



Bendigo Autistic Advocacy  
and Support Service

Co-Convenors  
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# Bendigo Autistic Advocacy and Support Service

## Public Statement

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Bendigo Autistic Advocacy and Support Service (BAASS) responds to the recent events in Bendigo in which a child was restrained by several police.

We are not fully aware of the situation or privy to all details. It would be remiss of us or others, to make judgement or comment on what we don't know.

What we do know is that this highlights the desperate need for more support and training for all first responders. It is imperative that autistic mentors be involved in development and delivery of ongoing training and support.

This is not about autism -the child being autistic is irrelevant.

This is about a society that also needs support and understanding around human diversity and in acceptance of differences.

BAASS recommends further support and funding be provided in training for first responders and particularly welcomes the opportunity to provide autistic mentoring and resources. As in any area of disability, disabled voices are the priority in providing authentic insight and lived experience based training and support.