

6 April 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

Get Awesome for Autism at Family Fun Day

Autism Awareness Month is all about promoting inclusiveness through awareness, and this year AEIOU Foundation is inviting everyone to the party with a Family Fun Day in South Brisbane on Sunday 29 April.

The free *Let's Get Awesome for Autism* community event will be held at Kurilpa Point Park from 9 – 11.30am, with plenty of activities suitable for the whole family, including a tailored Ginger Sport program, jumping castle, face painting, craft and food trucks.

Special guests include Federal Assistant Minister for Disability Services Jane Prentice, Seven News sports journalist Pat Welsh and also former AEIOU parent Paulette Moser, who will use the event to launch her book, *Turning Turtle*, a firsthand account of the hardships and triumphs of parenting triplets, two with autism.

AEIOU CEO Alan Smith encouraged all families to come along on the day to stand in solidarity with the autism community, learn more about the importance of early intervention and meet new families, all in a fun, relaxed setting.

“With a diagnosis ratio of 1 in 100, it’s likely almost everyone in Brisbane knows of someone living with autism, making it crucial to show we are part of an informed society which values and supports each and every member,” he said.

“At AEIOU, we dedicate our lives to helping families through the first years after an autism diagnosis, knowing well the profound effects early intervention has on the child, their family and the wide network around them.

“We’re always looking at the big picture, and we know the impact we make now will give a young person with autism the best opportunities to connect with and feel included in the greater community.”

Bray Park author Paulette Moser, who will be selling and signing books on the day, is a proud mother with an extraordinary story to tell of her journey navigating a double autism diagnosis.

“To begin with I wanted to make a record of our journey for ourselves, but then realised that our insights and experiences might be useful for others too. The book helped us to put it all down and see just what we had dealt with, and are still dealing with,” she said.

Despite all the hardships experienced over the past seven years, her positivity triumphs and she has some pertinent words of wisdom for other parents and carers finding themselves on a similar path.

“Your child is a unique individual and autism is just one aspect of them - love and enjoy them,” she said. “Also as the parent, you need to look after yourself too as you are as important as your child. Be there for one another.”

Media are invited to attend this community event.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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ABOUT AEIOU Foundation:

AEIOU Foundation is a leading provider of early intervention for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our evidence-based therapy and education program is family focused and provides every child with the best opportunity to gain vital independence and achieve their full potential. Operating from nine locations, AEIOU supports children aged 2 to 6 years.

For more information about AEIOU Foundation visit www.aeiou.org.au.

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