



Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

Communiqué from the Board meeting February 2012 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, Jacqui Roberts (Board Appointed Director) and Katrina Williams (Board Appointed Director). Secretariat support is provided by Scott Shepherd AUTISM SA.
- **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS):** The Board has produced an updated draft Position Paper in response to the NDIS aiming for a targeted and appropriate NDIS for the Autism Spectrum community. This will be available on the website once finalised.
- **FaHCSIA:** The Board met with John Riley, Branch Manager, Autism and Early Intervention and Jenny Reynolds, Section Manager, HCWA to progress collaborative strategic priorities and continue building existing relationships with FaHCSIA. Discussion focussed on the National Autism Register Project, the NDIS and resourcing for the AAB ASD.
- **Autism Cooperative Research Centre (CRC):** Jon Martin and Jacqui Roberts both served as part of interviewee panel for the CRC Bid team and provided an update to the Board on the outcome. The bid was unsuccessful but encouraging feedback had been received from the CRC. A decision has been made to re-bid and the Board will continue to support as a non-essential participant.
- **2012 Strategic Priorities:** The Board reviewed strategic priorities for 2011 and identified three strategic priorities for 2012.
 1. Autism Month 2013
 2. APAC 13
 3. Influencing Federal Government Policy/Raising Awareness
- **Director Status:** The Board was pleased to welcome Jacqui Roberts and Katrina Williams to their first face to face Board meeting as newly appointed AABASD Board Directors. Both Directors bring strong credentials from the autism research community to their work on the Board as well as broad networks in the health and educational sectors.
- **APAC 13:** Jon Martin (Autism SA) provided the Board with progress on the upcoming Asia Pacific Autism Conference (APAC 13) titled 'True Colours. Be Bold. Be Brave. Be Brilliant' being held in Adelaide on 8-10 August 2013.
- **National Disability Strategy and Mental Health Reform:** The Board discussed both the National Disability Strategy and the Mental Health Reform in relation to autism to stay abreast of how they are proceeding.
- The next Board meeting will be held in Melbourne on 14 June 2012.

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

