

## **STANDARDS FOR AUTISM FRIENDLY VENUES**

People on the autism spectrum thrive on being in a familiar environment with routine and structure. Some may not be comfortable with the idea of change and may have difficulty transitioning from one environment to another. In preparation for visiting a new venue, some autistic people or their parents/carers may wish to visit in advance to check the suitability. They may visit alone or bring the person on the autism spectrum to begin familiarising themselves with the new surroundings ahead of their main visit. Advance information can be very important for autistic visitors who may be able to cope better if they can prepare for changes before their visit. By providing as much information as possible about your venue, you will manage expectations, reduce anxiety, and assist with planning. Details of the building layout are important for people with a wide range of accessibility requirements, but certain environmental elements can be challenging or confusing for an autistic visitor.

### **Room Booking**

Two rooms will be booked:

*Meeting Room 1:* the actual meeting room

*Meeting Room 2:* a quiet room

Note: The quiet room needs to be within quick and easy access from the actual meeting room. A public space or a room on a different floor isn't appropriate.

A map must be provided, clearly showing the meeting room and quiet room and how to get from both from the reception area.

### **Time of Bookings**

*Meeting Room 1:* will be booked an hour in advance for a pre-NAPB preparatory work to be carried out and 30 minutes in advance for same for Working Groups.

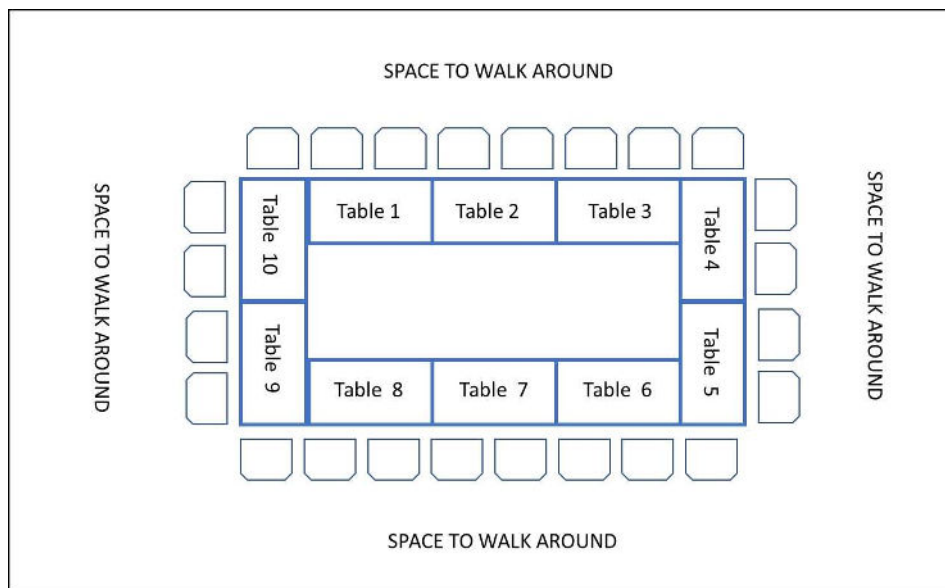
*Meeting Room 2:* will be booked for the same time as meeting room 1, but for an extra ½ hour at the end of the meeting to provide a quiet place.

It is important that no one else uses this room, it must be available to any autistic person who may need it at any given time. It is helpful to have a note on the door reading “NAPB Meeting – Quiet Room”.

## Seating Arrangements

The table needs to be in a square, with enough space to be able to move between chairs without touching other people. The space in the middle needs to be minimal to ensure people can hear each other.

### *Ideal Table Set up for NAPB*



## Facilities

- Water to be available and on the table for each person attending.
- Sweets or things that create a noise either on opening or eating not permitted.
- Good ventilation; adequate heating, but not over-heated.
- The right acoustic environment – no echoing.
- Minimal external or intrusive noises.