The Umbrella Network and Griffith University would like to invite you to participate in an exciting workshop and research project.

**Empowering Parents to Guide Their Child’s Learning:**
*Working with schools and professionals to get the best outcome for your child with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

*Wednesday and Thursday, 4 and 5 March, 2015, 9.00am-4.00pm*

Australian parents of an estimated 20,000 school-aged children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) regularly engage with schools and services to access effective learning and education programs for their children as they move from early childhood, to primary and secondary school, and into adulthood. Parents often report feeling frustrated and disempowered in selecting and accessing effective programs and support for their children with ASD during the school years. The aim of this workshop and research project is to give you, as a parents of a child with ASD, the knowledge, strategies and support they need to develop a vision and plan for their child and to work with educators and professionals to develop and implement effective educational programs for their children.

At the beginning of the project, you will participate in a two-day workshop in which you will be given specific training and strategies in the use of the *Cycle of Learning* framework in order to enable you to guide your child’s learning as they progress through school and to work with schools to implement effective educational programs that will support your child to achieve his/her full potential. During the workshop, you will be guided to develop not only a plan for your child, but a plan of action to help you make more effective decisions, be a successful advocate for them, and assist them to identify their own strengths and needs and eventually advocate for themselves. Specifically you will be given skills and training in order to:

- Develop a vision for your child for the next 3-5 years
- Assess your child’s strengths, interests, and needs
- Identify priorities and goals for your child
- Select and engage with educators/professionals to access effective educational programs/strategies for your child
- Evaluate your child’s progress and the effectiveness of strategies and programs
- Negotiate with school professionals and other service providers to progress an overall plan for their child as they progress through the lifespan.
- Advocate for your child and promote the self-determination of your child as they move through different educational programs
- Develop a future learning plan for your child and an action plan for yourself
After the workshop, you will be provided with ongoing support and strategies through an interactive online website where you will be able to access expert advice and support as you navigate the challenges and successes to implement your plan and support your child. You will also have the opportunity to provide input and feedback to help shape the website and workshop in order to create an effective tool for providing parents of children with ASD across Australia with the tools and information they need to help their child achieve their goals as they move through school and into adulthood.

Who should attend: This workshop is primarily for parents or carers of children with ASD, but would also be helpful for parents of children with other developmental disabilities.

Where: The Umbrella Network, 254 Eldon Street, Rockhampton.

Presenter:
Dr. Amanda Webster, Autism Centre of Excellence - Dr Amanda Webster has worked for over 28 years with both individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities and their families in school, home and community settings. She is currently the Program Convener for the Autism Studies program at the Autism Centre of Excellence at Griffith University. Before coming to Griffith, she worked in Australia and the USA in positions as a school leader, program developer, special educator, early intervention specialist, and behavior analyst in both inclusive and special schools and home settings. This has led her to develop a particular expertise in the design of education programs for individuals with ASD and other disabilities as well as the implementation of evidence-based practice for individuals with ASD in school curriculum and environments. At Griffith University Dr Webster regularly teaches classes on ASD to postgraduate students from a range of backgrounds including teachers, psychologists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and parents.

Cost to attend: $40 for the 2-day workshop. (This will be used to provide morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on both days).

Registrations will close on Monday, 2 March. To confirm your attendance please email Raelene at info@umbrellanetwork.org or Amanda on a.webster@griffith.edu.au with the information below.

Name:
Contact Number:
Email address:
Age of ASD child:
Special dietary requirements: