



ASPERGER SERVICES AUSTRALIA

DECEMBER, 2021



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Donor Spotlight

Asperger Services Australia (ASA) are beyond grateful for the generous donation made by the Northern Beaches Volleyball Association (NBVA). The NBVA Charity Mixed Beach Volleyball event ran from the 8-9 May 2021 and raised \$3,029 funds to support the work being done by ASA.

Northern Beaches Volleyball Association Inc. was established in 1989 as a non-profit organisation in Manly, New South Wales. The NBVA is more than a beach volleyball club, it is a beach volleyball community. Players from all over the world, from beginners to Olympic medallists, come each summer to join the locals, play at their level and be part of the crew. The NBVA currently have over 200 members as

well as visitors from all over the world. NBVA ran this fundraising event to raise funds for Asperger Services Australia.



Asperger Services Australia was the charity chosen by the NBVA community to raise funds for because one of the beach volleyball players (Kane Booker) disclosed that he lives with Asperger's. Recently Kane has spoken publicly about his personal journey of having Asperger's and has posted his story, which many of his volleyball community were not aware of. Once his volleyball community saw his social media posts, the NBVA knew they wanted to show support for Kane and decided to select Asperger's Services Australia as a charity to raise money for.

Asperger's Services Australia's vision is for autistic people to live with confidence and self-belief. Our mission is to empower autistic people to reach their potential through programs and services based on inclusiveness, self-development, and self-advocacy. Asperger's Syndrome is an autism spectrum condition. We warmly welcome the support of organisations that share similar values and are humbled by the donation made by NBVA.



Kane Booker (Pictured) [opening up to the local beach volleyball community in Manly on Facebook. Following an outpouring of support from the community he shared another video as well.](#)

Thank You from the General Manager

Tom Moss

"We are very grateful to be the recipients of such a generous donation & gesture from NBVA. As an organisation that's mission is to support & empower autistic people & their families, it is so pleasing to see a community such as NBVA rallying around and supporting Kane as they have. It's an absolute credit to the club & the community spirit they have engendered in their members. Similarly we'd like to acknowledge the courage shown by Kane in sharing in the way he has. This is not an easy thing to do however it can be incredibly powerful and inspiring to other autistic people. Thank you Kane & thank you to all the members of the NBVA for their generosity and their support to Kane."

"We have earmarked these funds to be used towards training of volunteer mentors for our Peer Mentoring program which will be launching in early 2022. We believe training autistic people to mentor autistic people will be a great way to acknowledge Kane & the NBVA."



How Can Employers Enable Inclusion of Autistic People in Their Workforce and Leverage the Value of a Neurodiverse Workforce?

Cameron Thayer

Asperger Services Australia Board Director

We live in an era where the words *inclusion* and *diversity* in a workplace context are becoming common place. Whilst the terms may be commonly referred, what is not near as common is the employment of autistic people across all industries and employer types throughout Australia. We continue to see a huge disparity that reflects in high unemployment rates of autistic people and the socio-economic implications and disadvantage this brings. This is a huge loss for autistic people and employers who simply do not harness the richness in skills and capability these people bring to the workplace - a highly untapped commodity that some experts and leading global commercial enterprises refer to as a 'significant source of social and business benefits'. [Read more](#)

A Message From The General Manager

Tom Moss

General Manager

Asperger Services Australia

It is hard to believe the Christmas season is already upon us. Hopefully you're all preparing for a well-deserved rest with family and friends. On an organisational level, the holiday season is usually the time when we reflect on the year gone by and get ready to start implementing fresh initiatives for the year ahead.

At ASA, 2021 was nothing short of another busy year. Our volunteers and staff worked hard to deliver on our mission for the autistic community we support. We're proud of the fact that we commenced a third Youth and Parents Peer Support group at The Gap and also a Young Adults Peer Support group at Virginia, with both of these being very well received and attended. We ran three Introductory Life Skills programs aimed at providing young autistic adults with the skills and strategies for independent living. We also established an Information, Support and Referral team – this incredible team of volunteers with lived experience have assisted over 250 autistic people and their families with practical support, information and/or referrals.

For the past 27 years ASA has been empowering autistic people to reach their potential through programs based on inclusiveness, self-development and self-advocacy. We're committed to continuing the development of impactful programs with and for autistic people and we have some really exciting plans for 2022! We'll be launching our new Advanced Life Skills program which will include modules on Living Independently, Finding Career Success, Experiencing Life Whilst Staying Safe, Building Healthy and Appropriate Relationships and Self Awareness. We'll also be launching a Peer Mentoring program which we're really excited about – in the near future we'll be looking for expressions of interest from autistic people who would like to be either mentors or mentees! And there a number of other ideas presently in the pipeline which I'll tell you about as we progress them.

I'm really enthused about the future of ASA and the positive impact we can have as an organisation enabling true social change for autistic people. I invite you to join us on this journey, whether that's as a participant, a member, a volunteer, a donor or a sponsor – however you choose to be involved, your support and involvement will be valued and appreciated.

On behalf of our Board and myself, I'd like to thank each of our wonderful volunteers, our hardworking staff and our valued members, families and participants, for your unwavering support of our programs, and in turn Asperger Services Australia. We hope that your 2022 will be one filled with opportunities and prosperity.

Sincerely,
Tom Moss

Asperger Services Australia wishes you and your family a safe and enjoyable time with loved ones this Christmas period



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CONTACT

VOLUNTEER

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