

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

(Previously known as the Autism Council of Australia)

Communiqué following the Annual General Meeting and the Board Meeting of November 2006

- The **Directors** of the new Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders met via teleconference on the 24th November 2006. The Board comprises Mick Clark AUTISM TASMANIA, Amanda Golding AUTISM VICTORIA, Alison Bird AUTISM NT, Jon Martin AUTISM SA, Adrian Ford ASPECT, Penny Beeston AUTISM QUEENSLAND and Bob Buckley AUTISM ASPERGER ACT.
- A **Special General Meeting** held prior to the Board Meeting adopted the new constitution and name, representing the culmination of twelve months planning and consultation. The directors believe that the new Advisory Board will better utilise the Autism Spectrum Disorder expertise already existing at state and territory levels and, with a more workable structure, provide a stronger national voice, despite the very limited resources available. A copy of the constitution and purposes of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders can be downloaded from their website (www.autismaus.com.au).
- The Board also appointed new **office bearers** for 2007. Adrian Ford takes over from Mick Clark as Chairperson and Amanda Golding will replace Adrian as Secretary. Jon Martin remains Treasurer and Mick will assist Adrian as Deputy Chair. Julie Hook will replace Mark Clayton and provide Secretariat support to the Board.
- The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders will have a busy program for 2007. The **Prevalence Report** recently completed by Dr John Wray (Professional Committee) will be released in the near future.



The 2007 Biennial Australian Conference on
Autism Spectrum Disorders

- The **2007 Biennial Australian Conference on Autism Spectrum Disorders** is not far away. It is convened by Autism Queensland will be held at Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast from 14th–16th March 2007. International Keynote Speakers will include Rita Jordan, Catherine Lord and Brenda Smith Myles. National Keynote Speakers will include Tony Attwood, John Wray, Katrina Williams and Verity Bottroff. Full conference details and online registration are available from 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 be named **Autism Awareness Month** to enable greater reach and flexibility Australia wide.
- The Board will next meet in Sydney in late January and immediately after the Biennial Australian Conference in March 2007.
- Dated January 2007.

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