> They were friendly, patient and empathetic. They were really just nice to deal with on the phone and it felt like the easiest thing ever.
>
> – **Catherine**
> autistic mother of two autistic boys

> The resources and advisors, I personally think could save lives. They altered my mental health. I didn't know who I was, but now I do. I really appreciate the fantastic advisors.
>
> – **Orion**
> autistic adult and broadcaster

What is autism?

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disability with traits appearing early in life.

Autistic people can present with:

- challenges with communication and interacting with others
- repetitive behaviours
- a strong interest in one topic or subject
- heightened sensory perceptions, including being over or under-sensitive to sight, sound, touch, smell and taste
- a preference for routines and dislike of change

It's estimated that 1 in every 100 Australians is autistic. 85% of the community has a personal connection to an autistic person.

Who is Amaze?

Amaze has supported autistic people and their families in Victoria for over 50 years.

Amaze is shaping a better future for autistic people through advocacy, campaigning and supporting autistic people and their families.

If you want to know more or need support:

call Amaze on 1300 308 699 (8am–7pm, Monday–Friday)
or
visit amaze.org.au/autismconnect

amaze autism connect
Information. Advice. Referral.

Delivered by MARYMEAD AUTISM CENTRE in ACT

Autism Connect is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

National autism helpline

Autism Connect

Call 1300 308 699

Free and independent autism information you can trust.

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phone • email • webchat

Free, expert autism information and advice

Autism Connect supports autistic people, their families and carers, health professionals, researchers, teachers, employers and the broader community.

Autism Connect advisors offer expert advice in:

- exploring autism and autistic identity
- behaviour and communication strategies
- assessment and diagnosis support
- school and education
- the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- referrals to non-medical services
- peer support connections
- finding autism-inclusive events
- making environments accessible

Online directory search

Provides 24/7 access to autism information, resources and local services in Australia.

Visit **amaze.org.au/autismconnect** to find out more.

Get in touch

Autism Connect advisors are available from 8am to 7pm, Monday to Friday.

Call
1300 308 699

Email
info@autismconnect.org.au

Webchat
amaze.org.au/autismconnect

If you need an interpreter, contact the TIS National Contact Centre on 131 450 and ask to speak to Autism Connect on 1300 308 699.

Common questions

Q I'm not sure if I am – or my family member is – autistic. Can I still contact you?

A Yes, we will talk to you about your experience and give general advice on assessment, diagnosis and further supports.

Q I need help with multiple issues. Is that okay?

A People who contact Autism Connect usually have 3–4 issues to discuss. We provide information and advice on a wide range of subjects, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Q I need a referral to a speech pathologist. Can you give me one?

A We can guide you to identify appropriate health professionals. However, Autism Connect advisors can't provide medical referrals, such as for speech pathologists or occupational therapists.

Q I need support figuring out the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Can Amaze help me?

A The NDIS can sometimes be complex and challenging to understand. We provide practical advice and information to help.