

Hoodie Up for autism

Individuals

Fundraising Information Kit

30 April 2021



Thank you!

Thank you for being part of Hoodie Up to mark World Autism Acceptance Month. With your support, we can shape a brighter future for autistic people.

In this kit, you'll find all the information you need to organise a Hoodie Up event during World Autism Acceptance Month. We are encouraging Victorians to hold a Hoodie Up event and wear their hoodie on Friday 30 April 2021.

Since 2019, individuals, schools and businesses across Victoria have showed their support for autistic people by putting their Hoodie Up. We're excited that once again in 2021, the community will Hoodie Up to raise funds and show their understanding, acceptance and support for autistic people.

Why hoodies? Some autistic people experience sensory sensitivities and can become overloaded by stimuli in their environment; wearing their hoodie up means they can block out bright lights and busy environments which helps calm them. By hosting a Hoodie Up event and putting our hoodies up, we're showing a little more understanding of how we can support and embrace autistic people and celebrate the diversity autism brings to our world.

Funds raised through Hoodie Up will help deliver vital support to autistic people and their families, including Amaze's work to create a more autism-friendly Victoria. We advocate to ensure the autism community's voices and needs are recognised in government policy and the media, break down stigma in the wider community through public education campaigns, and up-skill the wider world in how to support autistic people so they can fully

participate in, and contribute to, our society. For more information you can contact our Autism Connect service. Autism Connect offers evidence-based information for autistic people seeking guidance around diagnosis and services, their families or friends, and anyone supporting an autistic adult or child in education, health settings or workplaces.

If you have any questions about Hoodie Up, please contact Amaze's Communication team on (03) 9657 1600 or email us at waad@amaze.org.au.

Sign up now to register your event by going to www.amaze.org.au/hoodie-up, or email us at waad@amaze.org.au with your details.

We look forward to celebrating with you in April 2021.



Fiona Sharkie
Amaze CEO



Guide to organising a Hoodie Up event

Planning

The first step is to think about what kind of event you would like to hold and where you want to hold it. It could be as simple as getting your mates over for lunch, organising a picnic, or even making lunch reservations somewhere. Then, pick a date and time for your event! The official date for Hoodie Up Day is Friday 30 April 2021, but if this doesn't suit you, you can pick any date in April to hold your event!

Register online

Head to www.amaze.org.au/hoodie-up and get all the information you need to get signed up and start working on your personalised team fundraising page.

Raise funds!

Send your personalised fundraising webpage out to your friends, family and anyone you want, and ask them to donate online. Receipts are automatically generated for online donations. Direct donations over \$2 are tax-deductible for the donor.

Get the location ready

As soon as you can access your chosen venue, set up your event and have fun with special decorations – including our [downloadable posters and images](#) – to make the room look fun and inviting for your team.

Guests

As people arrive: welcome them, thank them for coming and getting to know more about autism and how they can support autistic people. As they enter, remind them that you are collecting donations electronically and that it can be done with a debit or credit card (get a laptop ready with your fundraising page open for them to make a donation).

Motivate

Remind guests why they're here and how every dollar makes a difference to the vital work that Amaze does, why you've decided to support us and autistic people. For information, go to www.amaze.org.au/hoodie-up.

Games

Ask your friends to help you hold any quizzes, bake-offs or other activities you've been planning for your event.

Enjoy

Watch a [Spectroscopic](#) clip, have a chat with your friends and treat yourself to some snacks!

Say thanks

Thank everyone for coming and let them know how much you raised.



How Amaze can help!

We can provide:

- Resources and materials about autism
- Use of Hoodie Up posters to use for your fundraising event
- Tax receipts to donors
- A Letter of Authority to show that your event has our approval and is genuine
- A certificate of appreciation once your fundraiser has finished

Please note depending on the size and location of your event, the level of support we are able to provide will vary.

Contact the Hoodie Up team

For more information on hosting a Hoodie Up event, contact us:

Email: waad@amaze.org.au

Web: www.amaze.org.au/hoodie-up

Phone: 03 9657 1600

Unfortunately, we cannot provide:

- Funds or reimbursement for any expenses incurred
- Assistance in organising and/or marketing your event
- Staff to help coordinate or run the event
- Contact lists for you to use in promoting your event (due to privacy legislation)
- Applications for permits, licences or insurances – including public liability. These are the responsibility of the organiser.
- Prizes, auctions or raffle items



Amaze: shaping the future for autism

Amaze aims to create an inclusive society that offers every autistic person the opportunity to meaningfully participate and contribute. We do this by building understanding and acceptance among educators, the government and the wider community.

Research shows that 98% of Australians have heard of autism, and 85% of Australians have personal contact with an autistic person, yet only 29% of Australians agree that they have a good understanding of how to support autistic people and only 4% of autistic people thought Australians knew how to support them. With your help Amaze can change this.

Formed in 1967 by a group of parents struggling to find resources to support their children, Amaze has grown to become the peak body for autism in Victoria.

Today we work to:

- Increase understanding, engagement and acceptance of autism by the wider community
- Influence positive systemic change through Governments and the media to improve attitudes and behaviours towards autistic people and their families
- Build the skills of private, public and community organisations to create more autism-friendly environments and build the capacity of autistic people and their families to advocate for their needs

We're making great progress and change in the community, but we need your support to continue to shape the future for autism. Hosting a Hoodie Up event is a fantastic way to start a conversation about autism in your school, show understanding of autistic people and raise vital funds to help build a more autism-friendly world.



Find out more about Amaze's work and how you can get involved at www.amaze.org.au We are already making great progress and change in the community but need your support to continue to shape the future for autism.

Your donation will help us support autistic people and their families in delivering much needed information to parents, families and professionals via forums, workshops and online training as well as inform government and educational policy to ensure an ongoing growth of understanding, engagement and acceptance of autism through sharing stories of autistic peoples individual lived experiences.