

APAC 09

Autism State Plan

Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2009

Autism Spectrum Australia and the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders are co-hosting the Asia Pacific Autism Conference which is to be held in August 2009 in Sydney

The conference will bring to Australia a range of International and National speakers on Autism Spectrum Disorders and is a fabulous opportunity for people to hear the latest in research and responses to assisting and working with people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The breadth and depth of issues within the Autism community has led the conference organisers to present the conference in four streams. This should ensure that all interests and concerns are presented at the conference.

Autism Victoria is a member of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders and strongly endorses the conference.

Please note that the early bird registration closes on the 30th of May.

Please click [here](#) for an APAC 09 flyer.

Launch of the Autism State Plan

On Thursday the 21st of May the eagerly anticipated launch of the Autism State Plan took place at Alpha Autism.

The Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians, the Honorable Lisa Neville spoke at length about the development of the plan and how the plan will drive the development of services for the next 10 years. The Minister also acknowledged the work of the Autism Victoria working party and in particular the efforts of Meredith Ward.

The Ministers speech was followed by an inspirational talk from Daniel Giles, a young man who has an Autism Spectrum Disorder but has refused to let this stop him from achieving great things in his life.

After Daniel had spoken the Deputy Chair of Autism Victoria, Ms Michele Carson, spoke on behalf of Autism Victoria. Michele acknowledged the work of Government and thanked the Minister for a range of initiatives, including the State plan, which will benefit families and individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The final speaker was Meredith Ward who shared with the audience the journey of the State Plan and her insights into the partnership approach taken by Government and Autism Victoria. Meredith made particular note of the courage of Government to enter into a partnership. Her speech concluded with her son sharing a poem with the audience that he had written.

At the conclusion of this stage of the program the band Rudely Interrupted then entertained the audience with a number of songs.

From the Minister's speech through to Rudely Interrupted's performance the day was memorable both for the achievement of an Autism State Plan itself but also the presentations by the speakers.

Autism Victoria also wishes to acknowledge the great work done by DHS staff from the Strategic Projects Branch throughout this journey and Alpha Autism for hosting the event.

A detailed analysis of the Autism State Plan will be provided in the June edition of the Spectrum Magazine.

Please click [here](#) to download a copy of the plan.