



Registered
NDIS
Provider

SoSafe! @Gateways

Empower young people with disability to reduce their vulnerability to physical and sexual abuse through Gateways Support Services' SoSafe! group program.

Designed specifically for young people aged 12 to 20 years with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or moderate to severe intellectual disability, SoSafe! provides a simple, visual, concrete and rule-governed model of social reality.

Participants will learn to improve the quality of interactions with different categories of people by teaching the type and degree of verbal and physical intimacy appropriate with each.

The 12-week group program also aims to help participants:

- Understand the concepts of consent, public and private, okay and not okay,
- Express their sexuality (including masturbation, kissing and cuddling) in a socially appropriate manner, and
- Develop and maintain social support networks.

The program involves:

- Live parent/carer online information session with Jessie Hutchinson (Program Presenter, SoSAFE! User and Adolescent Occupational Therapist)
- 45-minute group sessions - for both young person and their parent/carer - each Wednesday for 12 weeks.
- Accompanying visual resources and an individualised "people and relationships" book.

There will be a FREE online information session for parents/carers before registrations for the program open. Please email jessie.hutchinson@gateways.com.au or 5221 2984 to express your interest.

Who is this program for?

To be eligible for *SoSafe!*, a young person must:

- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or mid-moderate to mid-severe Intellectual Disability,
- Be aged between 12 and 20,
- Have a current NDIS plan and adequate funding to be invoiced the cost of the entire program,
- Have the ability to respond reliably to yes/no questions through verbal or non-verbal communication (eg. words, head movements, finger pointing, Level 1 of PECS),
- Be able to learn and discriminate pictographs and photographs, and
- Be able to attend group sessions at Gateways PLACE in North Geelong weekly for 12 weeks.

Cost

- Parent/carer online information session: Free
- 12 week group program: \$595.76 per participant (NDIS funded)

Where

Gateways Community PLACE
12-14 Thompson Rd, North Geelong, 3215
Every Wednesday at 5:30pm
Dates to be confirmed.