

## Autism Council of Australia (ACN 085 018 408)

### Communiqué from the March and June Meetings of the ACA, 2006

The Autism Council of Australia met in Albury on **March 30 to April 1** 2006.

- The meeting was attended by: Mick Clark (Autism Tasmania), Adrian Ford (Autism Spectrum Australia — Aspect), Jon Martin (Autism SA), Penny Beeston (AQ), Alison Bird (Autism NT), Verity Bottroff (ex officio), Judy Brewer Fischer (independent), Amanda Golding (Autism Vic), and Shane Garoni (Autism Association of ACT). Also Mark Clayton from Aspect was in attendance as Minutes Secretary. Val McKelvey was absent (Autism Association of WA).
- A key part of this meeting's agenda related to the ACA's constitution and the future of the ACA. Discussion over several hours was resolved by a unanimous decision to wind-up the ACA.
- The decision to wind up the ACA was predicated by another decision to form a new **national advisory board on autism spectrum disorders** from the current state and territory organisations that make up the ACA. It will be a much simpler organisation bound by a memorandum of understanding. The agreed purpose of the new national advisory board on autism spectrum disorders is to:
  - Be a source of information and systemic advocacy on autism spectrum disorders in Australia;
  - Develop a national policy framework for Australia on autism spectrum disorders;
  - Provide advice to the federal government on autism spectrum disorders
  - Support research into autism spectrum disorders;
  - Seek funding from federal government, corporations and the community to further its aims;
  - Support the corporate entity organising the biennial *Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders*;
  - Support the annual national autism awareness week and other agreed national promotions.
- A new MOU for the national advisory board is currently being developed in readiness for the next Board meeting and a wind-up letter to individual members has been sent.
- Judy Brewer Fischer announced her resignation from the Board of the ACA due to a desire to reduce her commitments. The ACA Board expressed their deepest gratitude and congratulations to Judy for her wonderful support of ACA and for developing a strong and positive collaboration between ACA and A4 during her tenure.

- The **2007 Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders** is being convened by Autism Queensland and will be held at Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast from 14 – 16 March 2007. The conference theme will be *Creative Futures*.



Click on the following link:

[http://www.aspect.org.au/forum/uploads/2007BiennialConference\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.aspect.org.au/forum/uploads/2007BiennialConference_Guidelines.pdf)

- **Autism Awareness Week 2007** will be from Sunday 13 to Saturday 19 May.

The next Autism Council of Australia meeting was by teleconference on June 16.

- Those participating were: Mick Clark (Autism Tasmania), Adrian Ford (Autism Spectrum Australia — Aspect), Jon Martin (Autism SA), Penny Beeston (AQ), Alison Bird (Autism NT), and Amanda Golding (Autism Vic). Also Mark Clayton from Aspect was in attendance as Minutes Secretary. Absent: Val McKelvey (Autism Association of WA), Shane Garoni (Autism Association of ACT), and Verity Bottroff (ex officio).
- A key part of the teleconference was further discussion about the wind-up the ACA and the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Board resolved to obtain further legal advice of these issues.
- Penny Beeston reported that Rita Jordan, Catherine Lord and Tony Attwood will be presenting as Keynote speakers at the Biennial Australian Conference and that Lorna Wing had agreed to open the conference by video link.
- The Prevalence Study data is currently under analysis with Dr. Katrina Williams.
- The next meeting of the ACA Board is scheduled for Friday 1 to Saturday 2 September in Melbourne.

Autism Council of Australia – [www.autismaus.com.au](http://www.autismaus.com.au)

Contact can be made with the Autism Council of Australia via your respective state or territory autism organisation.