

# EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Hear from Dr Wenn Lawson, internationally renowned psychologist, lecturer and author, as he takes you on an inspirational journey through his life as an individual on the autism spectrum.



**DURING THIS ENGAGING WORKSHOP, TO BE RUN AT THREE LOCATIONS WITHIN ADELAIDE, DR LAWSON WILL OFFER REFLECTIONS, TIPS AND ADVICE TO ALL ATTENDEES. THE WORKSHOP IS A MUST FOR INDIVIDUALS ON THE SPECTRUM, PARENTS, CARERS, EDUCATORS, PROFESSIONALS AND ANYONE WHO PROVIDES SUPPORT TO PEOPLE WITH AUTISM.**

Through this workshop, Dr Lawson will explore the idea that there are specific learning styles associated with people on the autism spectrum. This compelling presentation will examine the specific cognitive processes utilised by individuals on the spectrum to comprehend and make sense of their world, and discuss how these differ from the processes of the neurotypical population.

Dr Lawson will pose questions including why do many people with autism avoid eye contact, and why do they often insist on routine and sameness? Why is there the need to shape and/or alter the world they live in, and why do people on the spectrum often experience difficulties with generalised learning?

He will also provide practical tips, advice and strategies drawn from his unique personal and professional perspective, assisting participants to better understand autism and learn:

- About autism and dual diagnosis, learning disabilities, dyspraxia, ADHD and Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA) disorder;
- What school and work are really like for someone with autism;
- Practical tips, strategies and advice on how to support a person on the autism spectrum;
- About communication and sensory dysphoria;
- About sexuality, gender and gender dysphoria;
- How to support and empower people on the spectrum to live the lives they choose; and
- What the future may look like in the eyes of individuals on the spectrum.

This workshop is certain to offer both insight and inspiration. Packed full of useful tips and strategies to support people on the spectrum, and those around them, the program aims to empower people with autism to live the lives they choose.

## WORKSHOP DETAILS

### PORT NOARLUNGA

Thursday 10 May 2018

9.30am-4pm

The Arts Centre, Old Institute Building, City of Onkaparinga, 22 Gawler Street, Port Noarlunga, SA 5167

### MUNNO PARA

Friday 11 May 2018

9.30am-4pm

Stretton Centre, 307 Peachey Road, Munno Para, SA 5115

### HINDMARSH

Saturday 12 May 2018

9am-3.30pm

Education Development Centre, Department for Education and Child Development (DECD), 4 Milner Street, Hindmarsh SA 5007

## REGISTRATION FOR PORT NOARLUNGA | MUNNO PARA | HINDMARSH WORKSHOPS

Register online at [www.autismsa.org.au](http://www.autismsa.org.au) and follow the links to the Training & Workshops page, email [ebennett@autismsa.org.au](mailto:ebennett@autismsa.org.au) or call 08 8462 0658.

## **PRESENTER**

Dr Wenn Lawson is one of the most highly respected professionals in the field of autism - both in Australia and internationally. He combines lived experience with professional knowledge, drawing on everything from his First Class Honours in Social Work to a Doctorate in Psychology.

A public speaker for more than 20 years, Dr Lawson published his first book on autism, 'Life Behind Glass' in 1998. He has since published a further 15 books and numerous research papers.

At the age of two, Dr Lawson was misdiagnosed with an intellectual disability, and at school he was accused of being incapable of doing as instructed. When he was 17, he was again misdiagnosed - this time with schizophrenia. Dr Lawson was also admitted to mental health facilities on a number of occasions. He was correctly diagnosed (at the age of 42) with an Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), ADHD, dyspraxia and learning difficulties.

A participant and advisor for Autism CRC, and a teaching fellow with the University of Birmingham's Masters in Autism (online), Dr Lawson is a member of the Autism Open Access board, the board of Warrnambool College's Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program, and the board of Innovative Community Action Networks (ICAN).

## **WHO SHOULD ATTEND?**

Individuals on the spectrum, family members, care givers, educators and professionals - anyone who is striving to achieve improved outcomes for themselves or for individuals on the autism spectrum.

All professional participants will receive a certificate with the workshop title and the number of hours attended, stating that the workshop links to the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers where applicable (1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 3.1, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 7.4).

*"What I appreciated the most was highlighting the diversity amongst people with autism. The incredible Dr Wenn Lawson, who also has autism, said during a presentation 'if you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism', and this is so true."*  
- Participant

## **PRICING**

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Families and financial members -  
\$175 (inc. GST and booking fee)

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Non financial members -  
\$195 (inc. GST and booking fee)

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Groups of five or more people will receive a 10 per cent discount, while bookings for 10 or more participants will attract a 20 per cent reduction in pricing.

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National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) funding can be used to access this workshop. Please register online at [www.autismsa.org.au](http://www.autismsa.org.au) and complete all questions regarding the participant's NDIS plan. If further information is required, Autism SA will follow up directly.

*"Dr Lawson's work is presented from the insight of living and working with autism."* - Autism CRC

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