Association of Occupational Therapy Australia [www.ausot.com.au]
- The Association of Occupational Therapy Australia provides an online database of its members throughout Australia. Follow the autism links to search for therapists in the private and public sector in your area.

Early Days [www.earlydays.net.au]
- Early Days is part of the Australian Government ‘Helping Children with Autism’ package.
- Early Days provides workshops for mothers and fathers, and other family carers, of children aged six years and under who are on the Autism Spectrum. The workshops are fully funded by the Australian Government; they are free of charge to mothers and fathers, other family members and carers. Each family who attends the introductory workshop is eligible to receive a $100 support payment as a contribution towards costs such as travel and childcare.
- Phone: 1800 334 155

Raising Children Website [www.raisingchildren.net.au/autism]
- A practical and interactive website that provides information about autism; therapy services (giving a research rating and indication of cost to families), other services available to you with contact details pathfinder and parent forums.

Disability Housing Coalition Inc (QDHC) [www.qdhc.org.au]
- This organisation provides information about housing options available to people who have a disability. QDHC also works to promote the rights of people with a disability to live as part of the community in housing that suits their individual needs. QDHC is not a housing provider.
- Address: 167 Logan Road, Stones Corner QLD 4120
- Phone: 07 3391 3433

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The Smith Family
- Financial support for children’s education
- Coolangatta 5536 6397
- Logan 3804 3812
- Southport 5503

Harmony Hooves Healing Hearts
- Harmony Hooves is a dedicated horse sanctuary working with rescued horses and farm animals. The horses support children and families on the autistic spectrum with equine assisted therapy and equine facilitated Learning programs and horse rides. Supporting and empowering people to be part of a community healing together. Medicare rebates available to clients with GP referrals. A place where magic happens.
  - 231 Beaudesert-Nerang Road, Nerang       0418 147 399
  - www.harmonynatureretreat.com.au
  - info@harmonynatureretreat.com.au
  - www.equinelearningforfutures.com.au

Post School Options

National Disability Coordination Officer Program  http://www.deewr.gov.au/Skills/Programs/NDCO
- The Australian Government’s NDCO Program targets the barriers that people with disability face in successfully accessing and completing post-school education and training and subsequent employment.
- A national network of NDCOs works within 31 specific regions across Australia to improve the coordination and delivery of support services to help make it easier to enrol or participate in post-school education, training and employment.
- NDCO Career Employment Australia, PO Box 241 Beenleigh 4201
- Ph: 07 3807 5614

The Department of Communities (Disability and Community Care Services)  www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/support-and-services/our-services

- **My Future: My Life** - The key premise of the My Future: My Life strategy is to promote and support individuals’ empowerment by supporting young people with a disability before they leave school to make plans for and make choices about their future after they leave school.
- Eligible young people in years 11 and 12 (or equivalent) can access time-limited financial assistance to support them to achieve the goals as outlined in their SET plan (or equivalent) and that items and/or services requested have a direct and tangible link to the goals in the SET plan (or equivalent).
- Young people who would like to apply for the support available under the My Future: My Life strategy can make direct contact with Centacare. Contact can made on 1300 MY PLAN (1300 697 526) or by visiting the Centacare website.

- **Support for School Leavers** - Support for young adults with a disability leaving and options available.

*Last Updated: OCTOBER 2013*
Respite

Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre [www.health.gov.au]
- Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres provide a single point of contact for the general public on community, aged and disability services and carer support. The Centres can also assist with information about costs for services, assessment processes and eligibility criteria.
- The Centres can also help arrange respite, when carers need to take a break from caring.
- Phone: 1800 052 222 (Australia wide number)
  **EMERGENCY RESpite SUPPORT** outside standard business hours on 1800 059 059

Bethany Respite and Family Support Service [www.bethanycare.org/]
- Crisis & short term centre based respite, vacation care respite, family carer, peer support and counselling, and in home respite and out of home respite
- Manager: Wayne Clinton, Family Resource Coordinator: Ric Kelso
- Building 4/175 Varsity Parade, Varsity Lakes
- Ph: 5501 8070  Fax: 5501 8075
- Email: enquiries@bethanycare.org

Family Support Group Australia [www.fsg.org.au]
- A not-for-profit community organisation making a positive difference for people whose lives are affected by disability, mental illness, aged related frailty, dementia, child safety issues and caring roles. CEO: Vicki Batten
- Head Office: Southport – Ph: 5564 0655
- Gilston: Encompass Resource Centre Ph: 5501 2400
- Robina: Lakeview Centre Ph: 5562 0232
- Coomera: Ph: 5502 9797  5519 4129
- Beenleigh: Ph: 3297 4300

Shepherd Community Services (Centacare)
- Respite and day-centre programs
- Manager: Wendy Patrick
- 73 Rio Vista Boulevard, Broadbeach Waters
- Ph: 5656 0555
- Email: enquiries@shepherdgoldcoast.org

Southern Star Community Services
- Respite and other programs
- Manager Wendy Patrick
- 3 Chestnut Street, Elanora
- Ph: 5535 3422  Fax: 5535 4810

Sunhaven, Beechmont [www.sunhaven.org.au]
- Special needs centre with a difference, providing weekend respite care for children from (3-18 years) with disabilities – several options.
- Activities will range from music, pottery, storytelling, bread making, singing, eurythmy, beeswax modelling, weaving, drawing, gardening and watercolour painting. Television, video games and computers will not be available. Excursions to the farm, walking and outdoor activities will be available where appropriate. Parents are encouraged to offer their time to be involved.
- Sunhaven is an Australian Disability Enterprise and a Rudolph Steiner Centre, specialising in mail-outs, light product assembly and packing.
- 11 Mirani Street, Lower Beechmont
- Ph: 5533 1136  Fax: 5533 1108
- Email: info@sunhaven.org.au

*Last Updated: OCTOBER 2013*
CASSI - Coast Accommodation Support Services Inc  www.cassi.org.au

- Supports people with disabilities living in their own homes, parents’ homes, private/public rental or public housing. Offers a flexible service to assist individuals in areas including personal care, practical help with daily living, community access and social contact.
- Suite 11, 240 Varsity Pde, Varsity Lakes Q 4227
- Ph: 5562 3800  Fax: 5689 1380
- Email: info@cassi.org.au

Horizon Foundation / COAST  www.horizoninc.org

- COAST’s one-on-one specialised service provides opportunities for meaningful, community-based activities that meet the needs and preferences of people with disabilities. COAST receives State Government funding from Department of Communities Disability Services. Service users need to apply to Disability Services on (07) 5656 5800 for the relevant funding.
- AXIOM Family Support Package
- Ph: 5575 0222
- Email: horizon@horizoninc.org

Lifebridge East (Respite Services)  www.lifebridge.org.au

- Jack Williams Place, Dungay NSW 2484
- Ph: 02 6672 0900     A/H & Weekends: 0400 288 344

Sibling Support

Sibling Australia  www.siblingsaustralia.org.au

- A national organization committed to enhancing the well-being of siblings of children and adults with special needs.

Online forums / useful websites for siblings

- www.siblink.org.au
- www.sibs.org.au
- www.yourshout.org.au
- www.youngcarers.net.au

Social groups

Crossroads (QLD)  www.xrdsqld.org.au

- Crossroads QLD mission is to share Christian fellowship with people with disabilities, their families and their carers through offering a range of social, recreational, respite and holiday programs that provide life enriching experiences and relationships.
- Address: 91 Maundrell Terrace, Chermside West QLD 4032
- Phone: 07 3350 8500     Southport: 5539 3628     Robina: 5578 9322
Support Groups

Autism Gold Coast Inc  www.autismgoldcoast.com.au
- Autism Gold Coast Inc is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation and a registered charity with DGR registration. This organisation is governed by volunteers from the Autism community for parents and their families to provide the emotional support and information that families require in order to meet the challenges of daily living and cope with the social-emotional dynamics within the family structure, and assist the family to lead valued and inclusive lives within their local community.
- Services: Support Group Meetings each month – Morning & Evening; Newsletters, Library, Email News Group, Family Activities, Guest Speakers, Special Interest Groups & Programs (EOI), Workshops and Seminars
- Post: PO Box 2272, Burleigh Heads MDC  Q  4220
- Email: admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au
- Phone:5559 1747 Please leave a message if phone is unattended.

Asperger Services Australia (ltd)  www.asperger.asn.au
- Asperger Services Australia is a volunteer not for profit organisation established in 1995, and provides support to parents, carers, families, individuals, service providers and professionals.
- ASA run a number of support groups and provide access to an online forum and other information and training.
- New Asperger Centre In Virginia : provides members of the Asperger community with a safe and Asperger-friendly environment to connect with others and receive a wide range of professional support and education services, including a resource library
- Ph: 07 3865 2911   Fax: 07 3865 2838   email: office@asperger.asn.au

Autism Behavioural Intervention Queensland (ABIQ)  www.abiq.org.au
- ABIQ provides support and networking opportunities to members through regular group meetings and social functions for the whole family.
- ABIQ provides access to first hand information and experience from parents whose autistic children are currently undergoing or have completed ABA therapy.
- Address: PO Box 7053, Brendale Q 4500
- Telephone: (07) 3881 1868 or 1300 224 753

- Autism Queensland website and telephone consultancy line (Phone: 07 3273 0000) can put parents/carers in touch with a local Family Support Group.
- The activities of the Autism Queensland Support Groups are covered under Autism Queensland’s insurance policy and receive some financial support from Autism Queensland.
- Autism Queensland’s Family Support Services also moderates an online support group for the parents and carers of those with Autism. Go to: www.groups.google.com At the google groups home page, type into the search box – ‘Autism Support Group Qld’. Anyone can read the discussion board posts, but only group members can make or respond to a post. To become a member, follow the instructions on the site.
- The support groups provide a way for parents and carers to meet with others who share similar experiences, to find and provide support, to share ideas and to gain information.

Parent to Parent Association of Queensland  www.parent2parentqld.org.au
- This provides support by offering to the family a team of caring, mature and skilled parents committed to helping other parents through their times of need. It also provides information on the child’s disability in a manner that is easily understood. Groups are found throughout Queensland.
- Address: PO Box 434, Yandina QLD 4561
- Phone: 07 5472 7072 or 1800 777 723
- GOLD COAST: Wendy Chandler  Mobile: 0417 787 646   Email: wendyp2p@bigpond.net.au

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My Time [www.mytime.net.au](http://www.mytime.net.au)
- MyTime is a national initiative funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA).
- MyTime groups provide facilitated peer support for mums, dads, grandparents and anyone caring for children with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.
- Each group has a play helper who leads children and siblings in activities, so parents and carers can spend time focusing on catching up with others.
- Mothers, fathers and other family carers of children who are eligible to receive the Carer Allowance (Child) can join MyTime.
- For more information about MyTime groups in your area, see contacts on the website.
- Email: mytime@parentingrc.org.au
- Phone: 1800 889 997
- CPLeague Social Worker, Varsity Lakes Ph: 5665 3000  www.cplqld.org.au

Recreation & Sport

Gold Coast Recreation & Sport
- A not for profit organisation providing recreation and sport for people with a disability and community access to people of all ages with a disability in the region.
- Offers a range of sporting programs and social skills group suited to people with ASD
- Ashton House, Owen Park, 201 Queen St, Southport
- Ph: 5531 3312  Email: admin@gcrs.com.au

- Special Olympics is an international year-round program of sports training and competition for individuals with an intellectual disability, eight years and older. People with Autism and Aspergers are involved in a range of sports and events.
- Contact Gold Coast Recreation & Sport for further information on 5531 3312.

- Gold Coast City Council and Department of Communities Disability Services have built a special ‘All Abilities Playground’ at Kurrawa Pratten Park, Broadbeach.
- The playground will provide access for all children to experience fun, interactive and challenging play, while their families and carers watch over them in an enjoyable and relaxing environment. The playground will be purpose-designed to reflect community needs and will include sensory, motor, imagination and educational aspects of play. Visit Council's webpage for further information [http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t_standard2.aspx?pid=7827](http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/t_standard2.aspx?pid=7827)
- Visit [www.accessarts.org.au/playground](http://www.accessarts.org.au/playground) to play the online virtual All Abilities playground game. The virtual playground area offers small entertaining activities as well as four games to play.

- A Gold Coast City Council citywide program offering weekly free or low cost active and healthy activities for everyone including children and adults with disabilities.
- A Gold Coast City Council Active & Healthy booklet is available, or contact Active & Healthy by email or phone for further information.
- Ph: 5581 6984
- Email: activehealthygc@goldcoast.qld.gov.au  parks@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

- Camp Autism Inc is about uniting families dealing with ASD.
- Created a unique camp model for families with members who have an ASD.
Currumbin Valley Riding for the Disabled
- Provides riding and associated activities for people with disabilities. Also offers riding lessons for able-bodied people.
- Location: Andres’s Road, Tallebudgera
- Contact: Beverley Humphries or Lyn Clark
- Ph: 5536 1224 (Bev) or 5527 9586 (Lyn)

Sailability Gold Coast [www.sailabilitygc.org/]
- Sailability Gold Coast is part of Sailability Australia and the worldwide Sailability organisation ([www.sailability.org](http://www.sailability.org)). We facilitate sailing and boating activities in all forms for people with disabilities.
- Southport Yacht Club, 1 Marina Ct Hollywell
- Bob Chapel, President - Mobile: 0405 199 934
- Email: admin@sailabilitygc.org

Disabled Surfers Association, Gold Coast [www.disabledsurfers.org]
- Surfers helping anyone get into the surf.
- Ph: 0412 191 880 or 0400 027 991

Access Arts Queensland [www.accessarts.org.au]
- This is a member based organisation established in 1983 to ensure people with a disability had access to the arts and cultural experiences of their choosing. “Crossing Divides” is specific to people with ASD.
- Address: Level 1 Stores Building, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm QLD 4005
- Phone: 07 3358 6200 or 1300 663 651

Sports Ability and Sports CONNECT Hubs [sportsabilityhub@usq.edu.au](mailto:sportsabilityhub@usq.edu.au)
- Sports CONNECT provides a range of support services for sporting organisations and disability groups to improve access to sport and recreation for people with disabilities
- HUBs offer inclusive competitive or non-competitive games for people with disabilities.

- Special Olympics Queensland (SOQ) supports over 1,500 Queensland athletes with an intellectual disability to take part in year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of team and individual sports.

- Provides access to weekly social sport for people with a disability. TAG 5 is a non-profit company providing sporting, social & recreational activities for people with a disability and their families. TAG 5’s holistic approach to its services allowing all members of these families to participate in sporting & recreational activities.

LAN Party (Get together to play computer games – BYO computer)
- Monthly Social & gaming event for individuals who are 17y or older, have HFA(Hi Functioning Autism) or Aspergers, & enjoy gaming
- Usually 2nd Friday night/month 6-10pm at Varsity Lakes
- Co-ordinated by Autism GC & GC Rec & Sport
- For more info contact:
  Jeremy Smith, Gold Coast Recreation & Sport (07) 5531 3312 jeremys@gcrs.com.au
  Debra Tew, Autism Gold Coast (07) 5508 2376 debra.tew@bigpond.com
Other Useful Organisations & Services

Family Planning Queensland, Southport  www.fpq.com.au
- Provides clinical training in all aspects of sexual and reproductive health, and has a comprehensive resource catalogue to support teachers, parents and young people and those with disability. In the past they have run some educational programs for young people with ASD.
- Education Services: 7 Short St, Level 3, Southport QLD 4215
- Ph: 5531 2636   Email: gcoastedu@fpq.com.au

Special Needs Library at Gold Coast City Council’s Nerang Library
- The Special Needs Collection is located at Nerang Branch Library and provides a collection of resources and equipment to assist with the development and rehabilitation of adults and children with special needs or disabilities. Items are available for loan to support a range of developmental needs such as fine and gross motor skills, speech and language, discrimination and imaginative play.
- Corner Price & White Streets, NERANG, QLD, 4211
- Ph: 5581 7180   Email: nerlibrary@goldcoast.qld.gov.au

Noah’s Ark- Toy and resource library
 http://www.noahsark.net.au/
 Will travel to the Gold Coast and families can use online catalogue.

Transport Assistance
- Volunteering Gold Coast - Gold Coast Community Transport  www.volunteeringgc.com.au
  Ph: 5531 3312
  Ph: 5539 3733   Provides a transport service for people with disabilities and seniors and their carers to access hospital, medical and associated health appointments. Also offers information and referral for people with disabilities about transport issues.   www.transcord.com.au
- Gold Coast City Council Cabs Service
  For people with a disability to enable them to travel to their local shopping centre. You can have a carer or dependents travel with you if you like. Services run on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning each week. Each Council Cab trip costs $2.00, that’s only $4.00 for a return journey. For further details on the service in your area, speak to your local Gold Coast City Council Councillor.
  131 008   Regent Taxis (Most of GC)
  136 294   Yellow Cabs (Beenleigh area)

- Citizens Advice Bureau provides a free Community Guide listing more than 2000 non-profit groups across the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Housing  www.gchousingco.com.au
- Housing for people with a disability up to the age of 65 years. Shared living with two or three people.
- Horizon Housing Company Ltd, Level10&11, Australia Fair Office Tower, 42 Marine Pde, Southport
  Ph: 5668 9400   Fax: 5571 0732

This information has been distributed in the interest of informing you about available products and services related to ASD. This information does not necessarily imply endorsement by Autism Gold Coast. We encourage you to research all products and services prior to deciding if they are relevant or suitable to your individual circumstances.

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