



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

**2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2012-13**

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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.

During the reporting period, there have been significant developments in the implementation of NDIS Launch sites as well as a change in Government at a Federal level. The Board has been active in advancing our key strategic directions and endeavouring to lead and influence NDIS developments to ensure better life outcomes for people living with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

The key activities for the Board in 2012-13 have focused on the following key areas:

**Governance**

- Board Appointments - 2013
  - Penny Beeston appointed Chair
  - Murray Dawson-Smith as Deputy Chair
  - Adrian Ford as Treasurer, Adrian Ford as Secretary
  - Adrian Ford stepped down from the position of Treasurer and Company Secretary.
  - Murray Dawson Smith to the position of Treasurer and Company Secretary.

**Board Members – Corporate**

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

**Board Members – Research**

- Professor Katrina Williams
- Professor Jacqueline Roberts

**Executive Officer – Contract**

- Fiona Anderson



### **Strategic Plan 2013**

- The board amended and the vision and purpose of the AABASD.

### **Funding**

- FaHCSIA Project Funding for the AAB ASD
  - The AABASD received \$100k from FaHCSIA for two projects.
  - These projects were undertaken on behalf of the AABASD by:  
Aspect: Mental Health and ASD and  
Amaze: Family Support through the Lifespan report.

### **Raising Awareness**

- AUTISM MONTH APRIL 2013
  - 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.
- APAC 13
  - Autism SA hosted a highly successful and well attended APAC13 and Jon Martin, CEO of Autism SA is to be congratulated on the outcomes
  - The Board approved the expenditure of \$15,000 from its reserves in order to be the major sponsor of the Young Leaders program which was launched at APAC 13
- APAC 15 will be hosted by Autism Queensland

### **Influencing Policy**

- PAPERS SUBMITTED
  - ASD and Mental Health paper was submitted to FahCSIA on 30 November.
  - Paper submitted to COAG re the regulation impact statement.
  - The Service Needs of Adults with High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder
  - The Diagnostic Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorders (DSM-V)
  - The National Disability Insurance Scheme - *COAG Consultation Regulation Impact Statement*
  - Principles to determine the responsibilities of the NDIS and other service systems
  - Australian Bureau of Statistics Discussion Paper – 2015 Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers



- Workshop in July 2012 re early Intervention. Report authored by Jacqui et al submitted to Government.
- Medicare items – advocate for continuity as a mainstream service.

### **Building Relationships / Strategic Alliance**

- AUTISM CRC
  - AABASD participated in the Bid process by way of the previous Chair, Jon Martin.
  - AABASD is a non-essential partner in the CRC and will need to identify strategies to strategically leverage relationship with CRC including smarter use of research papers.
- HCWA
  - Strategic relationship between HCWA and AABASD focusing on EI in launch sites and all the elements of HCWA – Autism Advisors, Medicare items, ASELCCC, Early Days workshops.
  - considered positive outcomes of HCWA – Productivity Commission's reference and evaluation by Jacqui Roberts et al.

Penny Beeston

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Penny Beeston  
Chair  
19 November 2013