



**AUSTRALIAN ADVISORY BOARD ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS LTD
ACN 085 018 408**

2014 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2013-14

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is the national peak body representing the autism spectrum community. Through its members, the Advisory Board represents a significant number of Australian citizens who live with an ASD and who are members of, or who obtain services from, the Advisory Board's member organisations.

The 2013/14 financial year was marked by change in the Advisory Board

Governance

1. Board Appointments - 2014

- Penny Beeston appointed Chair
- Murray Dawson-Smith as Deputy Chair
- Murray Dawson-Smith as Treasurer and Company Secretary
- Murray Dawson-Smith stepped down from the position of Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary (resignation)
- Terry Burke to the position of Deputy Chair and Company Secretary
- Adrian Ford as Treasurer

Board Members – Corporate

- Joan McKenna-Kerr
- Adrian Ford
- Jon Martin
- Terry Burke

Board Members – Research

- Professor Katrina Williams
- Professor Jacqueline Roberts

Executive Officer – Short Term Contract

- Fiona Anderson



Governance

2. There was disruption to Board Governance arising from changes to the Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary positions.
3. A part-time contract EO was appointed for a period of 6 months. The position provided secretariat support and engaged with AABASD Directors and a range of stakeholders in relation to the roll out of the NDIS.
4. Autism NT put forward a representative as Director AABASD - after interview with representative it was determined Autism NT due to short term nature of representative's contract (Autism NT's ability to fund beyond contract) not to accept their nomination.

Strategic plan Jan – Jun 2014

Revised based on trial site feedback and NDIS roll out expectations
The mission was updated and the purpose was simplified.

Mission

Revised to:

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is the national peak body providing strategic advice on systemic issues affecting services and supports for people with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families to maximise their capacity for social and economic participation in the Australian community.

Purpose

- Promote awareness, good practice and knowledge about autism spectrum disorders;
- Advocate for systemic changes to improve the provision of services, treatment and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and carers;

Funding

5. Disability Employment Services Consumer Engagement Project
 - The AABASD received \$41K from National Employment Services Association to provide strategy to lift consumer engagement and knowledge of Disability Employment Services, as well as facilitate advice to the government about consumers' servicing needs.
 - A report and video was produced :
 - Disability Employment Services Consumer Engagement Strategy 2013/2014 Final report by Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (AABASD), June 2014
Differently Wired, Want To Work: The Voice Of People With Autism Spectrum



- Video: Disability Employment Services: helping people with Autistic Spectrum get jobs
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NPsnWmO-XNs&feature=youtu.be>

Raising Awareness

6. AUTISM MONTH APRIL 2014

- AABASD determined this Board would focus on World Autism Awareness Day and would encourage its members to hold awareness raising activities on and about that day

7. APAC 15 will be hosted by Autism Queensland

Influencing Policy

• PAPERS SUBMITTED

- Productivity Issues paper on Childcare and Early Childhood Learning – submitted to Productivity Commission
- Supporting Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder -A Guide for families and professionals
- Feedback on Australian Law Reform Commission -Equality, Capacity and Disability in Commonwealth Laws Issues Paper: November 2013
- Feedback on National Disability Insurance Agency Draft Strategic Plan 2013-16
- Response to Productivity Issues Paper on Childcare and Early Childhood Learning -Productivity Commissions Paper
- Feedback on Draft proposed changes to Autism Spectrum Disorder descriptions in Lists A, B and C of the NDIS Operational Guidelines
- Disability Employment Services Consumer Engagement Strategy 2013/2014 Final report by Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (AABASD), June 2014 *Differently Wired, Want To Work: The Voice Of People With Autism Spectrum*

Correspondence

- Letter to David Bowen, CEO, NDIA,
- Letter to Senator Mitch Fifield, Shadow Minister for Disabilities, Carers and the Voluntary Sector, Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate
- Letter from Bruce Bonyhady AM Chair NDIA
- Meeting – EO and Murray Dawson Smith with Mary Hawkins and Lee Duncombe from NDIS - report back to Board
- Meeting – EO and Murray Dawson Smith with Victorian Autism Branch Manager Alex Gunning - Report back to Board



Building Relationships / Strategic Alliance

- *National Employment Services Association*
 - *DES Consumer Engagement forum, representing the needs of people with ASD seeking employment.*

- *HP & Specialisterne*
 - The Chair attending the launch in Canberra of the partnerships between HP and Specialisterne.

- *Autism NZ*
 - AABASD considered a request by Autism NZ to host APAC and determined to retain APAC within the confines of AABASD membership.

Penny Beeston

Penny Beeston
Chair
10 November 2014