

## **Transcript of video interview with Lachlan Peach for the “Humans On The Autism Spectrum” School Leavers series**

**Lachlan:** Hi my name is Lachlan Peach. I am 21. I'm a mentor with the I CAN Network. I love music and drawing and I'm an avid gamer.

### **What was hard about high school?**

**Lachlan:** The constant stress of trying to keep up with my peers and always worrying if I was going to fall behind plus I never always understood what I was doing in my work but I was always too nervous to ask the teachers for help.

### **What did you gain from being an I CAN mentee?**

**Lachlan:** Confidence was definitely a big one for me as well as courage 'cuz I used to be very, very scared. Through I CAN and being a mentee I got a lot more courageous and a lot more willing to do stuff I never thought I would even consider engaging in.

(From 2017 video: *“Let the world see the madness of Autism that brings out the best in me.”*)

### **What inspired you to become an I CAN mentor?**

**Lachlan:** I want to help the next generation of Autistics be exactly like us: have a chance to be awesome, have a chance to protect and guide each other.

### **How did having Autistic mentors help your confidence?**

**Lachlan:** After getting with I CAN and seeing the benefits and just the influence that comes from being around other Autistics, my self-confidence went up – and not just mine but also friends of mine who are also Autistic. Their confidence also shot up because we all hung out together and inspired each other to push past the negativity and just be proud of ourselves and be proud of each other and just push each other to get even happier and happier.

### **What advice do you have for Autistic young people about to leave school?**

**Lachlan:** Focus on your interests and stuff you love to do and just go on after it. Push yourself as best you can to get the best results for you.

### **What advice do you have for teachers of Autistic students?**

**Lachlan:** Helping us in that transition of falling a little bit behind will be the main goal in making sure that we are a benefit in the classroom and not a distraction, plus the fact that it's always good to have happy kids 'cuz then everyone has fun.

### **What are your career goals?**

**Lachlan:** A teacher's aide or even just a full blown teacher working in one of the mainstream schools in my town just so as Autistics through the years get older and older, there's also a teacher on the spectrum there at the school to inspire those kids to see that they're not being held back. They can get to the same level I have. They can be as awesome and brilliant as me.

**End**