

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

ACN 085 018 408

Communiqué from the Board meetings, May and June 2008

- The **Directors** of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders held 2 teleconferences in May 2008 and June 2008. The Board comprises Adrian Ford AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA (Chairperson), Mick Clark AUTISM TASMANIA (Deputy Chair), Penny Beeston AUTISM QUEENSLAND (Secretary), Jon Martin AUTISM SA (Treasurer), Joan McKenna Kerr AUTISM WA, Alison Bird AUTISM NT, Murray Dawson-Smith AUTISM VICTORIA & Bob Buckley AUTISM ASPERGER ACT. Secretariat support is provided by Allison Yee-Brogan AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA.
- The Board thanked Val Spence as AUTISM VICTORIA'S interim representative. Val has made a significant contribution in her time as interim Director of the Board and was warmly thanked. The Board formally welcomes Murray Dawson-Smith to the Board as AUTISM VICTORIA'S representative.
- **May 2008** was deemed **Autism Month** with *Creative Futures* as the theme. Nationally coordinated activities were conducted by each corporate member in the month. The following is a brief list of activities held across the country during Autism Month 2008:
 - **Autism SA:** 9 May 2008 Recognition Awards with SA Governor attending, air time on Channel 7 with a 30 second grab every night on autism month, a major SA Radio station supported Autism Month with \$15,000 worth of promotional material, Ball was held on 31 May 2008.
 - **Autism NT:** Ball held on Saturday 10 May 2008, Black Balloon screening night at Alice Springs, Hidden Talents Arts Exhibitions.
 - **Autism Asperger ACT:** Major fundraiser Ball will be held in September 2008, an hot air balloon fly over Canberra with Autism Asperger ACT on the basket, 200 days in the year
 - **Autism Victoria:** All service providers conducted client and family events in their own service areas, held a Black Balloon screening event.
 - **Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect):** 20 May 2008 held a Creative Futures Awards night with Elissa Down (writer of the Black Balloon) and NSW Minister for Disability Services attending, Ball was held in Albury, AGM was held on 28 May 2008 with NSW Governor Marie Bashir and Patron John Doyle attending, Channel 10 did an evening weather report at one of Aspect's schools, Aspect attended the Autism Awareness Group's Expo on 10 May 2008
- The AAB in cooperation with Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia (A4) initiated and held a 'Friends of Autism' Parliamentary Breakfast in Canberra on Tuesday 27 May 2008. The Parliamentary Breakfast was a great success with approximately 95 people attending. On behalf of the AAB, a sincere thank you to John Doyle for his time and presence.
- Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) and the Advisory Board will co-host the **Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2009** (incorporating the **Biennial Australian Conference on ASD**). The conference will be held from **20th to 22nd August, 2009** at the **Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney**.
- The next Board meeting will be held in Brisbane September 2008.

For more information go to our website www.autismaus.com.au. Contact can be made with the Australian Advisory Board via your respective state or territory organisation:



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