

Participant Expression of Interest



Autism-In-Justice

A strengths-based, trauma-informed, neuro-affirming training program for youth justice

Delivered by: Reframing Autism

Funded by: Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (DHDA) under the National Autism Strategy

Reframing Autism is helping create training for youth justice staff across Australia, and we want it to reflect the real experiences of Autistic young people.

We're looking for: Autistic young people (including self-identified Autistic people) who have current or past experience with the youth justice system.

Taking part is completely your choice.

- You'll be paid for your time and input.
- You may ask any questions about your involvement at any time.
- Participation is voluntary. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you choose to take part but later change your mind, you can stop at any time. You do not need to give a reason for your decision.
- What you tell us won't be shared with people making decisions about your case or situation.

If you're interested in taking part, we'll give you some more information about the project for you to decide if it's still right for you. We'll also ask for your consent before you participate. You can give consent using an online form or paper form. You can also meet with a member of our team to fill it out with you. You'll get a copy of this to keep.



Who Can Take Part

We are looking for autistic people aged 14 to 25 who have current or previous experience with the youth justice system.

- You can have a **formal autism diagnosis or self-identify as autistic**.
- **If you are aged 14 to 17**, parent or guardian consent is required.
- You must **not currently** be in youth detention or under community supervision.

Youth justice experience may include, but is not limited to:

- The court and legal system, including family group conferencing
- Youth detention centres and holding facilities
- Community supervision, parole and bail
- Offending rehabilitation and therapy services

How can I be involved?

Participation is entirely voluntary, and you can choose the method that works best for you:

- **Focus Groups:** Small discussions (3–6 people) held online, lasting 2 hours.
- **Individual Interview or Yarn:** One-on-one sessions online (Zoom/Teams) or via phone, lasting 45 to 60 minutes.
- **Surveys:** Completed online with or without support.
- **Flexible Submissions:** Create and share anything that you feel best represents your experience at your own pace.

What we will discuss

We only want to learn about your experience of the youth justice system and how it could work better for Autistic young people. **We won't ask about your record or case.**

Learning from your experiences can help us to improve the system.

Topics may include:

- The impact on you when youth justice staff do not understand Autism.
- What has helped you feel supported when interacting with youth justice systems, and what has not supported you.

- If your experience was different between locations such as detention, community supervision and courts (if relevant to you).
- What you would like for youth justice staff to know or learn more about Autism.
- Your feedback on what youth justice staff currently believe is important to know about Autism after we spoke to them.

If there are any changes, or if we have extra questions or documents for you to review, we will let you know in advance.

Your Rights and Accommodations

- **Voluntary Participation:** You can choose to join, not join, or withdraw at any time without giving a reason. Your decision will not affect your relationship with Reframing Autism or the government.
- **Payment for your time:** We value your knowledge and experiences. To thank you for your time and contribution, you will receive a \$100 Prezzy voucher.
- **Accommodations:** We can make adjustments to support your sensory needs, communication preferences, and other support needs you may have. This includes support for speaking, writing, and using Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).
- **Support person:** You are welcome to have a trusted support person involved. You can tell us how you would like them to support you. This might include helping with communication, providing emotional support, attending activities with you, or something else that helps you feel comfortable.

How do I get involved?

To express your interest please fill out an expression of interest form.

You can do this form in 3 ways:

1. Fill out the **online form** using [this link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6W5TV7), the QR code or typing this into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z6W5TV7>
2. Fill out the **form below in this document** and send to: Autism.In-Justice@reframingautism.org.au
3. **Ask us some questions first** (by email or a chat) or **get some help to sign up** by emailing: Autism.In-Justice@reframingautism.org.au



Expression of interest: Autism In-Justice

Autistic Young People

Personal Details:

Full Name: _____

Preferred name (if different): _____

Age range: ☐ 14 – 17 ☐ 18 – 25

Location: _____

State: _____

☐ Metro/regional ☐ Rural ☐ Remote

Contact Details: (you can choose 1 or both)

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Preferred way(s) we contact you:

☐ Phone ☐ SMS ☐ Email

Gender Identity:

☐ Male/Boy ☐ Female/Girl ☐ Non-Binary

☐ Other _____

Neurodivergent Identity (please tick any that apply):

☐ Self-Diagnosed Autistic ☐ Formally diagnosed Autistic

☐ Co-occurring neurodivergence (i.e. ADHD)

Do you identify with any of the following (tick all that apply)?

☐ Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ☐ Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

☐ LGBTQIA+ ☐ Complex/High support needs ☐ Non-speaker



How long since your last interaction with youth justice? (tick the ONE that applies)

Please note: We cannot talk to young people who are currently in youth detention or under Youth Justice supervision in the community.

- ☐ In the last 6 months ☐ In the last year (12 months) ☐ 1-2 years ago
☐ 2-4 years ago ☐ 5+ years

What systems have you experienced (tick any that apply)?

- ☐ Courts system ☐ Detention ☐ Community supervision
☐ Other _____

How would you prefer to engage?

- ☐ Group participation ☐ Individual (1:1) interview ☐ Survey
☐ Other _____

Would you like to bring a support person?

Please provide their details

Name: _____

Email: _____

Relationship to you: _____

How would you like us to work with your support person?

- ☐ Include my support person in all emails and communications.
☐ Include my support person only in information and invitations for this activity. They will attend with me.
☐ I will organise my own support.
☐ I would like to talk with Reframing Autism about having a support person.
☐ Other _____

Emergency contact

We won't contact them unless we are seriously worried about your safety or wellbeing. Anything you share with us won't be shared unless its directly related to a safety concern.

Please provide their details

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Relationship to you: _____