



## Communiqué from the Board meeting September 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, & Bob Buckley AUTISM ASPERGER ACT. Secretariat support is provided by Scott Shepherd AUTISM SA.
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS):** The Board discussed their recently produced submission and other areas of focus in response to the final report from the Productivity Commission on the NDIS. In light of these discussions the Board will create a Call to Action for the development of an appropriate and targeted NDIS that recognises the unique needs of the ASD community
- **2011 Parliamentary Event:** The Board agreed to work towards such an event in 2012.
- **Progressing the Advisory Board as the Peak Body:** The Board noted responses received from National Summit attendees in relation to developing a peak body consistent with the agreed outcomes from the summit. Responses from attendees indicated the AAB was the preferred organisation to be the peak body for ASD in Australia. In response to this endorsement, the Board identified and interviewed potential candidates for the two Board-appointed Director positions. Successful candidates will be offered twelve month positions in accordance with the Constitution and the announcement made regarding the new appointees once finalised.
- **Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Bid Team:** Jon Martin briefed the Board on the correspondence provided to the Autism CRC bid team which acknowledged the Australian Advisory Board's support as a non-essential partner. It was noted that the Autism CRC team were successful in making it through to stage 2 of the bidding process.
- **FaHCSIA:** The Board reviewed progress on the collaborative strategic directions with FaHCSIA and determined key issues for discussion at the upcoming meetings with Senator Jan McLucas and Jill Farrelly.
- **Director Status:** It was noted in the meeting that Manuel Duharte has resigned as a Director of the AAB due to his recent resignation from the position of CEO Autism Tasmania.
- **APAC 2011 Review:** Joan McKenna Kerr (Autism WA) briefed the Board on the APAC 2011 recently held in Perth. Preliminary feedback indicated it was a great success and received favourably. The Board acknowledged the work done by Joan and the organizing committee in making it such a huge success and noted the status with which APAC continues to gain in the Asia Pacific region.
- **APAC 2013 Update:** Jon Martin provided feedback to board on progress made by Autism SA for APAC 2013. Conference dates are 8-10 August 2013 and the theme will be "True Colours. Be bold, Be Brave, Be Brilliant".
- The Board will hold its AGM by teleconference on 29 November 2011.
- The next face-to-face Board meeting will be held in January 2012. Location yet to be determined.

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:



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