

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

formerly the Autism Council of Australia

Board Charter

This charter clarifies the agreed boundaries of Board discussion, decision-making and activity within the constitutional purposes of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (AAB-ASD) and the ground rules by which Board members agree to work, following the Board meeting on 19 - 20 September 2008.

Under its constitution the AAB-ASD is established to work at a national level to alleviate the deleterious effects of autism spectrum disorders and enhance the support and quality of life of people who have an autism spectrum disorder, their families and carers by:

- 1. Collecting and disseminating information and fostering awareness relating to the detection and treatment of autism spectrum disorders;*
- 2. Promoting research into the causes and effective treatment of autism spectrum disorders;*
- 3. Contributing to policy development in all areas which affect the lives of people with autism spectrum disorders and their families;*
- 4. Disseminating information that contributes directly to or indirectly to the support and wellbeing of people with autism spectrum disorders and their families; and*
- 5. Engagement, involvement and cooperation with any other association or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objects are altogether or in part similar to those of the AAB-ASD.*

In carrying out these purposes, the AAB-ASD shall not be aligned with any particular therapeutic program, approach or theory. However, it may purchase property and enter into such contracts as is necessary to attain the purposes.

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This means that the role of the Board is to:

- Advise the federal government about appropriate services, treatment and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and carers;
- Advocate to the federal government on systemic changes to further the provision of services, treatment and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and carers;
- Promote awareness and knowledge about autism;
- Build and strengthen collaborative relationships between AAB-ASD directors and their respective organisations to promote the AAB-ASD as the national peak body; and
- Secure the resources needed to achieve the goals decided upon and create a sustainable organisation.

The role of the Board is not to:

- Develop autism service delivery partnerships or collaborations among corporate members; and
- Promote the interests or strategies of member organisations or their activities at the expense of the wider purpose of the AAB-ASD.

To achieve these, directors will:

- Work together as a group to develop a strategic and integrated approach to the issues that fall within the purpose of the AAB-ASD;
- Readily share information about matters under consideration and respect any confidentiality of such information;
- Keep their respective organisations' boards or committees informed of AAB-ASD activities by tabling Board minutes, communiqués, discussion papers and other informative documents not deemed confidential; and
- Positively promote the AAB-ASD and its role within their respective organisations and in the wider community.

Australian Advisory Board on ASD
19 September 2008