

# SPECTRUM SPACE SYMPOSIUM 2026 PROGRAM | DAY 1

- 8:00 am – 9:30 am** Registrations
- 8:00 am – 5:00 pm** Exhibitors Hall Open
- 8:50 am – 9:00 am** Plenary Video Presentation
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am** **Welcome** | Reachelle Beasley *CEO of Spectrum Space* & Ashley McCole *MC*
- 9:15 am – 9:30 am** **Acknowledgement of Country** | Ash Penfold *Founder of Corroboree for Life*
- 9:30 am – 9:45 am** **Minister's Opening** | Hon Hannah Beazley *MLA Minister for Local Government; Disability Services; Volunteering; Youth; Gascoyne*

Transition to Next Session | 9:45 am – 9:50 am

- 9:55 am – 10:35 am** **Plenary Session 1 | Tammy McGowan & Andrew Radford:** Advocacy & Leadership

Morning Tea | 10:35 am – 10:55 am

Transition to Next Session | 10:55 am – 11:00 am

<b>11:00 am</b> - <b>11:45 am</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
	<b>Anthony Pyle</b>  The Power of Showing Up: Autistic Leadership in Local Change	<b>Dr Theresa Kidd &amp; Dr Miriam Kirby</b>  The ADHD and Autism Overlap: Identity and Perimenopause for Neurodivergent Women	<b>Darrin Brandis</b>  Strengths in Self-Care: Redefining Fatherhood for Neurodiverse Families	<b>Raelene Dundon</b>  Safe Hearts, Growing Minds: How Authentic Relationships Transform Support for Autistic Children

Breakout Session 1

Transition to Next Session | 11:45 am – 12:00 pm

<b>12:00 pm</b> - <b>12:45 pm</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
	<b>Professor Sonya Girdler &amp; Professor Sven Bölte</b>  The Third Wave of Engagement: Towards Inclusive Societal Participation in Autism and Neurodivergence	<b>Rebecca Wahlsten</b>  Nurturing Wellbeing Through Inclusive Communities and Sensory-Friendly Spaces	<b>Kim McMinn</b>  Real Stories, Real Change: The Impact of Complex Needs Swimming Programs	<b>Elizabeth Baird</b>  Beyond Scripts and Role-Plays: Co-Creating Autistic Social Supports

Breakout Session 2

Lunch & Networking | 12:45 pm – 1:30 pm

Transition to Next Session | 1:30 pm – 1:40 pm

- 1:40 pm – 2:20 pm** **Plenary Session 2 | Peta Baer:** Decoding the System: Navigating Power Structures as an Autistic Professional, Policy, Protocols and Meltdowns (Sometimes in That Order)

Transition to Next Session | 2:20 pm – 2:30 pm

<b>2:30 pm</b> - <b>3:10 pm</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
	<b>Jay Miu</b>  Intersecting Identities: Supporting LGBTQIA+ Neurodivergent Communities Through Affirming Practice	<b>Melanie Martinelli</b>  Autistic Play: Understanding Autistic Play Culture	<b>Natalee Blackmore</b>  Making Sense of Supports	<b>Carol Hegan</b>  Understanding Behaviours Through a Neuroaffirming Lens: The GROW™ Framework for Wellbeing and Preventing Burnout

Breakout Session 3

Afternoon tea & Networking | 3:10 pm – 3:30 pm

- 3:30 pm – 4:10 pm** **Plenary Session 3 | Yvonne Kilpatrick:** When Your Parenting Journey Looks Different Than You Imagined

Transition to Next Session | 4:10 pm – 4:20 pm

- 4:20 pm – 4:50 pm** **Plenary Session 4 | Larissa Muir:** Young People Can't Be What They Can't See! – Why Autistic Leadership Needs to Move Beyond Online Influencers

- 4:50 pm – 5:00 pm** **Closing Reflection** | Ashley McCole *MC*

- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm** **Sundowner: Celebrating 10 Years of Connection** | Only available to Sundowner ticket holders

# SPECTRUM SPACE SYMPOSIUM 2026 PROGRAM | DAY 2

- 8:30 am - 9:30 am**     **Registrations**
- 8:30 am - 5:00 pm**     **Exhibitor Stalls Open**
- 9:00 am - 9:05 am**     **Welcome** | Ashley McCole MC
- 9:05 am - 9:45 am**     **Plenary Session 1 | Dr Illiana Magiati:** Beyond Autism Awareness and Towards Understanding, Acceptance, Support and Inclusion: Insights from Camouflaging, Burnout, and Late Diagnosis Autism Research

**Transition to Next Session | 9:45 am - 9:55 am**

- 9:55 am - 10:35 am**     **Plenary Session 2 | Professor Andrew Whitehouse:** From Then to Now: A Decade of Change in Autism Research

**Morning Tea | 10:35 am - 10:55 am**

**Transition to Next Session | 10:55 am - 11:00 am**

<b>Breakout Session 1</b>	<b>11:00 am - 11:45 am</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
		<b>Lillian Tan</b> Beyond Access: Understanding Assistance Dogs, Inclusion, and Real-World Practice	<b>Tammy McGowan &amp; Andrew Radford</b> Autistic Adulthood in Transition: Navigating Change and Finding Balance in Middle Age	<b>Cath Hakanson</b> Connection First – Neuroaffirming Sex Ed for Families	<b>Professor Sonya Girdler &amp; Dr Elinda Lee</b> Supporting Social Participation at School: The School KONTAKT Approach

**Transition to Next Session | 11:45 am - 12:00 pm**

<b>Breakout Session 2</b>	<b>12:00 pm - 12:45 pm</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
		<b>Annabel Tannenbaum</b> What We Wish You Knew: Late Diagnosis, Lived Experience, and Shaping Neuroaffirming Practice	<b>Jessica Dening</b> Alchemy of a Daydream: The Benefits of Creativity for Neurodivergent Minds	<b>Roxanne Dunger</b> Double Neurodivergence: Raising Kids While Living It Too	<b>Melanie Martinelli</b> A Playful Introduction to LEGO®-Based Therapy

**Lunch & Networking | 12:45 pm - 1:30 pm**

**Transition to Next Session | 1:30 pm - 1:40 pm**

- 1:40 pm - 2:20 pm**     **Plenary Session 3 | Diana Tan:** Neuroinclusion in Higher Education

**Transition to Next Session | 2:20 pm - 2:30 pm**

<b>Breakout Session 3</b>	<b>2:30 pm - 3:10 pm</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
		<b>Liam Dow-Hall &amp; Siobhan Dow-Hall</b> A Tale of Two Siblings	<b>Isobel Ziatas &amp; Tara Joy</b> Rejection Sensitivity (RDS): Navigating the Neurodivergent Emotional Landscape	<b>Raelene Dundon</b> Nurturing Self-Advocacy in Autistic Children and Teens	<b>Kylie Parry-Clark &amp; Connie Da Prato</b> Authentic Inclusion – The Autistic Leader

**Afternoon & Networking | 3:10 pm - 3:30 pm**

<b>Breakout Session 4</b>	<b>3:30 pm - 4:10 pm</b>	<b>Community Stream</b>	<b>Health &amp; Wellbeing Stream</b>	<b>Parent &amp; Carer Stream</b>	<b>Professional Stream</b>
		<b>Hsaio-peng (Sandy) Lin</b> A Neurodiversity-Affirming Way to Support Social Communication	<b>Bonnie Furzer, Ben Quick, Craig Thompson &amp; Claire Willis</b> Celebrating Strengths and Connection Through Exercise (Panel Discussion)	<b>Aimee-Jade Pember</b> In the Tender Space of Becoming: Supporting Neurodivergent Parents in the Perinatal Journey	<b>Sandhya Subarmaniam &amp; Kevin Winder</b> The Importance of Mentoring Programs for Autistic Students: Supporting the Transition into Employment

**Transition to Next Session | 4:10 pm - 4:20 pm**

- 4:20 pm - 4:50 pm**     **Plenary Session 4 | Stephanie Robertson:** Autistic Joy as a Tool for Healing
- 4:50 pm - 5:00 pm**     **Event Close** | Silvana Gaglia OAM *Spectrum Space Chairperson*