

# About Us

## Daniel Giles OAM



Daniel is proudly Autistic working tirelessly as an advocate for other Autistic individuals and others with diverse needs.

He was diagnosed at the age of 2.5 years, experienced delays in verbal communication and needed assistance with understanding neurotypical social interactions.

Daniel's commenced his education in a special school. With support from his family and many others, Daniel transitioned from special education to mainstream schooling. He then went on to achieve a Bachelor of Graphic Design (Hons).

As an adult he lives independently, works part-time as a graphic designer and photographer, and does a range of volunteer work.

Daniel is actively involved in many roles including the Victorian Disability Advisory Council (DHHS), the Public Transport Access Council and the V/Line Accessibility Reference Group. He is also passionate about educating the community about being Autistic and mentoring other Autistic Individuals.

Daniel has been speaking at professional development events, to health care workers, educators and families since the age of 13 and has a unique ability to give a clear insight of life as an Autistic Individuals, along with strategies that have helped him with his quality of life, enabling him to achieve great things.

Daniel was honoured to receive the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2017 for his "Service to Disability and the Community".

## Daryl Giles



Daryl is proudly Daniel's dad.

He is inspired by and in awe of Daniel's self-advocacy work and all that he has achieved.

After several years of discussing the possibility of a collaboration with Daniel, Daryl has come on board to present with Daniel and provide a parent's perspective of Daniel's life journey from his diagnosis through to the incredible recognition of Daniel's social justice work when he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 2017.

Daryl brings to the discussion some insight into the emotional process of coming to terms with your son or daughter's diagnosis as well as his perspective on subjects including strategies surrounding early intervention, inclusion, education, independent living, employment and a careful measure of tough love to achieve best outcomes for your child on the autism spectrum.

Daryl has always been a calm and focused hands-on parent and willing to do what is needed to achieve the best for Daniel.

## What we do

Together, we aim to bring our story far and wide. In doing so we aim to provide our audiences with:

- » A better insight of the mind of an Autistic individual.
- » Some ideas for strategies to achieve best outcomes at home, in the community and in school settings.
- » A message of hope to the parents and families of children on the Autism Spectrum.



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