

# Future Leaders



Trudy participated in the 2018 Future Leaders Program.

Through the Future Leaders Program Trudy gained the confidence and skills to effect change for the autistic students at a large Brisbane school with 2,600 students, where she is a teacher.

“Being part of Future Leaders changed my life by showing me it is ok to be exactly who I am, how I can embrace my autistic traits in my work life and now as a result I can positively change the lives of autistic students in the school environment.”

“Before Future Leaders I was selectively open about being autistic in the work environment. Because of the deficit-based understanding of autism, I was not seen as being capable of a leadership position. I learned about advocacy through the Future Leaders Program, which taught me that it is ok to ask for reasonable adjustments in the workspace. Since then I have been advocating for myself and the school’s autistic students, working with their class teachers to implement strategies that help create safe and supportive environments for the students.”

Trudy presented to over 800 staff and students about neurodiversity, strategies she uses for herself and her students, and what the school community can do to support other people who are neurodivergent.

Trudy is now in a leadership position in the Special Education Department and runs a group for autistic students. Through the program the students have become more self-aware and have identified strategies that

that teachers can use to work with them better. Since these have been implemented there has been an increase in student engagement and a reduction in behaviour referrals.

“It is evident that there has been a significant change the culture of the school for the better. There is more acceptance of students with disabilities and staff are looking at strengths-based approaches to teaching autistic students.”

*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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