

Future Leaders



Kirk participated in the 2019 Future Leaders Program.

He says that being part of the program helped him “build resilience and motivation”.

“I learned a lot about myself in the program, it helped me understand my strengths and weaknesses and what areas to focus on. Before, I felt like I was adrift.”

Having identified his strengths through the program, as well as having refined his advocacy goals, Kirk has now finished studying User Experience and Web Design. He says that the skills he learned during Future Leaders helped him advocate successfully at university, and will help him to effect greater change in society.

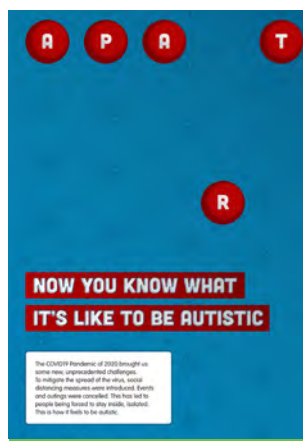
Kirk is a firm advocate for society seeing autism as a difference, not a deficit. Drawing on his design skills, Kirk recently held a virtual exhibition exploring the difficulties autistic people have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also continues to grow his skills in user experience design to ensure people can use digital products with ease.

He will also “...advocate through design, including crafting visual communications and user experiences that are designed to educate and change perception around autism.”

Kirk credits the Future Leaders Program as having provided him with focus, structure and self-awareness. As Kirk continues to advocate for both individual and systemic change in accessible design, he will be a true trailblazer for the autistic community.

The Future Leaders Program is Australia’s first holistic leadership capacity building program for autistic adults. It empowers autistic adults to explore and develop their leadership skills and networks to positively impact their communities. The Future Leaders Program is delivered in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).



Left: A poster Kirk designed for his exhibition entitled ‘The COVID19 Pandemic: A Spectrum of Experience’.