

Autism Council of Australia (ACN 085 018 408)

Communiqué from the General Meeting of the Board – September 2006

- The Directors of the Autism Council of Australia met in Melbourne on the 1st & 2nd September 2006. The ACA Board comprises Mick Clark AUTISM TASMANIA, Amanda Golding AUTISM VICTORIA, Alison Bird AUTISM NT, Val McKelvey AUTISM WA, Jon Martin AUTISM SA, Adrian Ford ASPECT, Penny Beeston AUTISM QUEENSLAND, Shane Garoni AUTISM ASPERGER ACT & Verity Bottroff PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEE.



The 2007 Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders

- The 2007 Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders is being convened by Autism Queensland to be held at Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast from 14th- 16th March 2007. Keynote Speakers will include Rita Jordan, Catherine Lord and Tony Attwood. Lorna Wing will open the conference via videolink from the UK. www.astmanagement.com.au/autism7/
- Autism Awareness Week 2007** will be held from the 13th - 19th May. The conference theme "Creative Futures" has been adopted as the theme for Autism Awareness Week. The Council will produce a colourful poster and postcard set for use around Australia and will also host an online National Forum on their website entitled "Views for the Future". Participants will be able to post their response to the question "What would you like to see for your future?" Responses will inform the development of future Council submissions and projects. In 2008, May will named **Autism Awareness Month** to enable greater reach and flexibility Australia wide.
- Board members discussed further the simplification of the governance structure and constitution of the Autism Council of Australia. A revised constitution will be prepared for consideration later this year.
- The Autism Council of Australia supports Australian based **Autism Spectrum Disorder research** via The Apex Foundation Trust for Autism. A centralised web listing of current Australian Autism Spectrum Disorder research projects is to be developed via the current facility on the Autism Victoria website.
- Dr John Wray attended the Melbourne Board meeting to report on the **Autism Council of Australia Prevalence Study**. This study was funded by a grant from the federal government and is due for public release later this year. The Board developed a distribution and media plan for this important document.



- The Directors met with several members of the **Autism Council of Australia Professional Committee** (Bruce Tonge, Amanda Richdale and John Wray) at the conclusion of the Board

meeting to discuss issues relating to the diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. A national protocol for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders will be established by this committee.

- The Board will next meet via teleconference in October and November 2006 (which will incorporate the AGM), and meet face to face after the Biennial Australia Conference in March 2007.

Autism Council of Australia - www.autismaus.com.au

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

AUTISM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

AUTISM ASPERGER ACT

AUTISM NT

