

# Media Release

## Announcements put autism on the map

*3 October 3, 2007.* The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders welcomes today's announcements by both the Federal Government and the Opposition.

Advisory Board Chair, Adrian Ford says, "Today's announcements by both parties are welcomed and put autism spectrum disorders firmly on the map. The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders has been in consultation with the Federal Government in particular for several years, so this announcement represents a huge step forward."

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders has a 'National Call to Action' which clearly outlines the issues facing people with an autism spectrum disorder, their families and the consequent impact on the community at large.

"The Medicare rebate announced by the Government will give a huge boost to multidisciplinary early diagnosis," says Adrian.

Adrian continues, "We know that early intervention followed particularly by specialised school programs can have a major impact on the ability of children to transition into work environments. But we can not forget that there will also always be adults with an autism spectrum disorder with special needs."

Young children with an autism spectrum disorder and their families will benefit most out of today's announcements. Families who struggle to find autism specific placements for their children will be excited by the much needed injection of funding and specialised programs.

Adrian says, "The Governments plan to offer 450 teachers and other skilled staff specialist training is going to have a major impact on the many children in the school system that have not been able to receive the specific care they need."

### For Immediate Release

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A copy of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders 'National Call to Action' follows.

Chair Adrian Ford is available for interview.

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