



ICAN
NETWORK



AUTISTIC-LED **SERVICES**
FOR **YOUNG PEOPLE**
& **ORGANISATIONS**

icannetwork.online

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**“GROWING UP,
I BENEFITED FROM A
NETWORK OF PARENTS,
TEACHERS AND FRIENDS
WHO EMBRACED MY
AUTISTIC STRENGTHS
AND ANXIETIES AND
ENCOURAGED ME TO SAY
‘I CAN.’” - CHRIS VARNEY**



INTRODUCTION

Now in our ninth year, I CAN Network's knowledge of Autistic young people, schools and mentoring practice has enabled us to achieve widespread influence across the landscape of inclusive education and disability employment.

Our 99 staff, 74 of whom identify as being Autistic deliver group mentoring programs across primary schools, high schools and online. We also provide professional development workshops, consultancy and resources for parents, workplaces and educators. We are proudly Australia's largest Autistic-led organisation.

All of our programs and resources have been designed by Autistic students and adults in collaboration with families, teachers, principals and healthcare professionals. So far, we have mentored over 2000 young people, partnered with over 200 Australian schools and reached over 4 million people via social media.

I would like to thank all of the people who have made this possible so far and I look forward to the future and working with you. #ican_rethinkautism

Chris Varney

Founder and Chief Enabling Officer, I CAN Network



I CAN ONLINE

Our national online group mentoring program offers a safe, supportive space where Autistic/neurodivergent young people can connect and share their interests. Created in 2017, our online program continues to be a game changer growing 300% during 2020 alone. The program has provided meaningful support and connection during uncertain times.



WHEN - 6 x 1 hour sessions (Monday to Thursday)

Visit our website: www.icannetwork.online/online for the current dates and times.

HOW - Participants join a live video conference via 'Zoom'. Each member gains access to the video conference by clicking on the session link we provide once you complete our registration process.

PRICE - \$285 AUD (GST Free) for 6 x sessions

The program can be purchased through NDIS self-managed and plan managed plans. I CAN Ltd is not an NDIS registered provider and cannot be included in NDIA managed plans'.

NDIS REPORTS - Cost \$165 excl. GST





AN ENVIRONMENT OF UNDERSTANDING & **ACCEPTANCE**

WHO - 8 – 9 “mentees” join two I CAN mentors in a safe, engaging, supportive environment. Each team includes one Autistic mentor. All of our groups are offered on a mixed gender basis. All I CAN employees hold current ‘Working with Children Checks’ or Blue Cards. We offer the following age-appropriate groups:

- **I CAN GROUPS** 8-22 years old - These groups covers numerous topics including: Autistic identity, self-care, personal strengths and many more on a rotating basis.
- **I CAN IMAGINATION CLUB** 8-12 years old - This is suited to those in their primary school years. Participants do not need a diagnosis of any sort in order to join.
- **I CAN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS** 8-22 years old - These groups are designed to connect peers and mentors who share the same special interest.
- **I CAN LGBTIQA+** 13-22 years old - These groups offer a safe space to share experiences of Autistic & Queer identity and culture, gender, sexuality and pronouns to connect socially and build up each other's confidence and self-care.

HOW TO APPLY

To submit an application for yourself or your young person, click on the “**Express Interest Here**” button on our website icannetwork.online/online. For more detailed information you can also view our **KEY DETAILS pdf.** at the bottom of our Terms and Conditions. If you would to write to us please do so by using this email address: online@icannetwork.com.au



I CAN IMAGINATION CLUB®

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAM - Non-Autism specific program open to all students (regardless of whether they're Autistic or not). I CAN Imagination Club® is for students with big imaginations! Schools usually select a broad range of students who would benefit from the teamwork, communication, emotional literacy and leadership activities. Our program offers the following options:

INTER-SCHOOL

Inter-school programs are also available in which multiple schools come together from the same region to form a group. This option works well in regional areas.

PARENTS & TEACHERS

We complement the mentoring sessions for students with information workshops for parents and teachers.

ONLINE DELIVERY

If circumstances change eg: COVID-19, our face-to-face program can be transferred into an online setting.

FOR STUDENTS WITH BIG IMAGINATIONS



**“OUR STUDENTS
REALLY CONNECTED WITH
PROGRAM. THEY ALWAYS
LOOKED FORWARD TO THE
SESSIONS & ENJOYED SHARING
THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH THEIR
PEERS AND FAMILIES.”**

**- STEVE CROSSLEY
PRINCIPAL, PORTLAND BAY
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

WHEN

8-16 x 1 hour mentoring sessions held weekly (or fortnightly if required). Session times are set based on I CAN staff availability.

PRICE

The price for one group mentoring session is \$475 GST free.

WHO

Up to 16 students in each session. Participating students are selected by each school's disability coordinator who liaises with parents. The sessions are facilitated by two trained I CAN mentoring staff. All I CAN staff have valid Working With Children's Checks/ Blue Cards. All sessions must be supervised by a school staff member.

WHERE

Each school decides on an appropriate space e.g. classroom or library, or online. For inter-school programs, a venue is negotiated to suit all of the schools involved (this option works well in regional areas.) *See our website for further details, statistics and annual reports.

I CAN SCHOOL®



Since 2014, I CAN Network has partnered with over 200 with primary and secondary school leadership teams to develop inclusive school cultures. I CAN School® mentoring directly empowers Autistic students with optimism, belonging, self-acceptance, pride and confidence.

HIGH SCHOOL

Our high school program offers a safe space where young people develop self-acceptance, belonging, optimism and confidence. The two stages of student progression are as follows:

STAGE ONE - empowers Autistic students with the basic outcome of the I CAN program: a positive Autistic identity.

STAGE TWO - develops Autistic students who are wanting to progress in the program and achieve outcomes around leadership and self-advocacy. Students are given opportunities to run activities during their mentoring sessions.

**THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN
SUCH AN AMAZING
EXPERIENCE”**

**- COURTNEY, TEACHER,
PARKDALE HIGH SCHOOL**



SCHOOLS



WHEN

8-16 x 1 hour mentoring sessions, weekly (or fortnightly if required). Participants are chosen by each school's disability coordinator. The price for one group mentoring session is \$475 GST free.

WHO

Sessions are facilitated by two I CAN mentors, at least one of whom is Autistic. I CAN mentors are trained by professionals and all have valid Working With Children's Checks or Blue Cards. Up to 16 students can participate and each session must be supervised by x 1 school staff member. We also provide information sessions for parents and training for teachers.

**“THE IMPACT HAS BEEN REALLY POSITIVE,
HE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT.
IT HELPED BUILD HIS SELF IMAGE &
CONFIDENCE.” - PARENT, KEW HIGH SCHOOL**

WHERE

Each school decides on an appropriate space e.g. classroom or library, or online (see schools online). For inter school programs, a venue is negotiated to suit all of the schools involved. (this option works well for regional areas.) *Would like to become an I CAN School? See our website for further details, statistics and annual reports.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The I CAN Network provides talks and professional development to businesses, schools, conferences, governments and community groups. All of our speakers are on, or connected to, the Autism Spectrum. Their stories of resilience and leadership have inspired people across Australia.

Our speakers provide motivational talks through their personal I CAN stories, and discuss Autism through a variety of topics including governance, mental health, relationships and research.

We also run professional development workshops with schools, businesses, and organisations to share our knowledge of strategies to support Autistic students and employees.

CONSULTING

We also deliver consultancy projects which usually take the form of co-designing professional training on Autism, workplace support strategies or developing platforms for promoting Autistic voice. To enquire about our workplace mentoring and consultancy, write to us: chris@icannetwork.com.au

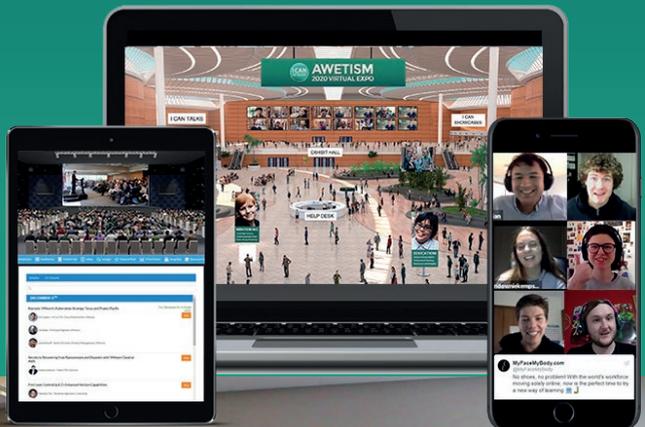


AWETISM EXPO

Our annual AWETISM Expo is where students put the 'AWE' into Awetism! Each year our students and schools are invited to present a short talk about their unique-selves. We also provide an exhibit space for industry professionals to connect directly with graduates and attendees.

In 2020 and 2021, we went virtual hosting almost 6000 participants, showcasing over 100 I CAN Talks - (presentations by students and I CAN Schools) We presented panel discussions, webinars featuring special guests, sponsors and I CAN Staff including live Q&A's. We partnered with over 20 organisations to provide live exhibit booths where participants could communicate directly with specialists, access take-home resources and inquire about potential employment opportunities.

We showcased our I CAN regions to further build our individual communities, conducted games with prizes and provided all-day live discussions. If you would like or take part in this years expo or visit our website for more details: icannetwork.online





YouTube - www.youtube.com/user/TheICanNetwork

Facebook - www.facebook.com/theicannetwork

Instagram - www.instagram.com/ican_rethinkautism

LinkedIn - www.linkedin.com/company/i-can-network

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