



## Milestone Timeline

2001 –

- FOCAS (Focus on Children on the Autism Spectrum) established by Lisa McBride, Tania Robless and Silvana Gaglia.

2008 –

- Rebranded from FOCAS to Autism West.

2010 –

- Established the Autism West Centre in Nedlands.

2012 –

- TOBY application launched mid-year.

2013 –

- Hosted Nutrition Conferences.
- Hosted “Autism: Whole Child Conference” in Perth, twice in Geraldton, Busselton and Margaret River.
- Hosted Autism information sessions for volunteers, health professionals and parents.
- Social Groups run in 2013:
  - Kids Club
  - Chilled Anxiety Reduction
  - Secret Agent Society
  - Wellness Adults Group
  - Nutrition Workshops
  - Bike Riding Program
  - Aspiring Adults
  - Youth Engaging Successfully
  - Social Skills
  - Life Skills
  - Sibworks
  - Aspie Partners Groups

2014 –

- Supported South West Autism Network (SWAN).
- Seed Funded the Curtin Specialist Mentoring Program (CSMP).
- Launch of our Awesome Group.

2015 –

- Moved location to Mosman Park.
- Hosted the Autism West Symposium 2015.
- Hosted the GMP Team Sprint Cup 2015.
- Hosted the Exhibition 7 Cocktail Party.
- Launched Talk Series.
- Key Statistics for 2015:
  - 620 members (+19.5%)
  - 250 Volunteers (+25%)
  - 220 Clients (+13%)
- Autism West provided numerous services throughout 2015:
  - Chat Time (18+)
  - Social Skills (13-18)
  - Life Skills (13-18)
  - Youth Engaging Successfully (YES) (13-18)

- Willo YES Group (13-18)
- Step Into Social (18-30)
- Kids' Club (7-12)
- Holiday Group (5-17)
- Awesome Group (10-15)

#### 2016 –

- Successfully launched the new Autism West brand including the new logo and website design.
- Developing a new governance structure, accompanied by relevant policies and procedures.
- Building our organisational capacity to operate within the new NDIS space.
- Building new partnerships and alliances whilst nurturing existing ones.
- Autism West became a formal partner with the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism.
- Increase in social media presence (Facebook doubled to 1851 and maintained a 5 star rating).
- Service areas expanded to include northern suburbs.
- Membership base increase by 18%.
- Autism West Symposium 2016 – “Rethink Autism”.
- A visit from premier Colin Barnett to present us with a cheque from a successful Lotterywest grant.
- A visit from Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia.
- Hosted Somers' Team Sprint Cup 2016.
- Cocktail Party hosted by the Shepherd family at their home.

#### 2017 –

- Became an approved NDIS service provider in December.
- Moved location to Fremantle Hospital.
- Established the Youth Advisory Council (YAC).
- Autism West became a formal partner to VenuesWest.
- Hosting the Autism West Symposium 2017 – “The Big Picture”.
- Social groups being run have been increased to 10 groups running across the Perth metro area.
- Representatives from Autism West delivered presentations at the Asia Pacific Autism Conference, Sydney, AES Conference and the WAATA Conference on Autism West's strengths-based approach.
- Autism West partnered with Curtin University to research a strengths-based approach in STEAM for young adolescents with autism.
- Invited to exhibit at the 2017 Telethon Beneficiaries Expo and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Telethon.

#### 2018 –

- Services expanded into Rockingham.
- Hosted the Autism West annual Cocktail Party.
- Hosted the Autism West Symposium 2018 – “join the conversation”.
- Hosted our inaugural Employment Forum “Employment Diversity – Futureproofing the workplace”.
- Autism West continues partnership with VenuesWest.
- Began a successful partnership with Be My Koorda, a local aboriginal disability group to address a dearth of services for indigenous individuals with autism.
- 2018 marked Autism West's 10 year anniversary, which was celebrated and shared with the community at our annual symposium in November.
- Published research conducted by Curtin University on Strengths Based Approach in September of 2018.

## 2019 –

- Autism West runs multiple social groups across the Perth Metro area including Fremantle, South Fremantle, Rockingham, Marangaroo and Claremont:
  - Awesome Group (10-15)
  - YES Group(13-18)
  - Step Into Social (18-30)
  - Step Into Social Employability Skills (18-30)
  - SIS Enterprise (18-30)
  - Telethon Holiday Makers Program (5-18)
- Autism West launched a new trial group called SIS Enterprise which delves into the ins and outs of running a business. Participants come and create unique products to sell.
- Hosted the MediWest Distributors Team Sprint Cup 2019 in April.
- Hosted a special event with author Graeme Simsion to celebrate the release of his highly-anticipated conclusion to the beloved Rosie series, The Rosie Result.
- Facilitated the creation of the Autism West Women's Council, a group of women with lived experience who are committed to raising the profile of women with autism in Western Australia.
- The Women's Council hosted the High Tea event at Freshwater Bay Yacht Club to celebrate women on the spectrum, diversity and inclusion.
- Hosted the Autism West Symposium 2019 at Pan Pacific Perth with greater than ever audiences.
- Launched the free Neurodiversity Online Assessment Tool (NOAT) in partnership with Harrier Talent Solutions. The tool was developed to help employers gauge how autism friendly their workplace is.

## 2020 –

- Social media profile has increased and Facebook now sits at about 4,500 likes.
- Hosted 'Technology in the Roaring '20s', with panellists Michael Malone, Jo Ucukalo and Sven Ross generously donating their time and expertise to raise money for Autism West's services.
- Ran three unique and ground breaking Neurodiversity in the Workplace Employer Training Forums in Brookfield Place, attended by delegates from a wide range of sectors.
- Autism West made the difficult decision to cancel the Autism West Symposium in 2020, but the good news for the autism community in regional Western Australia is that the event will be going on a road trip in June 2021 to three regional areas in Western Australia; Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and South West regions.
- Launched virtual social groups to keep participants engaged and retain staff during the COVID-19 crisis.
- On 14 October, changed name from Autism West to Spectrum Space to reflect the diverse community we represent; people who identify as being on the spectrum and others in the corporate sector, schools, healthcare providers, business and families who are keen to be 'spectrum-ready' and embrace and celebrate the contributions people on the spectrum can make.
- Launch of new website and narrative on 14 October.
- Launched our Employment Consultancy Service to support organisations to eliminate barriers and create workplaces where everyone is at home.
- Launched the Awesome Productions Company, an initiative that provides a platform for participants with entrepreneurial and creative potential to make products based around their areas of interest and engage within a business model for prospective customers.

## 2021 –

- Social media profile has increased with Facebook page now having over 5,100 likes.
- Expanded social groups to Midland.
- Hosted the Spectrum Space annual High Tea in March at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

- Hosted the Spectrum Space annual Cocktail Party in November at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.
- Hosted the Spectrum Space Symposium 2021 in Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and Bunbury. This was the first time that we took the Symposium to regional areas in WA and it was successful in bringing information on autism to these regional locations.
- At the end of 2021, Spectrum Space exited the NDIS, meaning that we are no longer a registered provider. The costs were too high to continue to registration and we cannot afford the fees to stay with the NDIS.
- In July we started to offer the Telethon Holiday Makers Program in Rockingham.
- Louise Sheehy left the organisation as CEO in September. General Manager Helene Hansen took over as Interim CEO and was appointed to the role permanently in December.
- Ran multiple programs throughout the year including Positive Relationships, Autism Awareness for Individuals, Autism Awareness for Families and Daily Living Skills.