

**Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** encompasses the spectrum of autism, including Asperger's Syndrome. It is characterised by severe and pervasive deficits in social relationships, social communication and imaginative play, and restricted repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviour, interests and activities.

***Autism is an invisible disorder.***

People with Autism often do not have any observable signs; they have difficulty communicating or socially interacting. Many are very able people and can often behave entirely appropriately at certain times. This tends to lead to their outbursts of inappropriate behaviour being labelled as

“spoilt”,  
 “naughty”,  
 “selfish”,  
 “bad”  
 or “obnoxious”.

Rather, they should be recognised by onlookers as experiencing

*great difficulties in making sense of what is going on*

and their outbursts of inappropriate behaviour are

*their way of expressing “confusion”, “fear” and “frustration”.*

(Source: AQ)

**Gold Coast  
 Autism Spectrum Disorder  
 Support Group**

**CONTACT:**  
**Debra Tew: 5508 2364**  
**Coordinator, Parent**

**Helen Steinhardt: 0417 700 190**  
**Coordinator, Parent**

**MONTHLY MEETINGS:**  
 Nerang Neighbourhood Centre  
 29 Martin St, NERANG (Cnr Lavelle St)  
 (Entry is via the Lavelle St gate)  
 [Exit 71 off M1, into Station St, left into Cotton St,  
 right into Ferry St, left into Martin St.]

**Autism Gold Coast Inc**  
**EMAIL: [admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au](mailto:admin@autismgoldcoast.com.au)**  
**WEBSITE: [www.autismgoldcoast.com.au](http://www.autismgoldcoast.com.au)**

**PHONE: 5559 1747**  
*[Please leave a message if unattended.]*

**POSTAL ADDRESS:**  
**Autism Gold Coast Inc**  
 PO Box 2272  
 BURLEIGH HEADS MDC Q 4220

June 2011



**Autism  
 Gold Coast Inc**

ABN 43 196 196 468



**A Support Group for parents,  
 families and carers of people  
 diagnosed with**

***Autism and  
 Asperger's Syndrome.***

**WHO do we support?**

Autism Gold Coast Inc is a support group that supports parents, families and carers of children and adults with **Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder**, and other persons whose difficulties may benefit from contact with our support group.

**HOW do we support?**

Focus Groups are formed within the main group which allow people to meet and discuss issues relating to children of similar age and ability level as their own child.

- Resource Library
- Telephone support
- Email News Group
- Regular Newsletters
- Monthly Coffee Mornings
- Monthly Discussion Evenings
- Guest Speakers, Seminars, Workshops

## Coffee Mornings

**FIRST** Wednesday of month  
10am-12noon

**Nerang Neighbourhood Centre**  
**29 Martin St, NERANG** (Cnr Lavelle St)  
Entry via Lavelle Street gate

*Children are welcome to come along!*

*Tea and coffee provided*

*A small plate of food to share is appreciated*

*Gold Coin donation is appreciated  
to help cover costs*



## Evening Meetings

**THIRD** Wednesday of the month  
7-9pm

**Nerang Neighbourhood Centre**  
**29 Martin St, NERANG** (Cnr Lavelle St)  
Entry via Lavelle Street gate

*Tea and coffee provided*

*A small plate of food to share is appreciated*

*Gold Coin donation is appreciated  
to help cover costs*

## Autism Gold Coast Early Intervention Service

**Autism Gold Coast Inc** is the lead agency in a consortium formed with **experienced local service providers** to provide early intervention services to young children (0-6 years) with an autism spectrum disorder through the Australian Government *Helping Children with Autism* funding.

Our service brochure listing our Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Behaviour Therapists & Counsellors, Psychologists, and Teachers can be found on our website. Contact the individual service providers directly.

### PlayConnect Playgroups

*(0-6 years)*

Come and meet other families and enjoy play activities for children with an ASD/ Developmental Delay. There is no need for a referral or diagnosis. The *PlayConnect* Playgroup is provided at no charge to the families under the Australian Government *Helping Children with Autism* package. For more information call Carolyn or Rebecca at Playgroup Queensland 1800 171 882

### Social Skills Programs

*Various age groupings*

Contact: Autism Queensland,  
Griffith Uni – GC: Psychology Clinic,  
GC Recreation & Sport,  
Family Support Group or Southern Star.

### Sibling Support Group

*Subject to available funding.*

Contact: Autism Queensland, or  
Family Support Group (FSG Australia).

## Autism Gold Coast Inc

ABN 43 196 196 468



## Support Group

Autism Gold Coast Inc aims to:

- Provide support to parents, families, and carers through monthly meetings, special interest groups, resource library, guest speakers, newsletters, ASD Email Newsgroup and sourcing programs;
- Link people to Focus Groups that allow individuals to meet with others who have similar interests and issues. These groups may change from time to time:  
*Young Children's Group, Dietary Intervention, Parents of newly-diagnosed children, Adults with Asperger's Syndrome, Education, Teenager's group, Computer Club, Siblings Group.*
- Link families into support networks on the Gold Coast;
- Promote awareness and community education of Autism Spectrum Disorders;
- Maintain links with other organisations and services, such as Autism Queensland, AEIOU and Asperger Services Australia.