

autism

iMagazine



**GOING TO THE
DENTIST?**

**KATHY LETTE
IN CONVERSATION**

**AWARENESS
ACCEPTANCE
ACTION**

**TRAINING
FIRST
RESPONDERS**

**Make Eye
Contact**



An introduction to 18+

with Malcolm Mayfield

Malcolm Mayfield is a certified practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming, a qualified presenter and trainer, and co-author and Australian distributor of the AAPC book “The Hidden Curriculum of Getting and Keeping a Job: Navigating the Social Landscape of Employment.”



What happens to your child once they turn 18? This is the question troubling many families. autism Oz hopes to answer some of your concerns in our new section 18 PLUS with Malcolm Mayfield.

I was first diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome in my late thirties. It was a pivotal moment in my life that opened my map of the world to vast and new expanses of awareness of a world that was both alien and comfortably familiar to me at the same time. I had opened my eyes to the autism spectrum, and it was dazzling and overwhelming. I needed to know more and I needed to know it fast.

One of the first books that I read about Aspergers syndrome was one written by Juanita P Lovett called “*Solutions for adults with Aspergers syndrome: Maximising the benefits, minimising the drawbacks to achieve success.*” It contained a great number of insights that both I and my neuro-typical partner could relate to and, in turn, use to enhance our understanding and appreciation of each other.

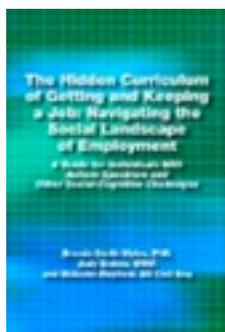
There was one excerpt in particular that I would like to share from this book. It is a quote attributed to an unnamed health care professional:

“For so long, the idea that Aspergers Syndrome [AS] occurs in adults has been so taboo that by reading the textbooks on AS, one would be left with the impression that AS is miraculously cured or is uniformly fatal at age 18.”

My observation is that the above perception is slowly changing, thanks to the work of organisations such as ASAN AuNZ and other autism self-advocacy and support groups. Autistic adults are learning that they have a voice in society and they are beginning to use their voices to great effect.

I also recognise that it is essential to provide life skills to autistic children as early as possible to assist them with integrating with the society into which they have been born. This allows for a greater degree of success and acclimatising to this world that seems to be fixated on social protocol.

Click on book picture to order



I firmly believe that there is a need for support services to continue for these ‘children’ when they pass through the threshold to adulthood.

To To this end, autism Oz Magazine and Autism STAR Pty Ltd have combined forces to bring you an 18+ column each issue, with topics including employment, relationships and sexuality, communicating, legal issues, social groups and more.



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If you would like a particular adult autism topic to be covered in future issues, please send your ideas to the editor of [autism OZ Magazine](#). We would love to hear from you.

Malcolm Mayfield is co-author of “The Hidden Curriculum of Getting and Keeping a Job: Navigating the Social Landscape of Employment.”