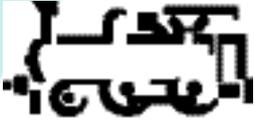




# Autism awareness at the National Railway Museum

## Visual/Narrative story

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## **Museums are for everyone Autism awareness at the National Railway Museum**

The National Railway Museum welcomes families and young people with autism. Museums are for everyone. We are aware many autistic children, young people and their families may find visiting museums difficult.

The most common barriers to visiting a museum are; unfamiliar environment, lots of people and sensory overload.

This publication provides a visual schedule and basic sensory information for parents/carers, and is available on our website.

The Shop has trained staff to be amenable, and are aware that every child/adult on the spectrum may have different needs.

The Museum provides a visual schedule, offers a quiet space -which is marked on the map, sensory toys and headphones -available at the Shop.

Be aware that any 'Event Day' attracts more people and other extra environmental stresses could be experienced.



### **Workplace Relations Statement**

*The National Railway Museum acknowledges that it has a responsibility for the welfare of those onsite, with the first obligation being to its volunteers and staff.*

*Under this obligation, volunteers and staff are required to take reasonable care that their behaviour and activities do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons, whether these be other volunteers and staff, or visitors. The Museum is required to ensure, so far as is reasonably practical, the health and safety of those volunteers and staff who are carrying out work for the Museum.*

*Similarly, those who visit the Museum must take reasonable care for their own health, and take care that their behaviour and activities do not adversely affect the health and safety of other persons onsite, whether these be volunteers and staff, or other visitors.*

## Visual/Narrative story

### Autism awareness at the National Railway Museum



The National Railway Museum is **located** at 76 Lipson Street, Port Adelaide. You can get there by car or public transport. There is a carpark close to the museum. The Museum is open daily from 10am until 4.30pm.

**Items to bring** to help you feel comfortable and relaxed are -noise reducing headphones, sunglasses or a stim or fidget toy to help you feel calm.

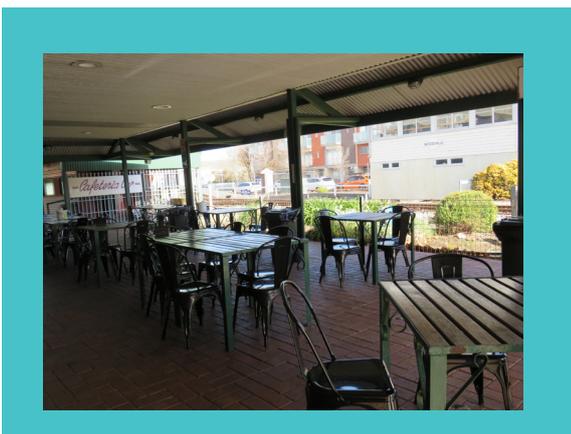
To to see the exhibits and train rides, you pay admission at the **Shop**. People who work in the Museum are **volunteers**. Visitors are individuals, families, community groups and school groups. There is a **Duty Manager** on site to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable visit.



The Museum shop has books, dvds, toys and souvenirs. Some people might choose to buy something to remember their visit. The items in the shop cost money and you may not be allowed to buy. Some people simply want to browse. You will be handed a **Visitor Guide/Map** which helps you get around the Museum and locate the exhibits.

**Toilet facilities** are adjacent to the veranda/seating area. If you require a wheelchair please go to the Shop.

You can bring your own **food and drink**. There are many seats and tables where you can rest, eat and drink. Vending machines dispense drinks and snacks - if you purchase any items you have to pay for them with cash or credit card.



There might be other people visiting the Museum too so, it could be noisy and there are lots of things to look at. You may need to wait for a turn for a train ride or use the toilet. Waiting in line and taking turns means that everyone will get the chance to see the exhibits and have a ride on the small train.

You can wave to passengers on the **small train** and you may be allowed to take a ride on it. The train leaves frequently from Callington station - listen for announcements of departure time. Boarding assistance is available - ie steps.



The Museum has **two large paved pavilions** and a heritage goods platform. The **Fitch Pavilion** has many long alleys/walkways and many exhibits to look at. Please treat all displays gently.

You will see many signs in the pavilions - MIND THE GAP, Please Do Not Touch, CAUTION, WARNING and other safety signs. These signs are to ensure you and other visitors have a safe and enjoyable visit and to prevent any damage to the collection.





In the **Fitch Pavilion** there are many exhibits that you can touch - pull levers, press buttons and touch screens. Some have bells and lights.

You may wish to sit down and listen to the story about the Tea and Sugar train and you may also wish to enter the carriages. Mind your step when you climb the stairs.

When you enter the Butchers Van you will be greeted by the butcher. He is not a real person, it is a image on a monitor. He will say 'hello' and you can reply by pressing the buttons on the screen. Many of the vans have interactive screens.



Many of the display cells have dimmed lighting. The most popular cell is the **Model Railway**.

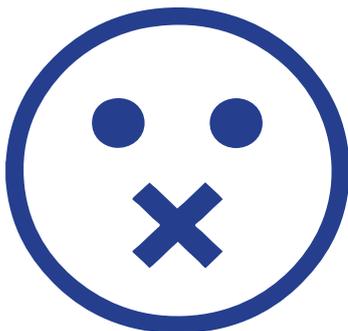
You can walk down many alleys and look at the Museum's collection. Many trains are locked to prevent any damage/theft/vandalism and for safety reasons.

In the middle of the pavilion you can walk up a long platform and look into windows of the Overland sleeping cars - Allambi and Onkaparinga. Also you can enter Car 3, this tiny wooden carriage was built in 1877. This exhibit is the oldest carriage preserved in South Australia and was restored by museum volunteers.



If you wish to look at further exhibits, head towards the south exit of the Fitch Pavilion, follow a brick path and you will see the **Fluck Pavilion**. All pavilions have the same layout - paved walking paths, high ceilings and trains on tracks. The neatness and cleanliness of the site is maintained by the Museum volunteers.

If you require a **quiet space** we suggest go to the seating area near Callington Station or near Skipper - the yellow steam locomotive. These areas are located on the east side of the site near the small train track and it is generally not busy'



We also welcome you to use the foyer of the Wegmann Lounge Car. This space is marked with **quiet room** signage and marked on the Visitor Guide/Map. This carriage is adjacent to the model railway layout. Signage indicates to all that it is a quiet space.

Generally the pavilions are low/medium sensory spaces.

People with autism like trains for multiple reasons, including the wheels, the rhythm and the sounds. Their knowledge of the subject is truly inspiring.

The Museum hopes that this publication enables better communication about the needs of many people in our society: sharing a subject that we all love.

Tooooooot Tooooooot - continue your journey!