

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

formerly the Autism Council of Australia

THE ADVISORY BOARD'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2008

- Foster relationships with key federal ministers in the new government including Bill Shorten, Jenny Macklin, Julia Gillard and Nicola Roxson, along with the new federal shadow ministers;
- Continue to advise the federal Department of Housing, Families, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs through participation on the Autism Spectrum Advisory Group for the Helping Children with Autism Program;
- Hold Autism Month in May 2008 with *Creative Futures* as the theme and undertake nationally coordinated activities such recognition award ceremonies held by each corporate member in the month and initiate a "Friends of Autism" parliamentary breakfast during *Autism Month* in cooperation with A4;
- Explore the development of a closer working relationship with A4 as the other major national advocacy group for autism, using the existing Memorandum of Understanding as its basis;
- Develop a public document that articulates the Advisory Board's charter;
- Finalise the document on national standards for the assessment and diagnosis of children with autism spectrum disorders;
- Finalise the formation of the Expert Reference Group to advise the Board on technical and clinical matters relating to autism spectrum disorders;
- Develop a strategic plan for the years 2009 – 2011;
- Publish communiqués after each Board meeting and distribute them widely through out the autism community;
- Continue to support the development and identification of data that supports the provision of services for people with ASD & their families;
- Continue the Board's advocacy role based on its Call to Action;
- Continue to support the Asia-Pacific Autism Conference 2009 to be held in Sydney in August 2009;
- Identify appropriate organisations with common purposes and build relationships and collaborations with them;
- Investigate the development of a fundraising strategy;
- Investigate the creation of a new corporate logo for the Advisory Board, and
- Encourage the development of research initiatives.

Registered Office: c/- 41 Cook St, Forestville NSW 2087

Postal: c/- PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087

Telephone: 02 8977 8300 **Facsimile:** 02 8977 8399 **ABN:** 53 085 018 408