

Future Leaders



Tammy participated in the 2019 Future Leaders Program.

"When I applied to Future Leaders, I didn't understand the impact it would have on the way I view myself and my own autistic identity. I have struggled with feeling isolated and that I'm different than other people, because I did not regularly connect with people who identify as autistic."

"While I have always been proud to be autistic, Future Leaders has given me for the first time a sense of community and the ability to be part of a broader network. I'm not alone, I belong somewhere, the thoughts and feelings I have are not unusual, and when I'm with other autistic people nothing about the way I feel or the way I act is seen as 'weird'."

Through the Future Leaders Program, Tammy was able to learn about advocacy, as well as gain the confidence to advocate for others and herself. As a result, Tammy has since applied to join a disability organisation's co-design group and has won a position on a national disability advisory group. She also submitted an abstract to, and was accepted to speak at, an interstate autism conference on the topics of disclosure and the effect on relationships of being diagnosed autistic later in life.

"I've often felt like I have to put up with a situation, because I think I should or it's what everyone has to do. Future Leaders gave me hope."

As part of her Future Leaders journey, Tammy presented to the Education Department about autism and trauma. Her presentation taught and provided resources for educators about ableism and adverse childhood experiences experienced by autistic people.

"I can be my best self and produce more and show what I can do if accommodations are put in place. If I don't have all the blocks in front of me, there's nothing stopping me. That's something I learned from Future Leaders."

The Future Leaders Program is Australia's first holistic leadership capacity building program for autistic adults. It empowers autistic adults to explore and develop their leadership skills and networks to positively impact their communities. The Future Leaders Program is delivered in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

To find out more, visit sylviarodgeracademy.com.au



Sylvia Rodger Academy

The Sylvia Rodger Academy delivers nationwide programs that empower autistic adults.



Above: The 2018 Future Leaders participants.

Our vision

Autistic people thriving through discovering and using their strengths.

Our mission

Providing programs, pathways and networks that create communities where autistic people fully contribute and influence policy, practice and culture in partnership with their peers.

Our Programs

Backed by research. Co-designed and developed by autistic adults, for autistic adults.



Research Program

Upskills autistic adults and researchers to work together as research co-producers.



Future Leaders

Australia's first holistic leadership capacity building program for autistic adults. Delivered in partnership with Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).



Governance

Australia's first training program in corporate governance for autistic adults.

Our Programs involve

Interactive learning modules

+

Residential workshop

+

Practical experience

Contact us

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