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## **New autism**

## program for Brisbane library team

A PILOT program for children with autism is being developed to run in one Brisbane City Council library later this year.

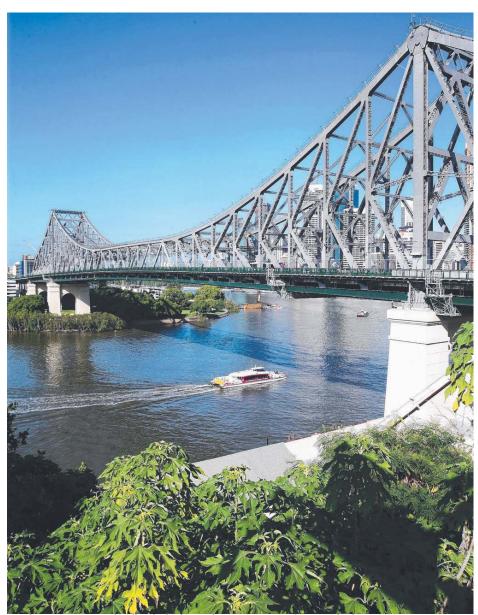
partnership Autism CRC, Griffith University, Studio G (Autism Queensland) and the council, the program is focused on creating public story time spaces for children with autism.

"The ability for children on the autism spectrum to attend their local library and participate in story time activities can be affected by factors such as the story time space and session structure," Autism CRC project leader Dr Marleen Westerveld said.

ABS data indicates in 2015 more than 1 in 50 schoolaged children had an autism diagnosis and "about 50 per cent of children on the spectrum struggled to read" Dr Westerveld said.

Council Libraries First 5 Forever Team is working on developing strategies to create more autism-friendly sessions.

A pilot study will be run at one library this year. Visit Autism CRC's YouTube channel for information.



Brisbane City Council will splash the cash to improve Wilson Outlook Reserve.