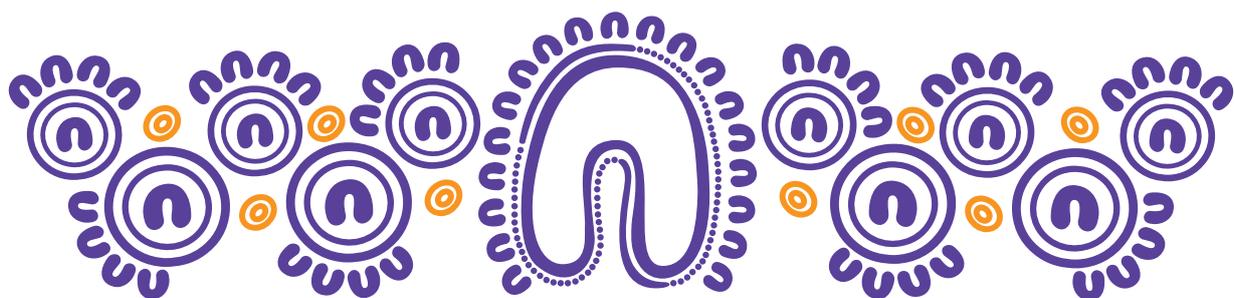




# Fact Sheet

## What is Autism?

Autistic people in our community have a variety of needs to support their way of learning and developing. Some autistic people need more support than others.



Some autistic people might have some things in common, but they are all different people with their own different needs.

Others are able to be in community on their own and other people need support in school, community and home.

Every autistic person has their own strengths, interests and needs.

Autistic people need support across different areas like:

- Social and communication skills - the way we understand, yarn and play with others.
- Sensory processing - we all have 8 senses but we process them in our own way.
- Executive functioning - the way we think, plan and learn.
- Self care and independence - tasks like toileting, dressing and keeping safe.

When we talk about autism, people use different words. Some might use 'person with autism', or 'on the autism spectrum' or 'on the spectrum'. At Positive Partnerships, we use autistic person or autistic people.



# How many people are autistic?

Anyone can be autistic. Research shows that in a mob of 100 people, 1 or 2 people are autistic.

People can be diagnosed early or later in life.



Both boys and girls can be autistic.

Boys are more likely to be diagnosed as autistic as we currently spot autism more in boys than girls.

Research shows that our environment and genetic factors play a role in people being autistic. It is no one's fault.

If you're worried about your child, have a yarn with your doctor or other allied health people.

Diagnosis is about observing your child, yarning with them and your family.

Autistic people are part of every culture and community around the world.

