



The Sport Inclusion (AAA) Community of Practice presents Inclusion in sport, recreation and physical education for people with autism and developmental disability

Sport and Recreation Victoria are hosting this free event to recognise World Autism Awareness/Acceptance Day.

The forum will be part professional development with opportunity to hear from local experts in well-being, social skills, mental health and inclusion in sport. The event will also celebrate the persistence, dedication and drive that people with autism, their families and coaches have demonstrated in creating more inclusive, welcoming and safe environments for everybody.

The forum will introduce local researchers Dr Stephan Edwards and Kieran Thorpe from Federation University whose research focuses on well-being, mental health and the development of social skills for people with developmental disability and their families. The evidence base will be followed by practical skills, strategies and experiences shared by Kellie Tait, Founder of AAA Ballarat and Elise Muller, Founder of Active Support.

The combination of a research evidence base, practical strategies and lived experience on and off the playing field will appeal to a diverse audience. The information shared will be beneficial to teenagers on the spectrum, families, PE teachers, coaches and community members such as teenagers considering volunteering or coaching inclusive teams.

When and where?

Wednesday 3 April, 2019
4:15 arrival for a 4:30 start with a 7:30 finish
Phoenix College
Hertford Street, Sebastopol VIC 3356
Google maps [hyperlink](#):

Registration

To attend in person please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/autism-inclusion-in-sport-a-free-workshop-tickets-58682164935>

Please remember that this is a free event. If you can't make it please cancel your ticket so someone else is able to attend.

Facebook Live Streaming

Can't attend in person? No problem. This event will be live streamed from AAAPlays's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/aaaplay/). Choose 'attending via Facebook live' when you register and details will be shared with you before the event.



About the speakers

Elise Muller, Founder Active Support (www.activesupport.co)

Elise is a proud Aboriginal Australian on the autism spectrum. Elise is passionate about taking her experience being bullied and excluded in school to improve the education system for the next generation. Elise found her connection with the world through her passion of sport, representing Australia in football and now playing for Essendon. At 21, Elise has a wealth of experience mentoring young people on the Spectrum and has created a platform for people with a disability to access recreational play through her Personal Training and Mentoring organisation 'Active Support' proving with an enabling approach, disability is never an excuse for exclusion. Read more about Elise and Active Support at <http://activesupport.co/about-elise-muller/>.

Kellie Tait, Founder of AAA Sports Ballarat (www.aaasportsballarat.org.au)

Kellie, like many other parents took her son who has autism to mainstream sports. Kellie's son was overwhelmed by the size of the group and experienced bullying. Since starting AAA Sports Ballarat Kellie has become well-known in the sport inclusion field leading an AFL Blind team through an undefeated season and coaching the Victorian Cricket team in the National Inclusion Carnival. Kellie will present her key strategies to support inclusion on the field which can be applied in the community or in school. Kellie will share her experiences as a parent, coach and now AFL Victoria Game Development Officer. You can hear more about Kellie's background in the 'Every Mother Is a Legend' podcast <https://soundcloud.com/troysimmonds/kellie-tait-aaa-sports-ballarat-founder/reposts>

Kieran Thorpe Federation University

Kieran's research expertise is in the field of neurodevelopmental conditions such as autism and ADHD. His recent research has examined the happiness of Australians' through the lens of autism.

Dr Stephen Edwards, Federation University

Steve's research at Fed Uni has looked at how people with autism develop and maintain social skills. Steve has also led research focused on mental health for people with autism and neurodevelopmental conditions.

Shawn Stevenson, Sport and Recreation Victoria

Shawn will MC the forum and facilitate the panel discussion. Shawn has recently completed a Masters with Deakin University and AFL Victoria focusing on the barriers, facilitators and benefits children with developmental disability experience when participating in Auskick. Shawn now oversees the delivery of 15 projects focused on autism inclusion across Victoria. Shawn will connect the key topics of well-being, mental health, activity based socialisation and strategies for inclusion in sport and PE with the speakers from an evidence base to practical inclusion strategies.

Questions or comments? Please contact:

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