

# Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

ACN 085 018 408

(Previously known as the Autism Council of Australia)

## Communiqué from the meeting of the Board – September 2007

- The **Directors** of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders met in Launceston, Tasmania on September 14 and 15, 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.
- **A revised National Call to Action** has been finalised and was launched by the Board on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, following the federal government announcement of an ASD funding package. The text of the **National Call to Action** can be found on the AAB website. The **National Call to Action** is the result of a collaborative process that identifies a number of imperatives for the autism community that we appeal to both national and state policy makers to address. For each imperative, we have identified key priorities and a number of strategies to ensure effective resourcing and structuring of future service delivery. Members of the ASD community are encouraged to utilise the National Call to Action in their own lobbying activities.
- The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is to establish a **Reference Group** comprising key professionals with specific expertise in autism spectrum disorders. The role of the Reference Group will be to provide support and input to the Board. The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders Reference Group will enhance the role previously undertaken by the Autism Council of Australia Professional Committee. Background information and an Expression of Interest pro form can be found on the AAB website. Expressions of Interest are now invited and should be forwarded to the AAB no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2007.
- Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) will host the inaugural **2009 Asia Pacific Conference on ASD** (incorporating the **Biennial National Conference on ASD**). The conference will be held from **20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> August**, 2009 at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney.
- The Directors are currently preparing a draft Protocol and Guidelines for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- **May 2008** has been deemed **Autism Spectrum Month** and the by-line “People. Not puzzles.” is to be developed for use Australia wide. The directors believe that allocating a month will provide flexibility and greater opportunity for meaningful awareness activities.
- The AGM and next Board meeting will be held via teleconference on **23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007**.

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders –

[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 -

