

# hoodieup for autism

## School Information Kit



# Thank you!

**Thank you for being part of Hoodie Up to mark World Autism Awareness Month. With your support, we can continue to create an autism inclusive Australia.**

In this kit, you'll find all the information you need to organise a Hoodie Up event during World Autism Awareness Month. We are encouraging individuals, schools and businesses to hold a Hoodie Up event and wear their hoodie up on **Tuesday 29 April**.

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 2025, 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 inclusive Australia.

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 Community Development team on **(03) 9657 1600** or email us at [community@amaze.org.au](mailto:community@amaze.org.au).

Email us at [community@amaze.org.au](mailto:community@amaze.org.au) with your details to register your event.

We look forward to celebrating with you in April 2025.



David Tonge  
Amaze CEO



# How to celebrate Hoodie Up Day

## Plan

The first step is to think about what kind of activities you would like to hold. It could be as simple as running a fundraiser or it might be incorporating whole school and classroom activities into lessons.

Next, pick a day to celebrate. The official date for Hoodie Up is Tuesday 29, April 2025, but if this doesn't suit, you can pick any date in April to hold your event.

## Register

To register your event, please email [community@amaze.org.au](mailto:community@amaze.org.au)

## Ideas to build understanding

### In classrooms:

- Use our Hoodie Up colouring in page located at the end of this kit as an activity for students to decorate in their own style.
- Hold a mock Hoodie Up design competition using the template at the end of this kit. Students can design their own Hoodie showcasing their own identity.
- Run a Kahoot quiz session using one of our Autism quizzes.
- Encourage students to be empathetic by engaging in discussions about when they may have felt not accepted. Brainstorm ways for students to demonstrate their support of Autistic students.
- Encourage students to ask questions, but it's ok if teachers don't know the answers! It's better to approach student questions together to learn more and find the answers to return to at another time. Schools can record the questions and do further research to provide accurate answers.

### Whole School activities:

- Run lunch time clubs that align with the interests of Autistic students at your school.
- Have increased access to fidget toys or set up a reset room for students to explore.
- Ask the school community if there are any Autistic adults that would like to share their experience. Autistic students could talk to their classmates (or record a video) about their experience being Autistic.
- At a school assembly, teachers and senior leadership can talk about the importance of acceptance and inclusion.





## Fundraising

It is always helpful to raise money so if your school decides to run a fundraiser it can be as simple as getting students to wear a Hoodie (any Hoodie) and bring a gold coin donation. Funds can be donated to any Autism organisation, details for how to donate to Amaze can be found on [amaze.org.au/hoodie-up](https://amaze.org.au/hoodie-up).

## Further Resources

Amaze provides independent and credible information and resources for families and schools. Further resources that might be useful include:

- [Inclusive education: supporting school communities](#)
- [Reset room guide](#)
- [What is Autism poster](#)
- [Change your reaction videos](#)
- [Lower Primary Kahoot Quiz](#)
- [Upper Primary Kahoot Quiz](#)
- [Secondary Kahoot Quiz](#)

For more information about Autism, including Autism positive resources, contact our Autism Connect Advisors on [1300 308 699](tel:1300308699) or [info@autismconnect.org.au](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.au)

Want to run a Hoodie Up event but not sure where to start? Contact our Community Development team: [community@amaze.org.au](mailto:community@amaze.org.au) for extra advice and support.







# What Amaze can do

Need some extra help with your event? We can provide:

- Resources and materials about autism
- Hoodie Up posters to use for your fundraising event
- Tax receipts to donors
- 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: [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au)

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, licenses or insurances – including public liability (these are the responsibility of the organiser.)
- Prizes, auctions or raffle items

## Banking in your funds

All donations are made electronically through the Hoodie Up webpage with a debit or credit card. These funds are automatically transferred to Amaze.

Details for electronic funds transfer can be requested by contacting Amaze at [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au). Please include your school name and refer to Hoodie Up for all donations.

# Amaze: creating an autism inclusive Australia

**Amaze is a leading autism organisation driving change so that Autistic people and their families can live their best lives. Amaze is here for all Autistic people of all ages and has been supporting Autistic people and their families in Victoria for over 50 years.**

Research shows that 98% of Australians have heard of autism, and 74% of Australians have personal contact with an Autistic person. Yet only 32% of Australians agree that they have a good understanding of how to support Autistic people and only 3% of Autistic people thought Australians knew how to support them. With your help, Amaze can change this.

For over 50 years, Amaze has been supporting Autistic people and their families. Based in Victoria, Amaze has a national reach and is the home of Australia's national autism helpline – Autism Connect.

Today we work to:

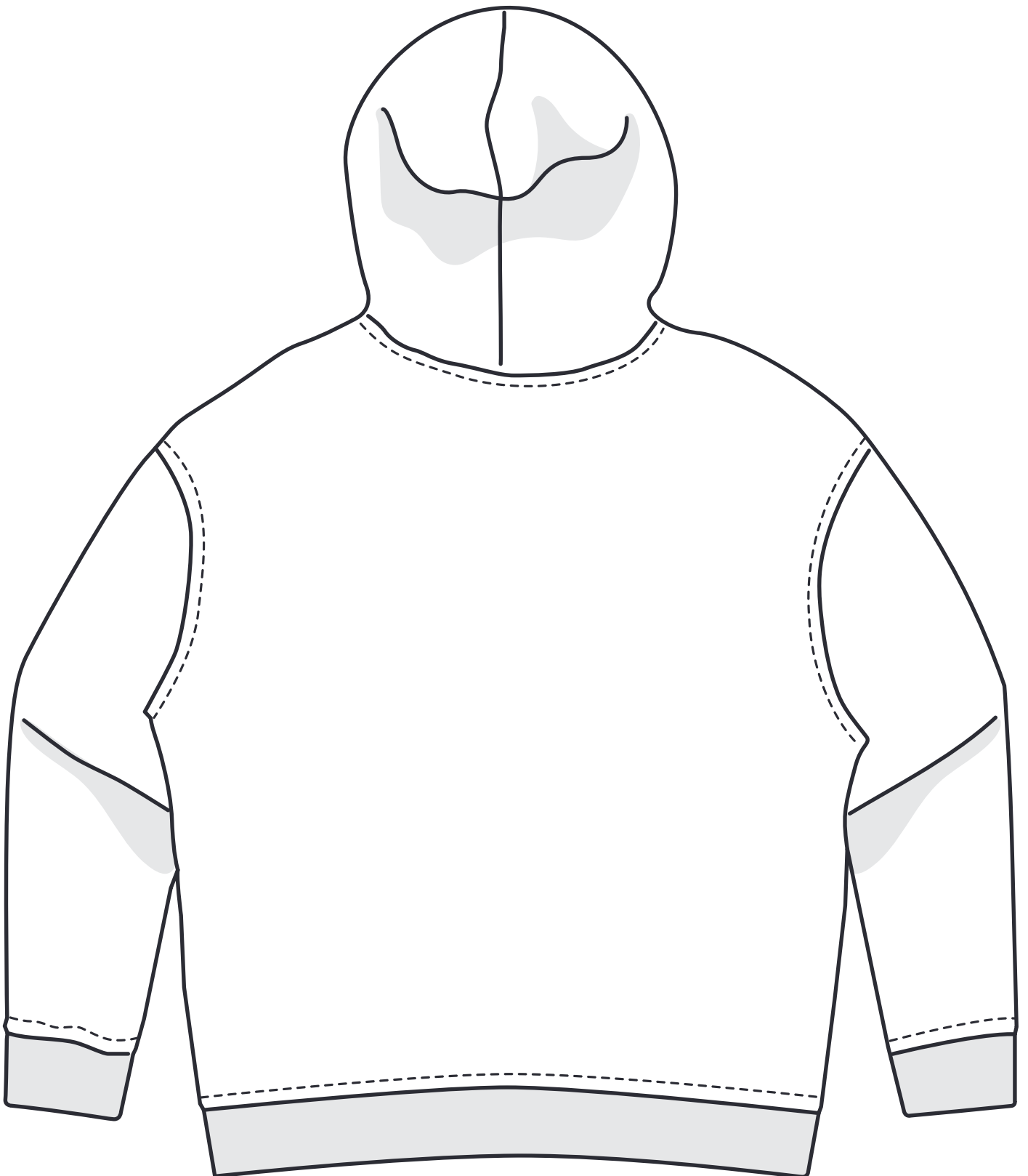
- Increase understanding, engagement and acceptance of autism by the wider community
- Influence positive systemic change through Governments and the media to improve attitudes and behaviours towards Autistic people and their families
- Build the skills of private, public and community organisations to create autism positive environments

We're making great progress and change in the community, but we need your support to create an autism inclusive Australia.

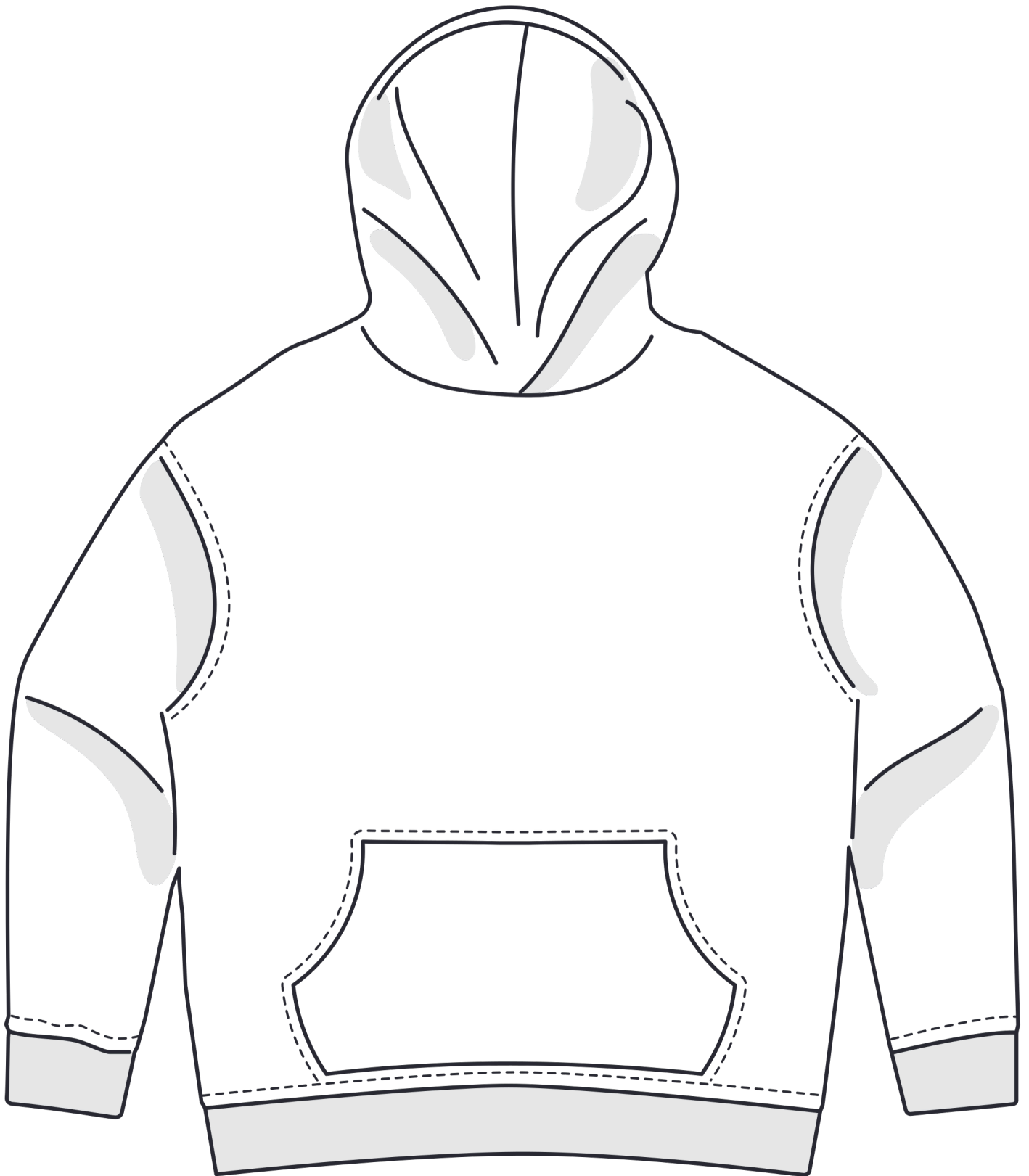
Hosting a Hoodie Up event is a fantastic way to start a conversation about autism in your school or among your family and friends. This event will also show your understanding of Autistic people and raise vital funds to help build a more autism-friendly world.

Find out more about Amaze's work and how you can get involved at [amaze.org.au](https://amaze.org.au).

Funds raised through Hoodie Up will help deliver vital support to Autistic people and their families so they can live their best lives. Your support will help us 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 create a more autism inclusive Australia.

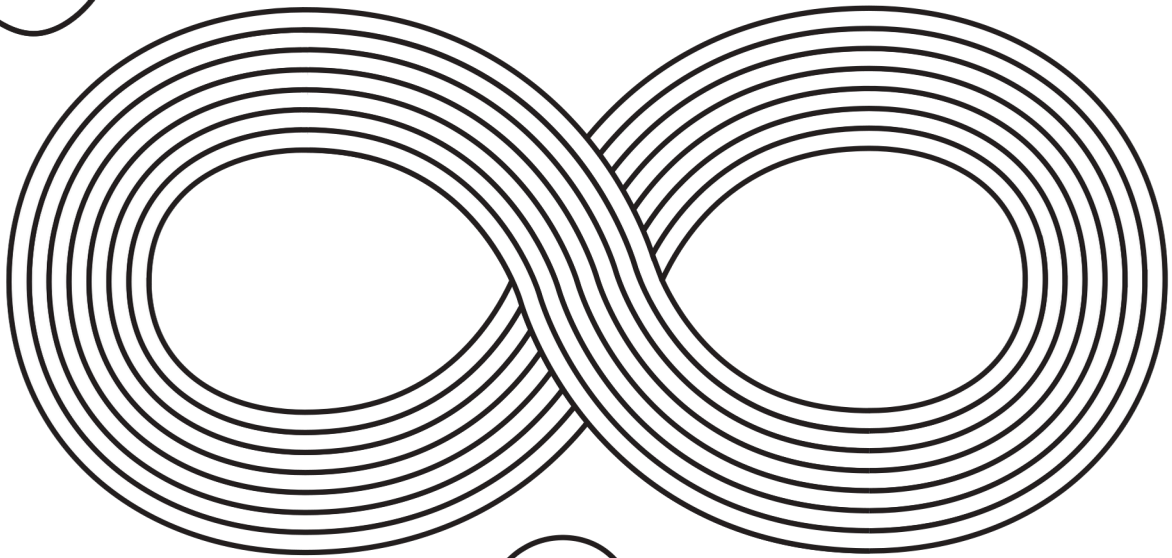








UNIQUELY



ME

# #hoodieup



**1. Register**



**2. Plan**



**3. #HoodieUp**

## **Amaze Inc.**






678 Victoria Street  
Richmond VIC 3121

PO Box 374  
Carlton South VIC 3053

Phone: 03 9657 1600  
Email: [info@amaze.org.au](mailto:info@amaze.org.au)  
Web: [amaze.org.au](http://amaze.org.au)

## **Autism Connect**

National autism support line  
Phone: 1300 308 699

 /AmazeAutism  
 @AmazeAutism  
 /AmazeAutismAU  
 @AmazeAutismAU  
 @AmazeAutismAU



**Creating an autism  
inclusive Australia.**