



**Bendigo Autistic Advocacy
and Support Service**

Co-convenors
Beck Kelly - Sarah Hansford
Tony Langdon - Susanna Flanagan

Daniel Zugna
Manager, Authorised Officer Practice
Performance and Contract Management

Level 9, 750 Collins Street
Docklands Victoria 3008
PO Box 4724 Melbourne Victoria 3001

Daniel.Zugna@ptv.vic.gov.au

15th December, 2016

Dear Daniel;

Re.: PTV Proposal: Engaging with Authorised Officers






The Bendigo Autistic Advocacy and Support Service (BAASS) would like to share our lived and professional based experience and recommendations in order to ultimately guide policy and procedure and improve the accessibility and scope of the Authorised Officers in their roles; particularly in relation to autistic public transport users.

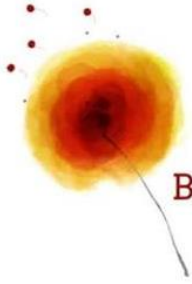
BAASS is an Autistic founded, led and driven not-for-profit organisation; the first of its kind in Australia. We endeavor to empower autistic people, families and communities to optimise their potential through a passionate, professional and experience based service providing respectful individual, family, community and systemic advocacy and support.

BAASS bases our approach on the belief that neurodivergence is a natural part of a neurodiverse humanity. Autism is a genetic neurological difference or disability. Disabilities involve significant challenges and unique positives. Our challenges are compounded by the barriers predominantly caused by ignorance, and lack of inclusion and acceptance.

We are particularly concerned about an initiative involving an autism lanyard and ID card for autistic people accessing metro- proposed by a group of parents of autistic children in Box Hill, for use on Metro Trains Melbourne in conjunction with Victoria Police.

125 Wills Street
Bendigo
Victoria 3550

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BAASS has approached this group via written correspondence offering recommendations and the support of BAASS and disability advocacy organisations in making this initiative more accessible and inclusive of diversity.

BAASS, alongside many other advocates and organisations, advocate for active, extensive and meaningful inclusion of autistic people amongst not only accessibility and policy making panels/projects but also in educational programs within the community in general, with particular focus on first responders, health and education undergraduates and services.






Please do not hesitate to contact us should you welcome further input or support from us. We are available to share authentic experience and any relevant resources and sources that may be of benefit in developing policies and programs with genuine accessibility. We thank you for taking the time to consider our correspondence.

Regards;

Co-Convenors

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