

Bendigo Autistic Advocacy
and Support Service

Co-Convenors
Tony Langdon - Susanna Flanagan

ABN: 91 392 431 156

Justin Gayner
Team Leader
Arts & Cultural Services

Kingston Arts Centre
979 Nepean Highway
Moorabbin Vic 3189

E. justin.gayner@kingston.gov.au

Cc.

tamara.barth@kingston.vic.gov.au

steve.staikos@kingston.vic.gov.au

george.hua@kingston.vic.gov.au

ron.brownlees@kingston.vic.gov.au

rosemary.west@kingston.vic.gov.au

geoff.gledhill@kingston.vic.gov.au

georgina.oxley@kingston.vic.gov.au

tamsin.bearsley@kingston.vic.gov.au

david.eden@kingston.vic.gov.au

Saturday 24th March 2018






Dear Justin;

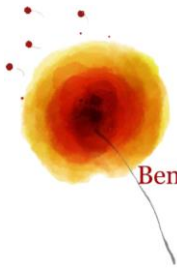
Re: 'On The Spectrum' 'Comedy Show' by Nikki Osborne

We write regarding the 'Comedy Show', 'On the Spectrum' by Nikki Osborne, of which will and already has, impact negatively on the autistic community- ie. actually autistic people. A comedy act, on stage, by a non-autistic parent of an autistic child is inappropriate at best and incredibly distressing and harmful for the autistic community at best- with extensive impact on society at large. The kind of content within this show perpetuates stigma and stereotype and further contributes to the exceedingly difficult challenge many autistic people experience in relation to barriers to

Mail to: PO Box 428, Bendigo PO, Bendigo Vic 3552

By appointment: East Bendigo Community Hall
35 Lansell Street, East Bendigo

 fb.me/bendigoautisticadvocacyservice
 info@bendigoautisticadvocacy.com.au
 bendigoautisticadvocacy.com.au
 [@bendigoautisticadvocacy](https://www.instagram.com/bendigoautisticadvocacy)
 [@AdvocacyBAASS](https://twitter.com/AdvocacyBAASS)



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acceptance, inclusion and meaningful, relevant support. This show actively contributes to attitudinal barriers and misinformation, directly impacting on the autistic community.

Although the 'show' intentions are asserted to be 'comedy', raising 'awareness' and 'insights into living on the spectrum', many autistic people are advising you this is not appropriate and is in fact, quite harmful.

To allow this show to continue, is to dismiss and erase the autistic community and our own assertions of what is acceptable and what is not.

As you would be aware- there is often a distinct difference between intention and impact. One of the biggest barriers we face- of which is the cause of extreme distress and insurmountable challenge, is the prioritisation of non-autistic content over autistic information and views. Regardless of the intent of this show- autistic people are informing you that this is not acceptable, it is detrimental to autistic people and it should be cancelled immediately.

Kind regards;

Susanna Flanagan and Tony Langdon
Co-Convenors

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