

National Autism Strategy Reference Group Meeting Summary

Online, 3-4 August 2026

The third meeting of the National Autism Strategy (Strategy) Reference Group (Reference Group) was held online on 3-4 August 2026.

Reference Group members received updates from organisations funded to deliver actions under the Strategy's key outcome areas of Social Inclusion, Economic Inclusion and Diagnosis, Services and Supports.

Members recognised work underway and provided feedback informed by their lived experience, expertise and insight, highlighting the importance of strong community engagement, clear roles and responsibilities, accessible culturally safe and trauma-informed practices, diverse lived experience input, strong partnerships and using project learnings to improve broader services and systems.

Members also considered papers detailing key findings related to the Strategy's priority cohorts and progress on action related to the commitment for an epidemiological study to determine the prevalence of autism in Australia.

Throughout the meeting members emphasised the importance of robust evaluation to determine whether projects are leading to meaningful change and support for the Autistic and autism community.

Further information about the Strategy, Action Plan and the Reference Group is available here: [National Autism Strategy | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#).