

Aspect's Art of Possibility

Visual Story



What is a Visual Story?

- Visual stories are for **everyone!**
- It uses words and pictures to explain what might happen in a new place or situation.
- It can make it easier to understand what to expect, and can help things feel a bit more predictable.
- It is written in a clear way, so the information is easy to follow.



Everyone is welcome here

- You are welcome just as you are.
- You can take breaks, move around, and leave early if needed.
- Aspect staff are there and it's okay to ask them for help.
- There is a quiet room you can use at any time.
- There's no pressure to talk, socialise, or do anything you don't want to.
- You are allowed to feel however you feel. Excited, nervous, quiet, happy, unsure, it's all okay!



About this event

- This event is part of a series that celebrates Autistic people's strengths, interests and experiences.
- This year, we're talking about **the Arts**.
- The evening will be hosted by **Adam Spencer**, an award-winning comedian and media personality.
- There will be a special guest appearance from **Em Rusciano**.
- In addition there will be two panel discussions with special guest speakers and a live musical performance.
- Speakers will talk about how the Arts industry can help make Australia more autism-friendly.



Adam Spencer



Em Rusciano



Quick Find

Tap an icon to go to the start of that section



Getting There
Travel and
Parking



Arriving
Entry and
Registration



What's planned
Presentations and
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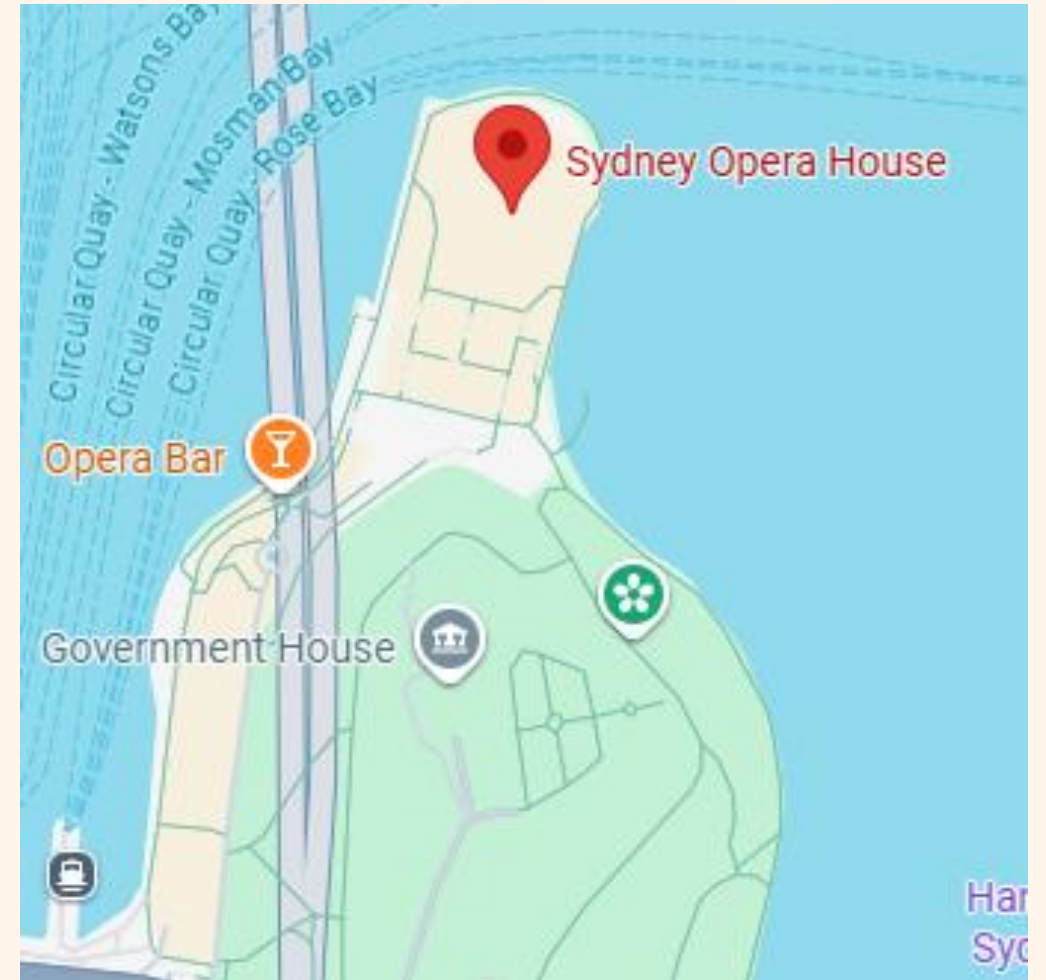
Things to know
What to Wear and
Sensory plans



Things to Know: Getting There

All public transport services arrive at Circular Quay, which is a short, signposted walk along the harbour foreshore to the Sydney Opera House.

- **By Bus:** Multiple bus routes service Circular Quay, including 333, 343, 396, 373.
- **By Light Rail:** Take the L2 Randwick Line or L3 Kingsford Line to Circular Quay.
- **By Ferry:** Ferries to Circular Quay Wharf run from locations including Manly, Barangaroo, Darling Harbour and Parramatta.
- **By Car:** Limited parking is available at the Sydney Opera House Car Park (Wilson Parking), accessed via 2 Macquarie Street. Spaces are limited and pre-booking is recommended. More public car parks are available nearby in the CBD.

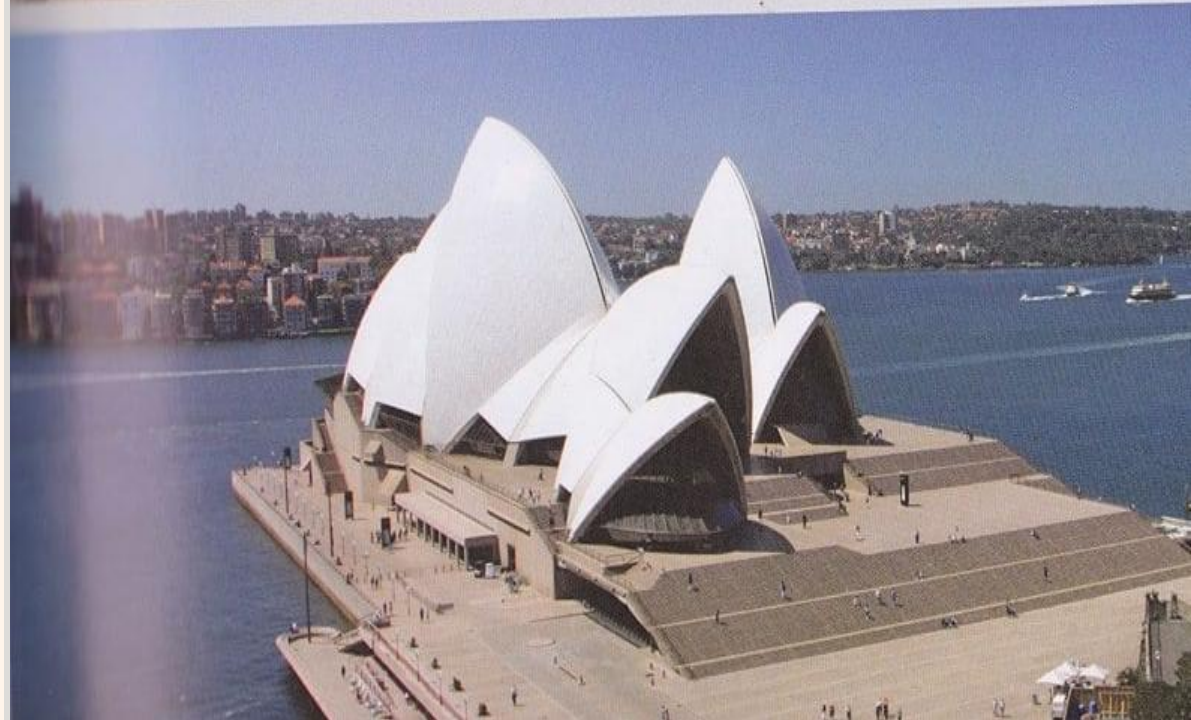
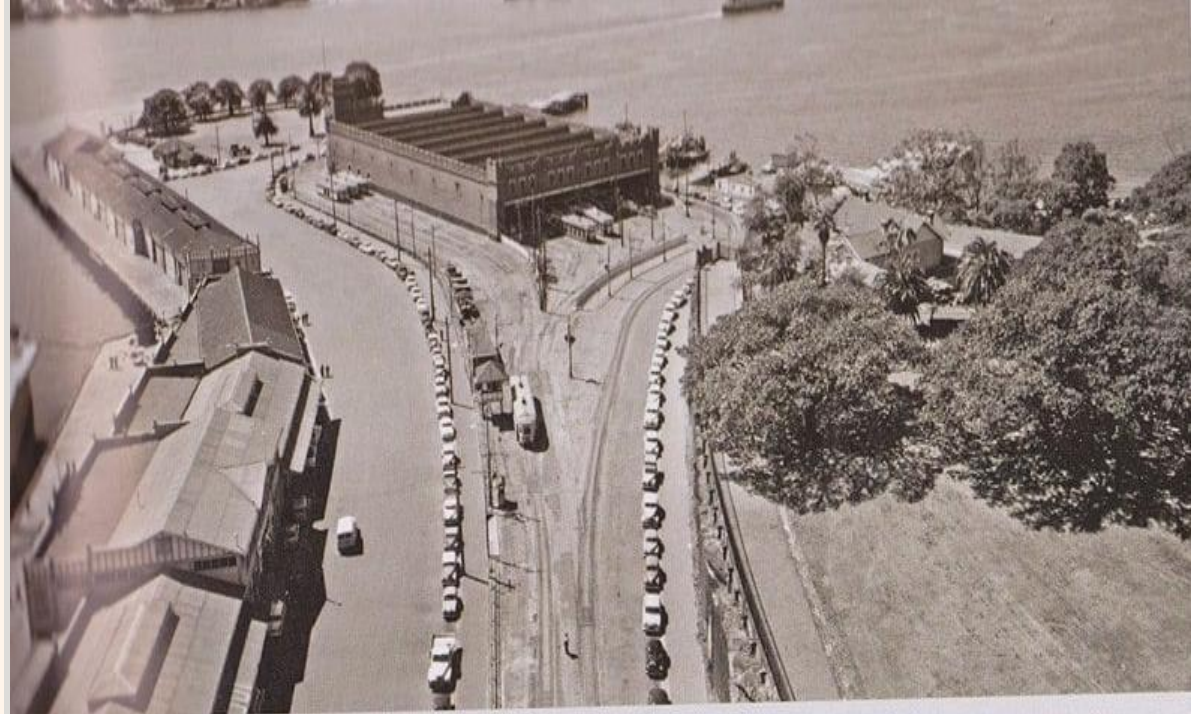


Click [HERE](#) to get directions to the Opera House



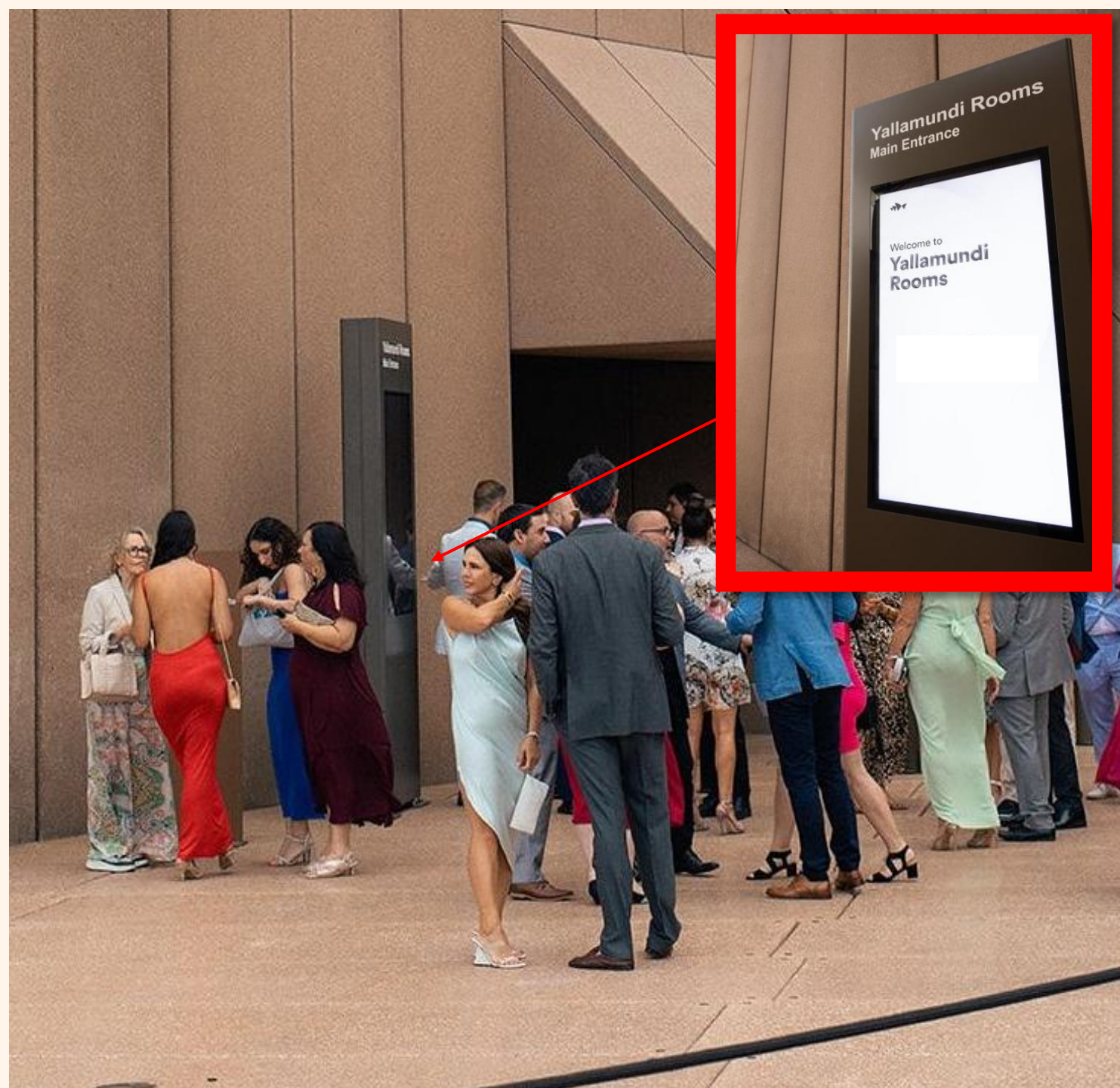
Things to Know: About the Location

- The Sydney Opera House is located at **Bennelong Point, Sydney NSW 2000**.
- The Opera House is on a piece of land called **Bennelong Point**, which is known to **the Gadigal people as Tubowgule**.
- The building is large and easy to see from Circular Quay and the surrounding harbour.
- The Opera House is used for many types of events, including music, theatre, talks and performances.
- The Opera House took **14 years to build** and opened in 1973!



Things to know: Going inside

- The Yallamundi Room is an event space inside the Sydney Opera House.
- The room is located along the Northern Boardwalk. It is accessed from the walkway outside the Opera House, beside the water.
- As you walk, the Harbour Bridge should be on your left and the Opera House will be on your right.
- **You'll see the Digital Screen next to the entrance.** The screen will show Aspect's name and that's how you'll know you're in the right place



Things to know: What to Wear

At events like this one, some people choose to wear clothes they might not wear every day. They might take extra time to clean and iron their clothes to look nice. I can too if this makes me feel good!

The dress code is **business casual**.

Some things people wear are:

- Pants, skirt or dress
- Button up shirt or blouse
- Clean shoes or high heels

People might **choose to wear any clothes** that:

- **Feel good** to wear
- Make them feel good when they wear them
- **Are special** to them



Things to know: Sensory



What to expect:

Sounds, like microphones, music or videos playing through speakers, and people talking.



The **lighting** might feel bright. There are screens with moving images and video



It may feel **crowded** at the start and end of the event when people are talking and eating.



Some seats might feel different to **touch**. The air-conditioning may be cold



Food and drinks may have **smells**, and some people may wear perfume.



What you could do:

- Wear noise-cancelling headphones or earplugs
- Move to a booth or the quiet room
- Ask staff where it's quieter

- Wear sunglasses or a hat
- Sit facing away from screens
- Ask staff to guide you to a dimmer area
- Use the quiet room with soft lighting

- Sit at the edge of the room or near an exit
- Move to a booth or the quiet room
- Ask a staff member to help you find space
- It's okay to take a break

- Choose where you feel most comfortable
- Bring your own cover, weighted item, or comfort tool

- Move near the entrance or quiet room
- Wear a mask or bring something to smell



Things to know: About the Room

- The space is bright and open, with large windows and harbour views.
- The room may feel busy and loud when people arrive or during breaks.
- There is access to toilets and outdoor space nearby if you need a break.
- The floors are hard (terrazzo) and walls are concrete and timber, which can affect sound (voices may echo when the room is full).



Things to Know: Registration

- The registration desk will be visible after entering.
- Everyone will go to Aspect's registration desk and tell staff their **name**.
- This lets organisers know I have **arrived**; they will give me a **name badge**.
- After getting a name badge, you can also leave your items with an Aspect staff member.
- Guests will be handed an information brochure and pin once registered.
- It's **okay** to not stay in the main room if it's overwhelming, the **quiet room** will be open
- Aspect staff will be located at the registration desk, and will have an Aspect branded name tag on.



Things to Know: Getting to the Quiet Room

The Quiet Room is in a quieter part of the building but there will be signs and staff to help.

- After registration, there is a large open space with lights, seating, and people.
- There is a door to the right hand side, just after the registration desk. There will be a sign that says Quiet Room.
- The quiet room is a separate room inside the main event space.
- Event staff will be nearby and can offer help or directions.

The Quiet Room can be used at any time – staff will be nearby to help, and it's always okay to ask for directions.



Things to know: Quiet Room

The Quiet Room is a calm and quieter space.

- Inside there will be places to sit and rest with sensory tools available.
- It's okay to bring things into the Quiet Room that help — like a phone, headphones, a drink of water, or a bag.
- It's also okay to feel overwhelmed or have a meltdown. Aspect staff will be nearby and can offer help or support if needed.
- The Quiet Room is not a place for chatting, but it is okay to make noises or talk to someone if it helps.
- When ready, it is helpful to leave the Quiet Room so someone else can use it if they need a quiet space.
- It is ok to take a friend or support person in with me.



6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Networking

A social time where people may eat, drink, and talk to others.

- It will be busy but relaxed - move around, look at the information stand or find a quiet seat.
- Snacks and drinks will be available.
- Aspect staff can assist you with food or seating.
- The area outside in the picture on the right will be open, if it's not raining. I can go outside if I need to.

Socialising is optional — it's okay to just enjoy the time quietly, find a space to just watch, or use the quiet room until the speakers start.

Everyone is welcome to engage in their own way.



Food and Drinks

Canapes

- Melon, feta, cucumber and lemon myrtle (LG, V)
- Smoked mozzarella and tomato arancini with black olive (V)
- Spiced lamb cigar, yoghurt and lemon thyme
- Grassfed hamburger slider, cheddar, b&b pickle and burger sauce
- Falafel slider (V)
- Scallop in the shell with cauliflower, currants and café de Paris butter (LG)

Drinks

- Sparkling – See Saw Prosecco
- White – Oakridge Pinot Gris
- Red – Handpicked Shiraz
- Beer – Stone & Wood
- Selection of soft drinks

V - Vegetarian

LG – Low Gluten



Things to know: Food and Drinks

- Light snacks will be available before the talks.
- People may stand while they talk, eat and drink with each other.
- Some people will eat and some others won't.
- There will be drinks with alcohol and drinks without.
- People can bring their own food or drinks, if they have dietary requirements.
- Some people choose to eat a meal beforehand, especially if they might get hungry later.



7:00 PM– 8:40 PM: Presentations

The night will be hosted by Adam Spencer

Here's the order:

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Adam Spencer (Event Host) & Jacqui Borland (CEO)
2. **The Arts Industry** – Andrew Radford (Journalist), Dan Graham (Theater Director) & Michael Theo (Actor, Podcast Host & Advocate) in conversation with Adam Spencer
3. **Guest Speaker** – Em Rusciano (TV Personality) in conversation with Adam Spencer
4. **Half-Time Performance** – Jerrah Patston (Club Weld)
5. **Aspect Schools** – Anna Brady (Aspect Principal), Anita Connell (Music Therapist) & Sam Worrad (Club Weld) in conversation with Adam Spencer
6. **Closing Reflection** – Jacqui Borland
7. **Close** - Adam Spencer

Need a break during talks? You can step out at any time. It's okay to return when you're ready.



Things to know: Presentations

- **Sit anywhere** — There are no assigned seats. Choose any place that feels comfortable to you.
- There will be a **pledge card and pen** on each seat.
- **Presenters will use microphones** — their voices will be heard through loudspeakers in the room.
- **Videos and sound** — Some presentations will include videos with music or sound.
- **Come and go anytime** — You can leave the room for a break and come back when you're ready. It's okay to step out for any reason.
- **Needing help** — Staff are nearby and happy to assist if you're unsure where to go or what's happening.



Event Host



Adam Spencer

Broadcaster, Host, MC, Keynote Speaker

Adam Spencer is a well-known Australian speaker and host.

He has worked in radio, television, and events for over 25 years.

He has hosted popular shows and spoken at big events around the world, including TED.

Adam is engaging and funny. He enjoys leading conversations that are interesting and make people think.

Speakers



Em Rusciano

Comedian, Author, Broadcaster, Advocate

Em Rusciano is an Australian comedian, singer, writer, and speaker.

She first became well known on *Australian Idol*.

She has worked in radio, comedy tours, and live events. She has also built a strong community online.

Em speaks openly about ADHD and autism. She shares her own experiences to help people understand neurodiversity.

She has spoken at important events, including the National Press Club of Australia. People value her honesty, humour, and warmth.



Speakers



Dan Graham
Theater Director

Dan Graham is a theatre director and disability advocate. He focuses on making the arts more accessible for neurodiverse artists. He has worked with major theatre companies in Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Dan also serves on boards that support more inclusive and accessible arts for everyone.



Andrew Radford
Journalist & The Assembly Cast member

Andrew is a proud man with an intellectual disability. He is an advocate for people with disability. He speaks up about accessibility and making sure people with disability are heard. He also challenges how people think about intellectual disability. Andrew appeared on the ABC TV show *The Assembly*. He was mentored by Leigh Sales and learned how to interview well-known people, including Anthony Albanese. Andrew says, “Our time to shine and nothing about us without us.”



Speakers



Michael Theo

Actor & Autistic Advocate

Michael Theo is an Autistic actor, podcast host, and advocate. He is best known for the TV show *Love on the Spectrum*. He recently starred in the show *Austin*, where his performance was widely praised.

Michael now works at Aspect as an Autistic Consultant. He uses his lived experience to support inclusion and awareness.

He was diagnosed as a young adult, which helped him better understand himself. He says, “Being Autistic is nothing to be ashamed of. It’s who I am.” Michael is passionate about storytelling and improving how Autistic people are represented.



Anna Brady

Principal, Aspect Vern Barnett School

Anna Brady is the Principal of Aspect Vern Barnett School in Forestville, NSW.

She has worked as a school leader in Australia and England.

She leads a team that supports Autistic students.

Her work focuses on student wellbeing, clear routines, and inclusive learning.

Anna also works closely with families to help students feel safe, connected, and ready to learn



Speakers



Anita Connell

Founder & Registered Music Therapist, Tuned In Music Therapy

Dr Anita Connell is a music therapist and researcher at Western Sydney University.

She studies how music can support health and wellbeing at all ages.

She is the founder of Tuned In Connections. This service provides music therapy for children with disabilities and training for staff in schools, aged care, and disability services.

Anita's work connects research and practice. She focuses on building strong relationships to support people, families, and teams.



Sam Worrad

Founder, Club Weld

Sam Worrad is a musician from Penrith, NSW.

He has worked for many years at Club Weld, a studio for neurodiverse musicians. He co-writes, records, and performs music with other artists.

Sam cares about making space for neurodiverse musicians in Sydney's arts and culture. He has also worked with many well-known musicians.



Performer



Jerrah Patston

Jerrah Patston is a musician from the Blue Mountains.

He writes songs about everyday life in a simple and unique way.

His music is known for catchy melodies, humour, and honest storytelling.

He often performs live and brings audiences into the moment. Jerrah has recorded music, performed at festivals, and played at the Sydney Opera House.

He works at Club Weld, a studio for neurodiverse artists in Parramatta, NSW.



Things to know: Donations

At the event, there is an option to **fill out a donation pledge card**.

This means someone can choose to give money to support Aspect's work — now or later.

The card includes **different ways to donate**, such as supporting Autism Friendly projects, schools, and education.

Filling out the card is **completely optional**.

People can:

- Fill it out on the night
- Take it home to think about
- Choose not to fill it out

Anyone who does fill out a card may be **contacted later by Aspect** to talk more about how they'd like to help.



Be part of the change. Your support matters.



Your commitment today helps create life-changing opportunities for Autistic individuals. Choose how you'd like to make a difference, and we'll be in touch to discuss the next steps.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT?

Bridge the digital divide
Fund iPads, laptops, and assistive tech to Aspect School students who need them most - equip a classroom or an entire school.

Champion inclusion – Autism-friendly workplaces
Explore with our Autistic consultants how your workplace can become more inclusive - from designing welcoming environments to future employment programmes.

Founders Walkway brick sponsorship
Leave a legacy at our new Senior College at South East Sydney. Engrave your name or message on a brick in our Founders Walkway. (\$1,000 – \$3,000 per brick).

Build the future – Support the Senior College
Fund an innovative, autism-specific learning environment. From naming a classroom (\$100,000) to an entire learning wing (\$500,000), at our new South East Sydney campus.

Contribute to the Aspect Impact Fund
Support a student every year, forever. Your contribution is invested - earnings fund scholarships in perpetuity. e.g. \$100,000 could fund one school scholarship annually.

Other ways to support
I have an idea and would like to do something special. Can we chat?

One-off gift
I would love to give a one-off donation of: _____

YOUR DETAILS

Please remember to hand this card to an Aspect staff member tonight or drop it off on your way out.

Name: _____ Email: _____
Company (if applicable): _____ Phone: _____

Aspect's Night at Google aspect.org.au

Toilets

- There are toilets in the event space.
- Female and accessible toilets are on the ground floor
- Male toilets are on Level 1
- I can **follow the signs** to find the **toilet** that I need:
 - Female
 - Male
 - Accessible and/or all gender



Aspect Contacts

If I have any questions about the night or have accessibility needs, I can contact the people below.



Dr Shahar Burla

Head of Philanthropy & Relationships

Email: sburla@aspect.org.au

Phone: 0406 765 477



Dr Tom Tutton

Head of Autism Friendly

Email: ttutton@aspect.org.au

Phone: 0439 586 661



Nadine Eulgem

Relationship & Philanthropy Manager

Email: neulgem@aspect.org.au

Phone: 0434 505 930



aspect

Autism Spectrum Australia

