

# Governance Program 2019

## Evaluation Report



### Background

An initiative of the Autism CRC, the Sylvia Rodger Academy delivers nationwide programs aimed at empowering autistic adults. As of 2020, the Sylvia Rodger Academy has established and delivered three Programs – the Research Program (2015, 2017, 2020), the Future Leaders Program (2018, 2019, 2020) and the Governance Program (2019).

The Governance Program is the **first national training program in corporate governance for autistic adults**, enabling leadership in decision-making and capturing the strength of diverse thinking to make a broader contribution to the corporate and government sectors.



### Aim

The aims of the Program were to:

- increase the engagement of autistic adults in organisational decision-making
- establish a national network of autistic people with governance skills, enabling them to share experiences and opportunities
- provide participants with practical knowledge and experience and develop skills
- improve participants' understanding of governance structures and different organisational models.



### Who took part

14

autistic adults aged between 25 and 59 from across Australia



### What was involved



Participants engaged with five custom **modules** related to corporate governance, delivered through a purpose-built e-learning platform.



Participated in a 3.5 day/3 night **residential workshop**.



Observed a **board meeting** and completed a **reflection activity**.

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### What we found

Participants completed two fit-for-purpose **surveys** about their experience.



All Governance Program participants that completed the survey rated the Program as 'excellent', and all would recommend the Governance Program to other autistic adults.



Graduates were also positive about the outcomes they achieved upon completion of the Governance Program. All participants indicated they **'learned and developed corporate governance skills'** and were **'provided with practical knowledge and governance experience'**.



All participants said that the Program **'improved their understanding of governance structures and organisational models'** 'a great deal'.



### Who ran the project



#### Sylvia Rodger Academy

Dr Olivia Gatfield and Ashton Bartz.

### Acknowledgments

The researchers wish to thank the Project Team, without whom the development and delivery of the Program would not have been possible. We also thank the financial support of the Autism CRC and the organisations who provided board placements to participants.

The researchers would also like to thank the 14 passionate and talented participants for being a part of the Governance Program 2019, and who continue to make positive impact in their communities.

### Find out more

Find out more about Sylvia Rodger Academy and future programs at: [autismcrc.com.au/sylvia-rodger-academy](https://autismcrc.com.au/sylvia-rodger-academy)

Download the evaluation report and executive summary on the Autism CRC website: [autismcrc.com.au/reports/gov-2019-eval](https://autismcrc.com.au/reports/gov-2019-eval)

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