



## **Board Mission and Charter of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders**

### **Mission**

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders (AAB-ASD) is the national peak body providing strategic advice to the Australian government on the issues affecting people with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families.

### **Charter**

This charter clarifies the agreed boundaries of Board discussion, decision making and activity derived from the constitutional purposes of the (AAB-ASD) and the ground rules by which Board members agree to work, following the Board meeting on 22 -23 May 2015.

- 1. Foster awareness and knowledge of autism spectrum disorders*
- 2. Promote research relating to autism spectrum disorders*
- 3. Contribute to policy development in areas that 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.*

*The management of the business and affairs of the Company shall be managed by the Board as set out in clause 13.1 of the Constitution.*

### **This means that the role of the Board is to:**

- Advise the federal government on systemic changes to further the provision of services and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and carers;
- Advise the federal government on issues arising for people with autism spectrum disorder, their families and carers, from the impact of government policy



- Advise all tiers of government via or with local representation regarding appropriate services, management and support for people with autism spectrum disorders, their families and carers;
- Build and strengthen collaborative and open 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 foster an effective and sustainable Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

**To achieve these, directors will:**

- Work together collaboratively and openly 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 Corporate Member 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.

**Activities**

The Board agrees to meet face to face 3 times per year, with its core activities being to:

- identify current strategic issues and priorities and develop position papers
- meet with relevant Ministers, Ministerial Advisors and senior bureaucrats in government and in opposition
- co-host APAC
- provide advice and advocate to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- promote autism awareness activities
- publish communiqués and media releases as deemed appropriate and distribute them widely throughout the autism community to inform stakeholders of the work of the AAB-ASD



**The role of the Board is not to:**

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

Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
29 July 2015