



## Communiqué from the Board meeting May 2011 ACN 085 018 408

- The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders comprises Jon Martin AUTISM SA (Chairperson), Penny Beeston AUTISM QUEENSLAND (Deputy Chair), Adrian Ford AUTISM SPECTRUM AUSTRALIA (Treasurer/Secretary), Joan McKenna Kerr AUTISM WA, Tracey Myles AUTISM NT, Murray Dawson-Smith AUTISM VICTORIA, Manuel Duharte AUTISM TASMANIA & Bob Buckley AUTISM ASPERGER ACT. Secretariat support is provided by Scott Shepherd AUTISM SA.
- **2011 Federal Budget:** The Board reviewed the outcomes of the Federal budget noting the “Better Start” initiative, additional funding for mental health and the \$29 million boost for the *Helping Children with Autism* initiative. The Board resolved to undertake further discussion with FaHCSIA in relation to the budget outcomes.
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS):** The Board has produced a submission in response to the recent draft report from the Productivity Commission on the NDIS. This will be available on the website and expanded to a position paper for the autism spectrum community.
- **Position on Prevalence:** The Board reviewed recent Centrelink data on prevalence rates and agreed to update relevant documentation indicating that prevalence in Australia is now close to 1 in 100 according to a range of credible sources.
- **National Autism Summit:** In response to the outcomes of the National Autism Summit, the Board approved the appointment of 2 additional directors (to be determined) and the submission of a funding application for a national secretariat. This was immediately communicated via letter to all summit attendees after a teleconference with Paul Blair (Chair, National Autism Summit). A copy of the letter will be available on the website.
- **FaHCSIA:** The Board reviewed progress on the collaborative strategic directions with FaHCSIA (meeting held May 2010) and determined to continue building upon existing initiatives and relationships with FaHCSIA.
- **Position on Diagnosis and Assessment:** The Board has adopted a position paper on diagnosis and assessment which will be launched at a date to be advised.
- **Director Status:** It was noted in the meeting that the Board had resolved out of session to formally appointed Manuel Duharte (Autism Tasmania) as a new board director on 4 April 2011.
- **APAC 11 and APAC 13 Update:** Excitement continues to build for the upcoming 2011 Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC 11) being held in Perth in September. Adelaide has been confirmed as the host venue for the 2013 conference (APAC13) with preparations already underway.
- **Autism Month:** The Board praised and acknowledged all member organisations for their various activities held in celebration of Autism Month during the month of April.
- **Autism Victoria Accreditation Scheme:** Representatives from Autism Victoria addressed the board on the progress their organisation has been making with an accreditation scheme within their State.
- **HCWA Package Review:** Upon invitation, the Board compiled a submission as part of FaHCSIA's commissioned review of the autism interventions funded by the Helping Children with Autism Package (HCWA).
- The next Board meeting will be held in Perth on 12 -13 September 2011.

For more information go to our website [www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au](http://www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au) .Contact can be made with the Board via your respective state or territory organisation:

