



## Criteria for Autism-Friendly Town Award 2022/23

### What is an Autism-Friendly Town?

In developing the criteria for the Autism-Friendly Towns Award we have sought to create a framework which is both challenging and achievable, irrespective of the size of the community who are applying.

We will award Autism-Friendly Town Status to a community based on incremental change being achieved over a 3-year cycle. A town achieves and retains its status by achieving the indicators which have been set for each of the 3 years.

The core requirements of the Award are:

- The creation of an Autism-Friendly Town Committee
- The development and implementation of a 3 year town plan
- Reaching 15% of the town's population in Year 1 and 25% by Year 3
- Engaging 3 employers in supporting the initiative and providing work experience or employment opportunities
- Engaging a quota of "Autism Friendly Champions" for each sector within the community as follows:
  - Retail 15%
  - Hospitality & Culture 25%
  - Public Services 50%
  - Healthcare 25%
  - Schools & Education 50%
  - Voluntary, Leisure and Sporting 25%

In Year 1, towns must engage the required number of Champions and offer relevant training. Based on the size of the organisation, the following number of people will need to receive the training:

- **Small organisation** (1-15 employees/volunteers)
  - 1 manager and 1 employee trained who commit to share their knowledge with the broader team and be a point of contact
- **Medium organisation** (16-50 employees/volunteers)
  - All managers and 1 employee per shift or area of work who commit to share their knowledge with the broader team and be a point of contact
- **Large organisation** (50+ employees/volunteers)
  - All managers and 1 employee per shift or site or area of work who commit to share their knowledge with the broader team plus training made available to all interested employees/volunteers on an ongoing basis

In Year 1, a single sector whose quota is not fully fulfilled will be allowed to be compensated for within the Town Inventory based on increased participation of Champions in other sectors but by Year 3 all sectors must meet the quotas set.



By the end of Year 3, a Champion must have visual supports and sensory accommodations in place, with one area of focus for each year (i.e. a Champion can develop a visual guide in Year 2 and a sensory accommodation in Year 3).

The exception being education settings which must instead roll-out a training and awareness programme to all employees/teachers and students each year.