

1000 HOURS

The minimum for every child with autism

NEWSLETTER

The entire autism community was touched by Therese Raine's personal story of her family's struggles with the challenges of her brother's autism.

It is a huge comfort to other families whose lives have been turned upside down and who acutely feel the sense of isolation, that there is understanding and empathy for their predicament at the highest level.

We applaud Therese Raine for her revelations and comments, which contributed to such a successful day in Brisbane.



press clip

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PM's wife reveals pain, struggle behind her family's ...

Autism ordeals

David Earley

Therese Raine yesterday gave a heartfelt account of her family's struggles with autism, including the "horror" she says her parents endured with her autistic brother.

The Prime Minister's wife and successful businesswoman, who was the guest speaker at a function for the Autism Early Intervention Outreach Unit in Brisbane, recalled how her 16-year-old brother would continually escape from their mother and be gone for hours.

"Imagine having a child who is banging his head against the side of his cot, who can't sit still for a minute, who won't meet your eye, who doesn't speak and can't con-

nect with anyone," Ms Raine said.

"Who escapes over fences and disappears for hours at the age of two - everything for a parent!"

But Ms Raine said her brother had become a fully functioning member of society, largely thanks to their mother's early intervention.

As a physiotherapist, she was able to draw on her own experience and enlist the help of colleagues at a time when autism was not recognised.

"Today he's a functioning adult."

"He works with horses and is wonderful with all animals, he's married and has two children. He's

very lucky he actually got early intervention.

Earlier this week three studies identified a common variant of rogue genes that could be linked to autism, but APUH co-founder Dr James Morten said it could still be years before the studies translate to specific therapies.

"This is the first step, with medication or gene therapy many steps away," Dr Morten said.

"Over time it allows us to understand why we've ended up with an autistic child."

The disorder affects one in 160 Australian children, with more than 300 diagnosed each year.



Can smile now ... Therese Raine's brother is doing well. Picture: David Kjaerick

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1000 faces of autism

Over the last year we have been happily collecting your photos for our 1000 faces montage which will be debuted in Sydney on Saturday at the Autism Awareness Expo. It is not too late if you haven't emailed in your image you still can to office@autismawareness.com.au The 1000 hours team will be at the Expo to talk about the campaign.



Let us help...

Autism Expo

Saturday 9th May 2009

University of NSW

www.autismawareness.com.au

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**Autism
Awareness**

EARLY INTERVENTION SEMINAR PROGRAM RITCHIE THEATRE

10.00 am	Official Opening
10.15 am	The Advisors <i>Top tips from the NSW Autism Advisor Program</i> Allison Yee-Brogan
10.30 am	'Stim'ulus package <i>Understanding your funding entitlements</i> Dr James Best & Charmaine Fraser
11.15 am	Behaviour Saviours <i>Keys for successful parenting</i> Dr Bobby Newman
12.15 pm	LUNCH
1.00 pm	Dry pants, goodnight, sleep tight <i>Behaviour Panel: Toileting and sleeping</i> Dr Bobby Newman, Micaela Middleton, Karen Wong and Nicole Williams
2.00 pm	Square pegs, round holes <i>Where will my child go to school?</i> Seana Smith & Wendy Rafferty
2.20 pm	The Behaviour Detective <i>Case solved: stories from the frontline</i> Dr Bobby Newman
3.00 pm	A w.w.w.arena <i>Take a tour of the new Raising Children Network website</i> Fiona Wicks
3.15 pm	Tears, tantrums and toe walking <i>Behaviour Panel: Tantrums and stimming</i> Dr Bobby Newman, Micaela Middleton, Karen Wong and Cassie le Fevre
4.15 pm	Survivor: ASD <i>In conversation with Australia's published parents</i> Ian Rogerson with Seana Smith, Benison O'Reilly and Michael Whelan
4.45 pm	1000 hours Campaign <i>Because we are all in this together</i> Nicole Rogerson and Dr James Morton
5.00 pm	Closing The Hon. Paul Lynch - Minister for Ageing, Disability Services and Aboriginal Affairs



ADOLESCENT & ADULT SEMINAR PROGRAM TYREE ROOM

10.00 am	Official Opening
10.15 am	The Sex Talk <i>Tactics for teens</i> Dr Bobby Newman
11.00 am	NOVA Employment <i>Employment options for people with ASD</i> Martin Wren
11.30 am	Family Resource & Network Support (FRANS) <i>Making things happen for people with disabilities</i> Sandra Beavis & Rebecca Hines
12 noon	LUNCH
1.00 pm	Disability Services Australia <i>Services and support for adults with autism</i> Ewa Geba
1.30 pm	C.A.R.D <i>Programs for teenagers</i> Aarathy Kumar
2.00 pm	ASPECT <i>'Someone to turn to' carer support program</i> Pauline Hunter-Knight

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