

The Charter of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism

Mission

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism (AABA) is Australia's national peak body that provides strategic advice to the Australian government on the issues affecting people on the autism spectrum and their families.

It is a company limited by guarantee and its member organisations comprise Amaze, the Autism Association of Western Australia, Autism Queensland, Autism South Australia, Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) and Autism Tasmania.

Its activities include:

- convening the Asia Pacific Autism Conferences which are held biennially;
- fostering awareness and knowledge of autism;
- promoting research relating to autism;
- advocating for policy development in areas that affect the lives of people on the autism spectrum and their families;
- disseminating information to the support and wellbeing of people on the autism spectrum and their families; and
- being the backbone organisation for the Australian Autism Alliance, a network of organisations that brings together autistic people, their parents and carers, service providers and researchers.

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 on the autism spectrum, their families and carers;
- Advise the federal government on issues arising for people on the autism spectrum, their families and carers, from the impact of government policy
- Build and strengthen collaborative and open relationships between AABA directors and their respective organisations to promote the AABA as the national peak body focusing on service provision and systemic advocacy; and
- Secure the resources needed to achieve the goals decided upon and foster an effective and sustainable Australian Advisory Board on Autism

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 AABA;
- Readily share information about matters under consideration and respect any confidentiality of such information;

- Keep their Corporate Member Boards or committees informed of AABA activities by tabling Board minutes, communiqués, discussion papers and other informative documents not deemed confidential; and
- Positively promote the AABA and its role within their respective organisations and in the wider community.

Activities

The Board agrees to meet at least three (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;
- convene APAC;
- provide advice and advocate to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS);
- promote autism awareness activities, and
- publish communiqués and media releases as deemed appropriate and distribute them widely throughout the autism community to inform stakeholders of the work of the AABA.

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
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