

1000 hours

NATIONAL
PARENT
ADVOCACY
GROUP

MARCH
2010



1000 hours a year of quality early intervention is a must for all children with autism.

N E W S L E T T E R

1000 Hours - A Call to Action

Prior to the last election, the 1000 hours team relentlessly campaigned Canberra to secure quality early intervention for Australian children with autism. The introduction of the Helping Children with Autism (HCWA) funding package reflected the tireless efforts of the 1000hours team together with other hard working autism interest groups.

The funding package provided by the Federal Government, \$12 000 over 2 years, was the welcome first step providing parents of children with autism with the funding desperately needed to allow them better access to services. Since its inception, however, the HCWA package hasn't nearly met the need or encouraged sufficient growth within the sector. In this regard, the 1000 hours team are in full agreement with Parliamentary Spokesperson, Bill Shorten, that the HCWA funding is merely a start. It hasn't been enough and now **its time for more.**

The need for more to be done makes this election year a critical one for autism in Australia.

With this in mind, the 1000 hours team are preparing to return to Canberra - on your behalf. An impending election in 2010 provides us with the perfect opportunity to focus politicians' attention on the urgent need to fund Best Practice Early Intervention - a minimum of 20 hours per week. This amounts to 1000 hours of autism specific

intervention per year. We know currently, the funding is providing children with just a fraction of this.

1000 hours is calling on supporters to reignite the campaign we started back in 2008. It is imperative that we take a **combined** and **united** message to Canberra on behalf of families across Australia with children diagnosed with autism.

We currently have over 23 000 registered supporters, making us a voice to be listened to. To strengthen our campaign in Canberra, we would like to dramatically increase this to reflect the number of people affected by autism in Australia, creating a voice that cannot be ignored.

We ask you to forward the Call to Action email, being sent shortly to your inbox, to all of your family, friends and colleagues who may not yet be signed onto the 1000 hours database.

As the saying goes, there is strength in numbers, so let's make it work for us in 2010.


The minimum for every child with autism

World Autism Awareness Day 2nd April 2010

On December 18, 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 62/139, tabled by the State of Qatar, which declares April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD).

This UN resolution is one of only three official disease-specific United Nations Days and brings the world's attention to autism, a pervasive disorder that affects tens of millions. The World Autism Awareness Day resolution encourages everyone to take measures to raise awareness about autism throughout society and to encourage early diagnosis and early intervention. It further expresses deep concern at the prevalence and high rate of autism in children in all regions of the world and the consequent developmental challenges.

By bringing together autism organisations all around the world, we will give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help. Please join us in our effort to inspire compassion, inclusion and hope.



World Autism Awareness Day

HELP RAISE AWARENESS

Want to get involved in raising awareness?

- Organise a fundraising Easter egg hunt at your school, work or community group and donate the funds to your favourite Autism Charity
- Organise a fundraising lunch or high tea with your friends and donate the funds to your favourite Autism charity
- Raise awareness by telling other parents and friends about ASD and the early warning signs, and encourage them to join our 1000hrs campaign at www.1000hours.com.au
- Attend the Autism Victoria WAAD March to the State Library, Melbourne on Thursday 1 April 2010 (see below)
- Contact us for copies of "The Early Warning Sign" Booklet for you to distribute to your family, friends, school parents group, area health service or community group
- If you have a Facebook or MySpace page, change your profile picture to the WAAD logo and add a message to your wall telling your friends about WAAD and how to join the 1000 hours campaign

How is your HCWA funding working for you?

We want to hear from you. Email us at office@autismawareness.com.au and tell us how you are using your funding. How many hours per week is your child accessing autism specific services?

Join Autism Victoria and the 1000 hours team for a World Autism Awareness Day Event

Autism Victoria

To mark WAAD, Autism Victoria are organising a march from their office in Carlton to the State Library. Once at the library, they will be releasing 1000 multi-coloured balloons representing the individuality of those on the Autism Spectrum and to support the 1000 Hours Campaign.

You are invited to walk with Autism Victoria and show your support for WAAD and the 1000hrs campaign, a campaign to lobby government to fund a minimum of 1000 Hours of Early Intervention per annum for 2 years for every pre-school child with autism.

They will be releasing balloons at 1pm at the State Library, so if you are unable to participate in the march you can meet the group at the State Library, 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne at 12:30pm.

Date: Thursday 1 April

Time: 12pm meet at Autism Victoria, 24 Drummond St, Carlton

Venue: March to the State Library of Victoria

AUTISM
VICTORIA

Thank you from Autism Awareness - Altered State 2010

What a night! Our first ever concert *Altered State* was a huge success!

With a host of talented artists and comedians we enjoyed an entertaining night of comedy and music at the State Theatre, Sydney in support of Autism Awareness. The venue set a spectacularly majestic atmosphere for the evening while the audience were entertained by a star studded cast. We would like to thank each and every one of you for your support.

Through your generosity we have been able to generate enough funds to continue our campaign of raising awareness, understanding and tolerance of ASD in the community and providing information for families. We have some very exciting projects coming up in 2010.

Our heartfelt thanks also goes to the State Theatre management and staff for their generous support.

We hope this is the first of many concerts to come and we look forward to seeing you all again at our next event!



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Visit our website

www.1000hours.com.au