



## Our Advocacy Principles

Different Journeys builds community.

We create places where people with ASD can be themselves and celebrate who they are.

We create spaces where families and caregivers can relax and enjoy each other's company.

We also help people navigate the fragmented and complex service systems. Sometimes we work together to better inform and reshape these systems.

We are not a formal Advocacy service however as a peer support and community building organisation we do play a role in helping each other achieve the best for ourselves and our family members with ASD.

We informally draw on our lived experiences and our successes and frustrations to help each other. We support our community to better articulate our shared and individual needs. We identify who can meet our needs and we influence how service providers can better meet them.

Where we can, we provide informal, independent support to people with ASD and their parents and caregivers when they feel they are not being heard. We informally support them to be taken seriously and help them make sure their rights are respected.

We do this by informally sharing our lived experiences. We share what we have learned about how best to access appropriate information and services. We inform and empower. We help reawaken people strengths.

We raise issues impacting on people with ASD at conferences, forums and with our partners. We proactively communicate our struggles and successes to Governments, Community Services Organisations and the broader community. We work to help overcome ignorance and prejudice about ASD.

We do this in a strengths based, positive and constructive way.

Our advocacy aims to build community. It aims to create positive partnerships and opportunity.

We build pathways and connections. We facilitate the exchange of ideas.

We do not provide formal individual advocacy services and are not funded to be an advocacy agency. We simply seek to work with our community to build better opportunities for people with ASD by drawing on our own knowledge, our own skills and our lived experience of the issues we encounter in living with ASD.

We listen and we help give people with ASD and their parents and caregivers a voice.

We share our voice.