

# Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

(ACN 085 018 408)

Previously known as the Autism Council of Australia

## Communiqué from the meetings of the Board – March & June 2007

- The **Directors** of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders met at the Gold Coast on March 17-18 and via teleconference on 22 June 2007. The Board comprises Adrian Ford ASPECT (Chairperson), Mick Clark AUTISM TASMANIA (Deputy Chair), Amanda Golding AUTISM VICTORIA (Secretary), Jon Martin AUTISM SA (Treasurer), Alison Bird AUTISM NT, Penny Beeston AUTISM QUEENSLAND & Bob Buckley AUTISM ASPERGER ACT. Secretariat support is provided by Julie Hook ASPECT.
- **Autism Awareness Australia, 2007** was held from 13<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May. The “Creative Futures” theme provided a national focus for the first time, and many positive and innovative activities were held across Australia. These included awards evenings, art exhibitions, research symposiums and family events.
- **The Australian Autism Prevalence study** was released in March 2007 prior to the 2007 Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders on the Gold Coast. The report was the result of an exhaustive three year study commissioned by the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders into the prevalence of autism, led by Perth paediatrician Dr John Wray. The report concluded that **one in 160** Australian children aged between 6 and 12 years have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) – that is over 10,000 Australian children in that age group. The report is available on the Board’s website.
- A **national research network** will be established to provide information about key research initiatives and projects being undertaken by researchers across Australia. The network will be set up using Autism Victoria’s website, with links to the Board’s and other states and territories websites.
- A **revised National Call to Action** is currently being finalised. The **National Call to Action** is the result of a collaborative approach that identified the imperatives for the autism community and that we appeal to both national and state policy makers to address. For each imperative, we seek to establish priorities and strategies to ensure effective resourcing and structuring of future service delivery.
- The 2009 **Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders will be held in SYDNEY.**
- The Board will next meet in Launceston on 14- 15 September 2007.

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[www.autismaus.com.au](http://www.autismaus.com.au)

Contact can be made with the Advisory Board via your respective state or territory autism organisation:

AUTISM ASPERGER ACT



AUTISM NT



AUTISM TASMANIA  
INCORPORATED

