Partner with us to strengthen autism inclusion, access and participation.

Priorities for the Next Victorian Government

We are Victoria's leading autism organisations - **Amaze, Autism Valued, Different Journeys, I CAN Network and Yellow Ladybugs** - united in our vision for a more autism-inclusive Victoria and the actions needed to achieve it.

The next Victorian Government will play a critical role in shaping the policies, services and systems that affect the lives of Autistic people and their families and carers. Victoria has been a national leader in autism policy through initiatives such as the Victorian Autism Plan and the Autism Education Strategy. As Victoria approaches the 2026 election, there is an opportunity to build on this progress and take the next steps needed to create a more inclusive, accessible and supportive Victoria, where all Autistic people can thrive.

This comes at a pivotal time. Major policy reforms that will impact Autistic people are being introduced, including Thriving Kids and broader Foundational Supports. For many Autistic people and their families, this is a period of significant change and uncertainty as new support systems are designed, and workforce capacity is built. At the same time, funding and supports under the Disability Inclusion Program are being reduced, undermining progress in inclusive education. Many Autistic people continue to experience barriers across education, employment, health, housing, justice and community participation, with poorer outcomes than the wider community. Getting the next steps right will be critical to ensuring supports are connected, accessible and responsive to the needs of Autistic people, and that no one is left behind.

As a coalition of leading autism organisations, we stand ready to partner with the next Victorian Government to co-design practical, evidence-informed and lived experience-led solutions that strengthen outcomes for Autistic Victorians.

Our top five priorities for the next Victorian Government are outlined over the page. →

Together we can:

- Close the gap in education, employment, health and wellbeing outcomes for Autistic Victorians.
- Create services and supports that are connected, navigable and centred on people's needs.
- Ensure no Autistic person or family is left to navigate complex systems alone.
- Improve access to timely, coordinated and autism-accessible healthcare.
- Get Thriving Kids right so children and families receive the right support at the right time and no child falls through the gaps.
- Build inclusive schools, workplaces and communities across Victoria.
- Position Victoria as the ongoing national leader in autism inclusion and innovation.

Strengthening Outcomes for Autistic Victorians:
Five Priorities for the Next Victorian Government

1 A new Victorian Autism Plan, embedded in a Victorian Autism Act

- **Build on the progress of Victoria's current Autism Plan** through a renewed, dedicated plan that addresses the unique barriers Autistic people face across all areas of life.
- **Deliver funded actions** that strengthen service integration, improve navigation and access, and ensure Autistic people and their families receive the right support at the right time.
- **Embed the next Victorian Autism Plan in legislation** through a Victorian Autism Act that secures long-term commitment and drives coordinated action across government.

2 A renewed Autism Education Strategy, reversal of recent changes to the Disability Inclusion Program and a dedicated School Can't Action Plan

- **Build on the progress of the Disability Inclusion reforms** through a renewed, school-facing Autism Education Strategy with robust accountability measures and a strong focus on improving educational experiences and outcomes for all Autistic learners.
- **Drive inclusion and support Autistic students,** including by reversing recent changes to the Disability Inclusion Program that will undermine progress in inclusive education.
- **Deliver a dedicated School Can't Action Plan** that recognises school can't, drives earlier intervention, and coordinates system-wide responses to improve student wellbeing, engagement and participation in learning.

3 A cohesive Foundational Supports system, with immediate investment in an autism-capable workforce

- **Get Thriving Kids right** by ensuring Autistic children and families can access timely, trusted and neuro-affirming supports that meet their needs.
- **Invest in workforce readiness for Foundational Supports,** prioritising an autism-capable workforce, peer support and lived experience-led approaches to deliver Thriving Kids.
- **Build a cohesive Foundational Supports system and ensure no one falls through the gaps during roll out,** with clear pathways, navigation support and coordinated implementation.

4 A Victorian roadmap for the physical and mental health of Autistic Victorians

- **Develop a Victorian roadmap** that translates national priorities into local action and drives more accessible, coordinated and neuro-affirming healthcare.
- **Improve coordination across health, mental health and disability services** to reduce gaps in care and support.
- **Pilot autism-accessible one-stop healthcare clinics** in regional and rural Victoria to improve access to coordinated care for Autistic people with complex support needs.

5 A coordinated approach to harnessing Autistic talent, improving employment outcomes and driving workplace systems change for Autistic people

- **Improve employment outcomes for Autistic Victorians and help employers harness Autistic talent** through inclusive recruitment, retention and career progression.
- **Drive workplace systems change** that embeds universal design, reduces disclosure burden and makes workplace adjustments easier to access.
- **Build employer capability** to create inclusive workplaces and better harness the strengths and talents of Autistic Victorians.

For a comprehensive overview of our recommendations and the actions needed to deliver them, please see our full election platform: Partner with us to strengthen autism inclusion, access and participation: Priorities for the Next Victorian Government.



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