

In 2019, NSW Students with a disability and Aboriginal children were disproportionately represented in school suspensions and exclusions (they comprised more than half) and 38% of homeschooled students have a disability, far more than the number at Public Schools. This shows a clear picture that students with disabilities are struggling in the education system, yet fewer than one in five teachers have taken a course on students with a disability in the past three years. And for those that have, the average length of the course was three hours with no follow up involved. Mr Gavrielatos (NSW Teachers Federation President) said in the past 20 years there had been a 300 per cent increase in students with disabilities in NSW public schools and a 500 per cent increase of students with disabilities integrated into mainstream classrooms. Teachers need more help, support and education in order to improve the educational outcomes of students with disabilities.

Embrace Difference is an organisation run by Neurodivergent individuals for Neurodivergent students and the people that support them (their families, teachers and schools). We are dedicated to forging a world where our Neurodivergent children are seen through a strength-based lens. Where they feel understood, heard and embraced for their strengths which will enable them to be defined by them and to soar!

At **Embrace Difference** we employ Neurodivergent individuals that provide Professional Development in the form of seminars, workshops and webinars, Professional Development for teachers to assist in improving the educational outcomes for their Neurodivergent students and mediation and advocacy for parents and schools. At **Embrace Difference** you will gain a deeper understanding of Neurodivergence, Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia and twice-exceptionality.

We are thrilled to welcome you to **Embrace Difference** where all differences are embraced, supported and celebrated!

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Embrace Difference Vision and Mission Statement

Our goal is to educate and support schools, teachers, parents, carers, families and individuals who are Neurodivergent themselves, teach and support Neurodivergent students or just seek a better understanding of Neurodiversity. This will be achieved through a strength-based, Talent Development Model. All of our teachers have educational qualifications and specialise in Neurodivergent students and are Neurodivergent themselves since as DuBois said, "Children learn more from what you are than what you teach".

We deliver presentations to schools (teachers and carers) to help them relate and support their Neurodivergent young people through both our professional and lived experience. We also support families by advocating for their children within the school setting and coaching them to become more confidant advocators themselves. Neurodivergent students, who are struggling, are supported by a series of assessments and conversations that allow us to develop a strength-based, talent development profile that can be given to schools so that they may understand which environments will help the student thrive. We are passionate about empowering Neurodivergents and their allies with the knowledge and mindset necessary to Embrace Difference!

Supporting students with evidenced-based strategies is of utmost importance. For this reason, we participate in research groups that are focussed on helping Neurodivergent students thrive including workshops for NACF (National ADHD Consumer Forum) and the Education Focus Group for the Australian Autism Research Council. This will enable us to help steer, implement and integrate evidence-based strategies in the everyday lives of Neurodivergent individuals.

What teachers have said:

"Thank you for your honest, refreshing, informative and engaging presentation." MSC, 2020

"Your presentation was amazing! You had me listening to every single word and I didn't fidget, yawn or look at my watch once!" MSC, 2020

"You are better than most Ted Talks I've heard!" PSN, SG, 2019

"Truly inspiring" PSN, SG, 2020

"I now have a better understanding of my son" MoE, SG, 2019

Seen on:

Teacher Chatter
Neurodiversity Media
Neurodivergent Pride Day (Netherlands)