

Information sheet about expression of interest for Autistic contributors

INFORMATION

About the project

Reframing Autism, the League of Autistic Psychologists and Affirming Colleagues (LOAPAC), and the University of Melbourne Neurodiversity Project, are working together on a project funded through the **National Autism Strategy (NAS) Improving the Autism Assessment and Diagnosis Process Grant**.

We are developing a set of accessible, culturally responsive and strengths-based resources to support Autistic people, families and carers through the autism assessment and diagnosis journey.

Core topics include:

- What is autism?
- Why people seek (or do not seek) an autism diagnosis;
- Identification: Understanding the first steps;
- Diagnostic pathways;
- Preparing for assessment;
- Next steps: With a diagnosis;
- Next steps: Without a diagnosis;
- Emotional adjustment post-diagnosis; and
- Navigating supports.

We will also create **supporting resources covering topics related to the diagnostic journey**, such as:

- Building and supporting identity and self-understanding;
- Navigating education;
- Navigating employment; and
- Connecting with peer communities.

We know that one resource cannot reflect every Autistic person's experience. We want to create resources for Autistic adults, children, and young people, as well as families and carers, that provide

clear, reliable information while recognising and reflecting the different experiences of Autistic people.

Note: We have alternative streams of this project working on specific resources for First Nations communities, Autistic children and young people, as well as adaptations and language translations for culturally and linguistically diverse/culturally and racially marginalised communities (CALD/CARM). This expression of interest is not focussed on those specific resources, but we welcome people who identify as First Nations or CALD/CARM to apply for the EOI so that these resources reflect intersectional perspectives.

Who are we looking for and what will they be doing?

We believe that Autistic people should be meaningfully involved in creating resources that reflect our community's real experiences, needs, strengths, and priorities.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for **two types of roles:**

1. **Autistic Content Developers:** People who will help us to develop, write, and/or adapt the content of the resources;
2. **Autistic Lived Experience Contributors:** People with lived experience of the autism diagnostic process who are willing to share their stories on video. These stories will be included in the resources and made public so that people can hear directly from others whose experiences may be similar to their own, while reflecting the diversity of experiences across the diagnostic journey.

We particularly welcome people with different experiences and perspectives, including Autistic people who:

- have been diagnosed during different life stages (e.g., child, teen, adult, older adult);
- have had different diagnostic journeys (e.g., easy, hard, short, long, positive, negative and everything in between);
- have experienced barriers to accessing assessment or diagnosis;
- have different communication styles or support needs (e.g., non-speakers);
- are from regional, rural, and remote communities;
- are from culturally and linguistically diverse/ culturally and racially marginalised communities;
- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
- are LGBTQIA+;

- have experience navigating diagnosis as a parent, partner, or family member and are Autistic themselves;

We are particularly interested in hearing from intersectional perspectives that are often underrepresented in autism research and service design.

You do not need professional writing or editing skills to contribute.

We welcome contributions from people with a range of communication styles, skills, and experiences!

Regardless of your writing/editing skills - an editor from our team will work on all resources to ensure a consistent look, feel, and quality across the suite of resources.

You do not need to share personal information about your diagnostic journey that you are uncomfortable discussing or publishing.

Autistic people will help shape the resources and make decisions throughout the process, rather than only being asked to give feedback and never see how it's used.

Reframing Autism will pay close attention to decision making power, particularly around how personal stories are included.

How will content developers and contributors be chosen?

We have a limited number of paid opportunities, so we may not be able to involve everyone who applies.

If we receive more applications than places available, we will aim to create a group with a wide range of experiences, perspectives, identities and skills.

We WILL choose developers and contributors based on:	We WON'T choose developers and contributors based on:
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• Representation from the National Autism Strategy's priority cohorts (CALD/CARM, women, girls, and gender diverse, LGBTQIA+, older people, children and young people, and people with high support needs (requiring 24/7 care); • Representation across locations and life experiences; • The needs of specific resource activities (for example, guiding content development, writing/adapting content, sharing lived experience experiences); • A mix of communication styles, perspectives, and areas of interest; • Availability and capacity to participate in the development of resources.	• Whether you have contributed to research projects or other Reframing Autism projects before; • How long you have been diagnosed; • The size of your professional network, social media presence, or public profile; • Whether your views are the same as those of the project team or other contributors;
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How will we work together?

We want to make it easy for people to take part in the co-design process.

You can contribute in ways that work best for you.

Depending on the activity, this might include:

- written feedback;
- activities you can complete in your own time;
- one-on-one conversations; or
- small-group discussions.

You will receive **information and materials in advance**, with clear information about what will happen and what is expected.

You do not have to take part in the same way as everyone else.

For example, you can:

- take part in a meeting without speaking;
- keep your camera off in a meeting;
- use the chat in a meeting;
- share your ideas in writing or visual media;

- contribute in your own time, rather than joining a meeting live; or
- have a support person or regulation partner with you to support you to participate in a way that works for you.

Each resource will be developed by several people working together, including other contributors and the editor. If you would like to, you can also contribute to more than one resource.

Throughout the project, **you will work with neurodivergent member(s) of the Reframing Autism team**, who will be your point of contact and can help you understand what to expect and how you can take part.

Accessibility and support

We want to make taking part as easy and accessible as possible. You can share your expertise, experiences, and ideas in ways that work best for you.

Please tell us about any **access, communication, sensory, cultural, or support needs** you would like us to consider. We will work with you to make reasonable adjustments, wherever possible.

This might include:

- extra time to process and respond;
- getting materials before a meeting;
- regular breaks;
- shorter sessions;
- clear agendas, instructions or reminders; and
- help with editing, formatting or preparing your work for publication.

You do not need to explain or prove why you need support. We also recognise that needing support does not mean you are less capable. What you need may change from day to day, depending on things like fatigue, sensory demands and your environment.

How much time will my participation involve?

We will be:

- Drafting resources **between September and December 2026**
- Recording lived experiences between **September 2026 and February 2027**

Participation will vary depending on how you choose to contribute and your availability.

The project team will provide clear information about the expected commitment for each activity so that you can decide what feels manageable for you.

As part of the expression of interest process, we will also ask how many hours you want to contribute each month.

If you are selected as an Autistic Content Developer:

We expect you to contribute **between 10 and 20 hours** for each resource you work on.

The amount of time you contribute may vary depending on your expertise, the needs of the resource, and your capacity.

Contribution can look like:

- Writing/creating content
- Adapting content you have already created
- Adapting content you/we have permission to use
- Shaping content alongside another contributor (or the editor) who puts your ideas into writing

If you are selected as an Autistic Lived Experience Contributor:

We expect you will contribute **3 hours**, including preparing what you want to share, filming, and reviewing your footage.

Taking part is completely **your choice**.

- You do not have to contribute anything 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 decisions about your own contributions.

Payment

We recognise that **lived experience is a form of expertise**. We also recognise that taking part in co-design takes time, energy and emotional effort. Therefore, this is a paid opportunity.

The rate is **\$50 per hour**.

This rate includes time spent on preparation, content development, and reviewing.

Hours will be pre-agreed (based on the resource and your role in its development) before work commences.

We understand that needs can change. **If additional time is required**, any extra paid hours must be agreed to in advance by both you and Reframing Autism.

Credit

You can choose to be directly credited as a Content Developer or Lived-Experience Contributor.

You will have the choice to use:

- Your full name
- Your first name
- A pseudonym (for example, an author name different from your usual name)
- An identity description of your choice (for example, "22-year-old Autistic transgender woman" or "Autistic person from remote town in Northern Territory")

Where credits appear will depend on the type of resource.

Credits may appear:

- In the end credits or description of a video or podcast
- On the front or back page of a written guide
- On the resource portal where the resource is available*

*For example, this may be more appropriate for a children's activity sheet or infographic, where additional text could affect the design or usability of the resource.

We will always try to balance meaningful recognition with the purpose and design of the resource.

What if I want to be anonymous?

You can choose to remain anonymous.

In our evaluation, each resource will include an **Autistic Contribution Rating** that summarises how Autistic people contributed to its development.

This helps us be transparent about the role Autistic people played in developing resources our Autistic community, without requiring contributors to disclose their identity to be acknowledged.

As part of these ratings, we will look at:

- how many Autistic people were involved;
- which stages of development they helped shape; and
- the diversity of contributors (if they choose to share this information)

If you prefer to remain anonymous, any personal information collected during the creative process will be kept confidential. We can also help remove identifying details from your contribution.

How do I get involved?

If you are interested in helping us create resources that are **useful, respectful, accessible and genuinely informed by Autistic people**, we would love to hear from you by:

Sunday the 13th of September by 8pm AEST.



You can complete an expression of interest form in one of three ways:

1. Fill out the **online form** using the QR code, this link, or by typing this into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M6Z8R7C> **OR**
2. Fill out the **form below in this document** and send to: engagement@reframingautism.org.au **OR**
3. Complete a **Verbal or AAC-based Expression of Interest** by request via engagement@reframingautism.org.au

If you have any questions or want some help signing up, please email engagement@reframingautism.org.au

What will happen if I express my interest?

We will review EOIs and select a group of contributors who collectively bring a range of perspectives and experiences.

We may contact you for a short conversation before confirming involvement.

This is not an interview or test. It is an opportunity for us to learn a little more about you, explain the project and make sure the opportunity is a good fit.

We will aim to create a group that reflects **diversity of experience**, rather than selecting people based on how closely their experiences match one particular model of autism.