

Future Leaders



Ruby participated in the 2018 Future Leaders Program.

Being part of Future Leaders showed Ruby that being autistic was something to celebrate.

“I learned that the traits I thought I had to overcome were actually qualities that make me special, loved and worthy. It gave me the skills to recognise what I need to thrive and the confidence to self-advocate for that.”

Importantly, Ruby says that feeling part of the autistic community came with “a sense of ownership” and pride when learning about the history of autistic advocacy, and the motivation to advocate a better future for other LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities.

Ruby harnessed their confidence, knowledge and sense of ownership to become a prolific systemic advocate and advisor.

Ensuring a better future for LGBTIQ+ people with disabilities, they advocated for an accessible interview process and as a result gained employment as the Project Coordinator of Disability Inclusion at Thorne Harbour Health. They have also gained employment as the LGBTIQ+ Project Officer at Your Community Health, Administration Officer for Pride Foundation Australia, and serve as the Vice President of the Melbourne Bisexual Network and as a member of Autism Spectrum Australia’s (Aspect) LGBTIQ+ advisory committee.

Ruby has delivered neurodiversity training to the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet and worked as a peer researcher at Deakin University on the research project “More Than Ticking A Box: LGBTIQ+ People With Disability Talking About Their Lives” which launches in March 2021.

Their passion for building resilience through community and connection, grounded in ‘nothing about us without us’, has led Ruby to take part in the co-design of LGBTIQ+ disability toolkits and resources. These include LGBTIQ Health Australia’s toolkit Employable as well as the Advocacy at the Intersections project by queerspace and DARU.

Ruby was recently awarded Aspect’s Inspiration Award for Individual Achievement.

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).



Sylvia Rodger Academy

The Sylvia Rodger Academy delivers nationwide programs that empower autistic adults.



Above: The 2018 Future Leaders participants.

Our vision

Autistic people thriving through discovering and using their strengths.

Our mission

Providing programs, pathways and networks that create communities where autistic people fully contribute and influence policy, practice and culture in partnership with their peers.

Our Programs

Backed by research. Co-designed and developed by autistic adults, for autistic adults.



Research Program

Upskills autistic adults and researchers to work together as research co-producers.



Future Leaders

Australia's first holistic leadership capacity building program for autistic adults. Delivered in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).



Governance

Australia's first training program in corporate governance for autistic adults.

Our Programs involve

Interactive learning modules

+

Residential workshop

+

Practical experience

Contact us

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