



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