



**COMMUNIQUE'
World first Cooperative Research Centre for Autism**

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is delighted with the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday 16 February 2013, that they are funding the "Living with Autism Disorders" Cooperative Research Centre (CRC).

The AABASD is one of 56 participants from not-for-profit Autism service providers, universities, federal and state government and commercial partners who will provide the critical mass which will revolutionise the way Autism research is undertaken in Australia and will transform the lives of more than one million Australians.

The implementation of a highly innovative "whole-of-life" research portfolio will deliver a continuum of support required for people with Autism to participate successfully in education, employment and all facets of the community.

The momentum generated by a CRC will enable us to make some real progress in relation to diagnosis, education and life skills for individuals living with Autism

The Federal Government will contribute \$31 million for the eight year life of the CRC, with additional cash and in-kind contributions from participants exceeding \$63 million culminating in a \$104 million program.

The Autism CRC will harness the combined energy of some of the finest and most respected Autism researchers in their relevant fields and will deliver practical solutions to governments, service providers, education and health professionals and families of people with Autism via three core research programs.

The Autism CRC programs will research more accurate and efficient diagnosis of Autism, improved teacher training and Autism-friendly education programs, and how to better support young and adults with Autism to seamlessly transition into further training, higher education and the workforce.

There will also be a strong focus on the use of technology in schools and the workplace as well as how to better support families from diagnosis, as their child enters school and ultimately leaves school to take their place in society.

The core participants in the Autism CRC are:

1. Autism Queensland Inc.
2. University of Queensland
3. Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)
4. Queensland University of Technology
5. Griffith University
6. Mater Medical Research Institute
7. AEIOU Foundation
8. Department of Education, Training and Employment Queensland
9. LaTrobe University
10. University of NSW
11. Curtin University
12. University of Western Australia