



# DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

## School Information Kit 2026



Creating an autism  
inclusive Australia.



# THANK YOU!

**Thank you for being part of Hoodie Up. With your support, we can continue to build an Australia that values difference and inclusion.**

In this kit, you'll find everything you need to plan a Hoodie Up event at your school. While **Thursday 19 March** is Hoodie Up Day, schools can host their own Hoodie Up celebrations at any time that works best for their community.

Since 2019, individuals, schools and businesses across Victoria have shown their support for Autistic people by putting their Hoodie Up. In 2026, Hoodie Up centres on the theme Diversity in our community, recognising that Autistic people are not all the same, and that we all experience the world differently.

Why hoodies? Some Autistic people experience sensory sensitivities and can become overwhelmed by their surroundings. Wearing a hoodie can help reduce sensory input, supporting calm and regulation.

By celebrating Hoodie Up, you're showing greater understanding of how we can support and embrace Autistic people and celebrate the diversity autism brings to our community.

This year we're celebrating Hoodie Up during Neurodiversity Celebration Week (16 to 20 March) and in the lead up to World Autism Month in April, and Autism at Parliament (31 March to 2 April).

Funds raised through Hoodie Up help us deliver vital support to Autistic people and their families, including Amaze's work to create a more autism inclusive Australia.

We advocate to amplify Autistic voices, ensure Autistic people are recognised in government policy and the media, reduce stigma through public education so that Autistic people and their families can live their best lives.

For more information, you can contact our [Autism Connect](#) service. Autism Connect offers evidence-based information for Autistic people seeking guidance around diagnosis and services, their families or friends, and anyone supporting an Autistic adult or child in education, health settings or workplaces.

If you have any questions about Hoodie Up, please contact us at [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au) or on (03) 9657 1600 or [register online](#).

We look forward to celebrating with you in March 2026 - and throughout the year.



David Tonge  
Amaze CEO



# HOW TO CELEBRATE HOODIE UP DAY

## SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

Hoodie Up is all about choice, creativity and community – and there are so many ways your school can take part.

From a simple hoodie day or fundraiser, to school-wide activities, every Hoodie Up celebration builds understanding and helps Autistic people in your community feel seen, heard and valued.

The official Hoodie Up Day is **Thursday 19 March 2026**, but schools can celebrate at any time of the year.

However you plan to celebrate, [register your event with us here](#).

## WAYS TO CREATE, TALK, PLAY, LEARN

### In classrooms:

- Use the Hoodie Up colouring-in page at the end of this kit and invite students to decorate it in their own style.
- Host a fun Hoodie Up design activity using the template provided, where students create a hoodie that reflects their identity and what makes them unique.
- Run a Kahoot quiz using one of our autism quizzes to spark curiosity and conversation.
- Create space for thoughtful discussion by talking about times students may have felt excluded or misunderstood, and brainstorming ways to show support for Autistic classmates.
- Encourage questions and model curiosity – it's okay if teachers don't have all the answers. Exploring questions together, and returning with accurate information later, shows that learning is ongoing and shared.

### School-wide activities:

- Create lunchtime clubs based on the interests of Autistic students at your school, giving them space to connect around what they enjoy.
- Provide greater access to fidget tools or create a quiet reset space for students.
- Invite Autistic people from your school community to share their experiences, in person or via video, if they choose.
- Use a school assembly to highlight acceptance, inclusion and diversity in your community.



## FUNDRAISING

Fundraising can be as simple as a casual hoodie day, where students wear any hoodie and bring a gold coin donation. Donations to Amaze help deliver vital support to Autistic people and their families. More information is available at [amaze.org.au/hoodie-up](https://amaze.org.au/hoodie-up).

## FURTHER RESOURCES

Amaze offers trusted, independent information and resources for families and schools. Additional resources that may be helpful include:

- [inclusive education: supporting school communities](#)
- [reset room guide](#)
- [What is Autism poster](#)
- [Change Your Reaction videos](#)
- [lower-primary Kahoot! quiz](#)
- [upper-primary Kahoot! quiz](#)
- [secondary Kahoot! quiz](#)

For more information about Autism, including Autism positive resources, contact our Autism Connect Advisors on 1300 308 699 or [info@autismconnect.org.au](mailto:info@autismconnect.org.au)

Want to run a Hoodie Up event but not sure where to start? We can help! Contact our team at [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au) for extra advice and support.





## WHAT AMAZE CAN DO

Need some extra help with your event? We can provide:

- Resources and materials about autism
- Hoodie Up posters to use for your fundraising event
- Tax receipts to donors
- A certificate of appreciation once your fundraiser has finished

Please note depending on the size and location of your event, the level of support we are able to provide will vary.

### Contact the Hoodie Up team

For more information on hosting a Hoodie Up event, contact us:

Email: [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au)

Phone: (03) 9657 1600

Unfortunately, we cannot provide:

- funds or reimbursement for any expenses incurred
- assistance in organising and/or marketing your event
- staff to help coordinate or run the event
- contact lists for you to use in promoting your event (due to privacy legislation)
- applications for permits, licenses or insurances - including public liability (these are the responsibility of the organiser.)
- prizes, auctions or raffle items.

### Banking your funds

All donations are made electronically through the Hoodie Up webpage with a debit or credit card. These funds are automatically transferred to Amaze.

Details for electronic funds transfer can be requested by contacting Amaze at [hoodieup@amaze.org.au](mailto:hoodieup@amaze.org.au) Please include your school name and refer to Hoodie Up for all donations.

# AMAZE

## CREATING AN AUTISM INCLUSIVE AUSTRALIA

**Amaze is a leading autism organisation driving change so that Autistic people and their families can live their best lives. Amaze is here for all Autistic people of all ages and has been supporting Autistic people and their families in Victoria for 60 years.**

Research shows that 98% of Australians have heard of autism, and 74% of Australians have personal contact with an Autistic person. Yet only 32% of Australians agree that they have a good understanding of how to support Autistic people and only 3% of Autistic people thought Australians knew how to support them. With your help, Amaze can change this.

For 60 years, Amaze has been supporting Autistic people and their families. Based in Victoria, Amaze has a national reach and is the home of Australia's national autism helpline, Autism Connect.

Today we work to:

- increase understanding, engagement and acceptance of autism by the wider community
- influence positive systemic change through government and the media to improve attitudes and behaviours towards Autistic people and their families
- build the skills of private, public and community organisations to create autism-positive environments.

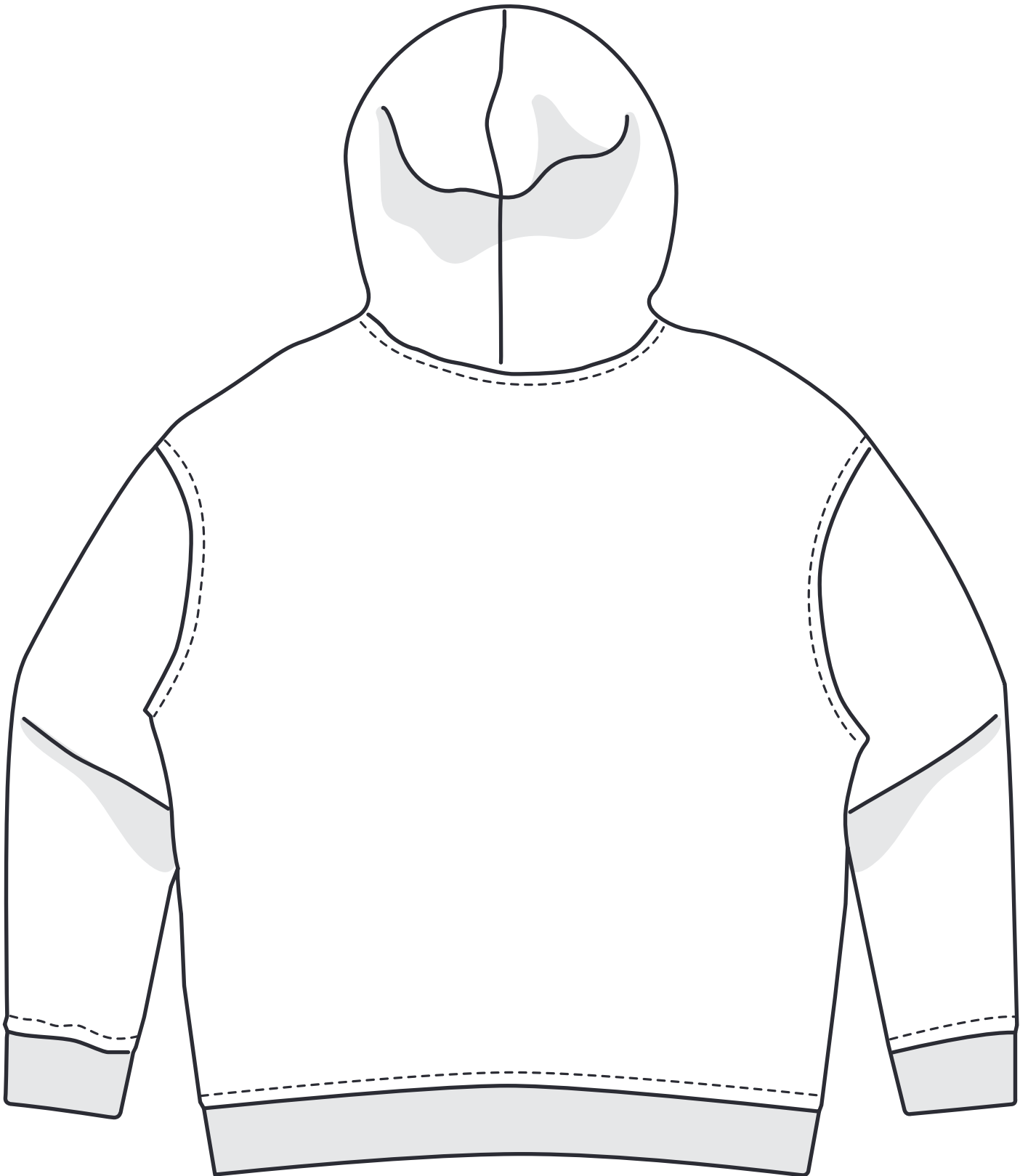
We're making great progress and change in the community, but we need your support to create an autism-inclusive Australia.

Hosting a Hoodie Up event is a fantastic way to start a conversation about autism in your school or among your family and friends. This event will also show your understanding of Autistic people and raise vital funds to help build a more autism-friendly world.

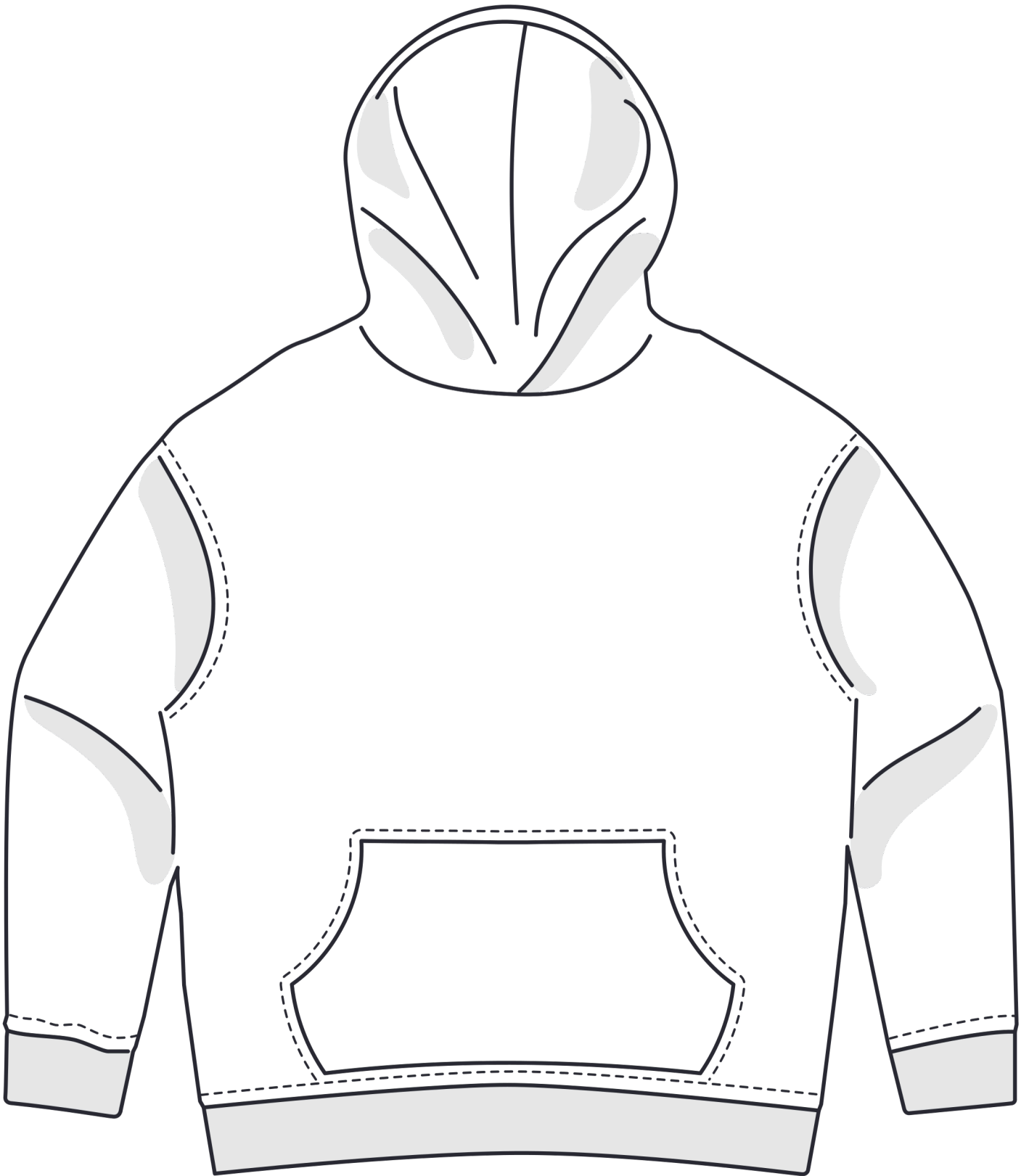
Find out more about Amaze's work and how you can get involved at [amaze.org.au](https://amaze.org.au).

Your support will help us advocate to ensure the autism community's voices and needs are recognised in government policy and the media, break down stigma in the wider community through public education campaigns, and create a more autism-inclusive Australia.





**DESIGN YOUR OWN HOODIE!**

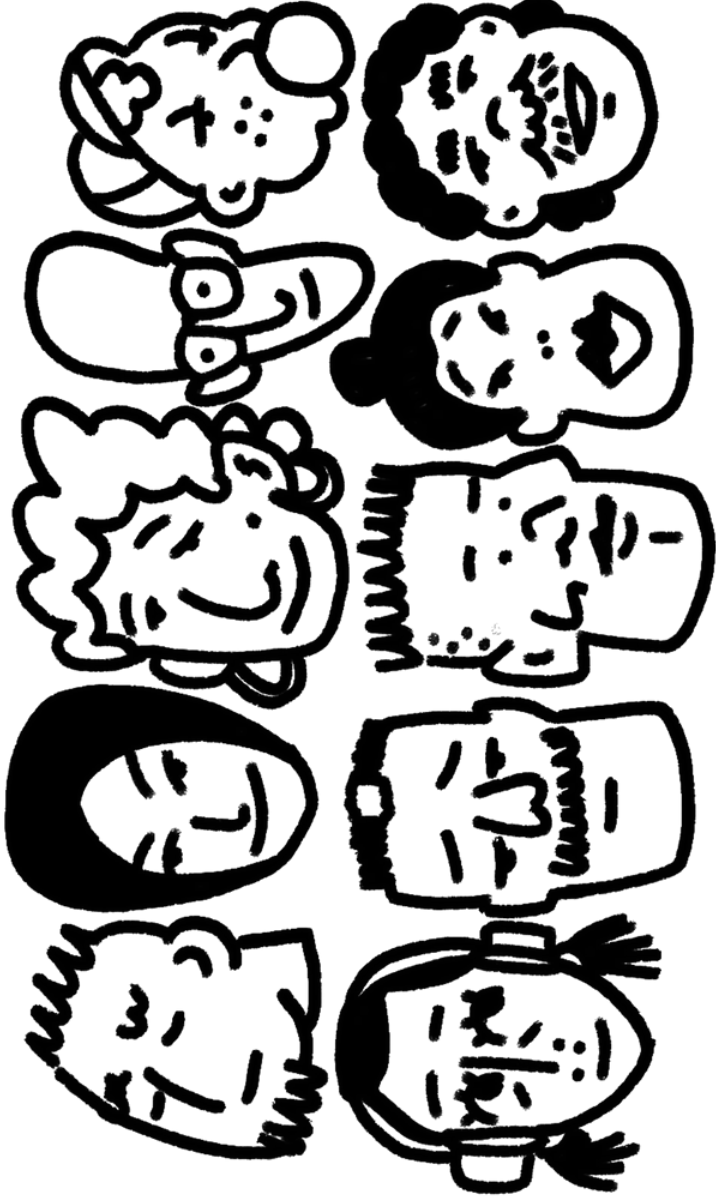


**DESIGN YOUR OWN HOODIE!**



DIVERSITY  
IN OUR  
COMMUNITY

DRAW YOUR  
DIVERSE COMMUNITY



ADD MORE FACES



# #hoodieup



**1. REGISTER**



**2. PLAN**



**3. #HOODIEUP**

## **Amaze Inc.**





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Web: [amaze.org.au](http://amaze.org.au)

## **Autism Connect**

National autism support line  
Phone: 1300 308 699

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