



Australian Government

Commonwealth Standard Grant Agreement

between
the Commonwealth represented by
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
and
Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)

Grant Agreement

Once completed, this document, together with each set of Grant Details and the Commonwealth Standard Grant Conditions (Schedule 1), forms an Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the Grantee.

Parties to this Agreement

The Grantee

Full legal name of Grantee	Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)
Legal entity type (e.g. individual, incorporated association, company, partnership etc)	Company
Trading or business name	Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)
Any relevant licence, registration or provider number	
Australian Company Number (ACN) or other entity identifiers	
Australian Business Number (ABN)	12 000 637 267
Registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST)	Y
Date from which GST registration was effective	
Registered office (physical/postal)	Level 5, Tower B, The Zenith, 821 Pacific Highway, CHATSWOOD NSW 2067
Relevant business place (if different)	
Telephone	s47G(1)(a)
Fax	
Email	

The Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Australia represented by Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
23 Furzer Street PHILLIP ACT 2606
ABN 83 605 426 759

Background

The Commonwealth has agreed to enter into this Agreement under which the Commonwealth will provide the Grantee with one or more Grants for the purpose of assisting the Grantee to undertake the associated Activity.

The Grantee agrees to use each Grant and undertake each Activity in accordance with this Agreement and the relevant Grant Details.

Scope of this Agreement

This Agreement comprises:

- (a) this document;
- (b) the Supplementary Terms from the Clause Bank (if any);
- (c) the Standard Grant Conditions (Schedule 1);
- (d) the Grant Details;
- (e) any other document referenced or incorporated in the Grant Details.

Each set of Grant Details, including Supplementary Terms (if any), only applies to the particular Grant and Activity covered by that set of Grant Details and a reference to the 'Agreement' in the Grant Details or the Supplementary Terms is a reference to the Agreement in relation to that particular Grant and Activity. If there is any ambiguity or inconsistency between the documents comprising this Agreement in relation to a Grant, the document appearing higher in the list will have precedence to the extent of the ambiguity or inconsistency.

This Agreement represents the Parties' entire agreement in relation to each Grant provided under it and the relevant Activity and supersedes all prior representations, communications, agreements, statements and understandings, whether oral or in writing.

Certain information contained in or provided under this Agreement may be used for public reporting purposes.

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1992 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Grant Details

Organisation ID:	1-XA-258
Agreement ID:	4-LVP8OQV
Program Schedule ID:	4-LVP8OQX

A. Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of the Grant is to:

The National Autism Strategy 2025-31 (the Strategy) will run over seven years from 2025-2031. The Strategy was released in January 2025 by the Australian Government.

The Strategy is Australia's first dedicated national framework aimed at improving life outcomes for all Autistic people, their families, carers and communities. The Strategy was developed through an extensive co-design process with Autistic people, their families, carers and the broader community. The Strategy sets out a vision for a more inclusive, equitable and neurodiversity-affirming society.

The Strategy is structured around 4 key outcome areas:

- Social inclusion – Ensuring Autistic people are fully included in all aspects of community life.
- Economic inclusion – Improving access to education, employment and financial security.
- Diagnosis, services and supports – Enhancing access to timely, affordable and neurodiversity affirming services.
- Health and mental health – Addressing systemic issues in the healthcare system (through the separate but connected National Roadmap to Improve the Health and Mental Health of Autistic people - Autism Health Roadmap released in February 2025).

To support these outcomes, the Strategy also includes enabling commitments that incorporate governance, research, and evaluation. These enabling commitments provide a foundation for evidence-based policy, programs and service delivery, that are co-designed with the Autistic and autism community, align with best practices, and are backed by rigorous evaluation and data collection. These enabling commitments, along with all other commitments, will be delivered as part of the Strategy's First Action Plan 2025–26.

The Strategy is an activity under the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 (DSI Act) that the Minister may make a payment or grant of financial assistance. To be eligible for the payment or grant, you must meet certain requirements and comply with its terms and conditions.

Terms and conditions include the five statutory funding conditions, which require a grantee to:

1. Comply with the code of conduct (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Code of Conduct) Rules 2023)
2. Implement and maintain a complaints management and resolution system (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Complaints and Incidents Management) Rules 2023)
3. Implement and maintain an incident management system (contained within the Disability Services and Inclusion (Complaints and Incidents Management) Rules 2023)
4. Not be subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the National Disability Insurance Act 2012 (NDIS Act). This also applies to their key personnel, employees or persons otherwise engaged by the grantee.

It is your responsibility to ensure you understand your obligations under the DSI Act, when applying for a grant. Further information can be found on the department's website.

This grant will contribute to the following Closing the Gap target:

- Closing the Gap Target 14 – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people enjoy high levels of social and emotional wellbeing.

Refer to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap for more information on these targets and priority reforms.

This Grant is being provided under, and these Grant Details form part of, the Agreement between the Commonwealth and the Grantee.

The Grant is being provided as part of the Disability Services and Improvement program

This document has been released under
the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by
the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Activity Title: National Autism Strategy - Improving Social Connections

Activity ID: 4-LVP8OR1

B. Activity

This grant opportunity was announced as part of the Strategy release in January 2025.

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to support the delivery of peer support programs that improve the ability and opportunities for Autistic people to build and maintain meaningful social connections. These peer support programs aim to reduce social isolation, enhance wellbeing, and foster inclusive communities by providing safe, supportive, and accessible environments where Autistic individuals can connect with peers and participate in community life.

This grant opportunity aligns with the objectives of Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031, particularly in promoting inclusive communities, improving social and economic participation, and ensuring people with disability have the opportunity to live fulfilling lives. It also supports the emerging priorities of the Strategy, which seeks to improve outcomes for Autistic people living in Australia through greater inclusion, access to supports, and recognition of neurodiversity.

The Improving Social Connections Activity (the Activity) will:

1. Provide coordination and capacity building to develop and ensure consistency with good practice; and embed strong governance and safeguards.
2. Strengthen grassroots peer networks across diverse local peer groups; and cohort-based peer groups.
3. Create safe and inclusive spaces where participants can connect with others; share experiences; and build practical skills for navigating life as Autistic individuals and families and carers.

This Activity will fund **one** backbone organisation to deliver the National Coordination and Capacity Building Function. The backbone organisation will also partner with and on-fund local organisations as Community Partners. These Community Partners will co-design and deliver peer support programs and activities across a national footprint (see **Attachment A** for Activity diagram). **Note:** up to two backbone organisations may be funded where the grant round finds that national service delivery by one organisation does not represent the best value with money.

All funding will be held by the backbone organisation/s, and this targeted competitive grant process will require a breakdown of how the funds will be allocated over the four-year funding period. This should include:

- Development of the Improving Social Connections Framework (including data collection and participation in the National Autism Strategy evaluation process) in the first 6 months of the grant activity.
- Development of a Self-Service Hub (including tools, resources and micro training videos) in the first 6 months of the grant activity.
- Building connections and funding arrangements for local Community Partners to deliver peer support activities across Australia from the beginning of 2027.
- Administrative costs for capacity building and coordination, maintaining the Self-Service Hub and administering funding and reporting arrangements with Community Partners.

Guided by the Strategy, grant applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will ensure that Autistic people will be meaningfully employed across the project to ensure that Autistic people are represented in leadership, decision-making and advisory roles to embed lived experience and Autistic leadership at every stage of the program design, implementation and evaluation.

Improving Social Connections Framework

The backbone organisation/s will co-create the Improving Social Connection Framework (the Framework) with the Autistic and autism community (Autistic-led Orgs and autism peaks) to develop a best practice nationally consistent framework. The Framework will include minimum quality and safety standards, embedding neurodiversity affirming, strength-based and trauma-informed, inclusive, and flexible approaches tailored to the intersectional needs of Autistic people and the needs of those with carer responsibilities.

The Improving Social Connection Framework will:

- Establish a co-design process to develop peer support programs with Autistic people, families, and carers, ensuring lived experience informs design, delivery, governance, and evaluation.
- Provide Autistic-led peer support that is tailored to the specific needs and strengths of the Strategy's priority cohorts.
- Provide age-appropriate and culturally responsive support by partnering with local organisations, including those led and delivered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Create safe and inclusive spaces where participants can connect, share experiences, and build practical skills for navigating life as Autistic individuals or families and carers.
- Increase access to resources, services and advocacy for underrepresented groups, including First Nations and CALD/CARM communities.
- Foster self-advocacy, independence, and a sense of belonging within both the Autistic and autism community and broader communities.
- Promote cultural safety, reduce stigma, and celebrate diversity within the Autistic community.
- The safety of peer workers, including peer workers for families and carers of Autistic people by providing adequate, safe, trauma-informed co-reflection and individual supervision.

Implementation of the Social Connection Framework will be enabled through a dedicated coordination and capacity building function that would deliver a Self-Service Information Hub offering co-designed resources tailored to the strengths and needs of each of the Strategy's priority cohorts, including practical tools, micro-training videos and accessible guidance. It will build the capacity of local organisations and the safety of peer workers and participants, raise awareness of the value of peer support, and embed ongoing evaluation.

Self-Service Information Hub

(tailored to the specific needs and strengths of the Strategy's priority cohorts)

- Tools and Resources:
 - o co-design information and increase access to resources, services and advocacy for underrepresented groups, including First Nations and CALD/CARM communities (including Easy Read, Auslan and language translations). Tailored at supporting formal and informal peer support activities.
 - o support parents or carers with routines and advice on things they can do at home and what their child may need in other everyday environments where they learn and play.
- Mirco Training Videos:
 - o Build structured training, supervision, and professional development pathways for peer facilitators, including wellbeing supports and targeted recruitment from priority cohorts.
 - o Align with the National Lived experience (Peer) Workforce Guidelines.

Capacity Building

- Build the capacity of local organisations to deliver activities and raise awareness of the value of peer support.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Contribute to the Strategy's evaluation process to monitoring and evaluate outcome data, drive

continuous improvement, and share findings nationally.

Improving Social Connection: Community Partners

• The backbone organisation/s will partner with and fund local and trusted organisations as Community Partners in agreement with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the department). The Community Partners will lead the delivery of peer support programs through a variety of diverse options including face-to-face and online formats, reaching regional and remote areas, and offering both professionally facilitated and Autistic peer-led options tailored to the specific needs and strengths of the Strategy's priority cohorts.

This ensures that the Improving Social Connections Activity is:

- Led by the Autistic and autism community.
- Funds meaningful activities that are delivered in a variety of ways and allows individuals to choose the methods that best suit them (this includes the opportunity to participate no matter where they live in Australia).
- Funds activities that meet the unique needs of the Autistic community and the Strategy's priority cohorts.

Initial Cohorts

At times, funding may be sort from other sources to fund priority cohorts. In its initial phase, the program will target investment and outreach to three target groups to be determined in partnership with the department.

To support meeting the access and equity needs of the Autistic and autism community to participate in peer support programs, there will be a high level of support and accommodations for those attending (meeting sensory needs, communication needs, and providing detailed what to expect guides for each meeting).

This grant agreement will be signed on behalf of, and as duly authorised by Lydia Ross, Assistant Secretary, being the delegate exercising the power to make the grant under s13 of the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 1997.

Funding is subject to indexation, pending approval through a notice of change. We will advise you in writing each year of the indexation that will apply to the funding.

Performance Indicators

The Activity will be measured against the following Performance Indicator/s:

Performance Indicator Description	Measure
s47G	

Location Information

The Activity will be delivered from the following site location/s:

	Location Type	Name	Address
1.	Direct Funded	Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT)	Level 5 Tower B The Zenith 821 Pacific Highway CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Service Area Information

The Activity will service the following service area/s:

	Type	Service Area
1.	Australia (2016)	Australia

C. Duration of the Grant

The Activity starts on 15 June 2026 and ends on 30 June 2029, which is the **Activity Completion Date**.

The Agreement ends on 30 September 2029 or when the Commonwealth accepts all of the reports provided by the Grantee and the Grantee has repaid any Grant amount as required under this Agreement, which is the **Agreement End Date**.

D. Payment of the Grant

The total amount of the Grant is \$19,383,333.00 excluding GST (if applicable).

A break down by Financial Year is below:

Financial Year	Amount (excl. GST if applicable)
2025-2026	s47(1)(b)
2026-2027	
2027-2028	
2028-2029	

The Grantee must ensure that the Grant is held in an account in the Grantee's name and which the Grantee controls, with an authorised deposit-taking institution authorised under the Banking Act 1959 (Cth) to carry on banking business in Australia.

The Grantee's nominated bank account into which the Grant is to be paid is:

BSB Number	s47G(1)(a)	
Financial Institution		
Account Number		
Account Name		

The Grant will be paid in instalments by the Commonwealth in accordance with the agreed Milestones, and compliance by the Grantee with its obligations under this Agreement.

Milestone	Anticipated date	Amount (excl. GST)	GST (if applicable)	Total (incl. GST if applicable)
Payment 1	15 June 2026	s47(1)(b)		

Payment 1	1 July 2026
Payment 2	1 January 2027
Payment 1	1 July 2027
Payment 2	1 January 2028
Payment 1	1 July 2028
Payment 2	1 January 2029
Total Amount	

s47(1)(b)

Invoicing

The Grantee agrees to allow the Commonwealth to issue it with a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) for any taxable supplies it makes in relation to the Activity.

E. Reporting

The Grantee agrees to create the following reports in the form specified and to provide the reports to the Commonwealth representative in accordance with the following.

Milestone	Information to be included	Due Date
Performance Report	s47(1)(b)	31 July 2026
Activity Work Plan		30 September 2026
Compliance - Child Safe - CB9		31 March 2027
Performance Report		31 July 2027
Activity Work Plan		30 September 2027
Compliance - Child Safe - CB9		31 March 2028
Performance Report		31 July 2028
Activity Work Plan		30 September 2028

Compliance - Child Safe - CB9	s47(1)(b)	31 March 2029
Performance Report		31 July 2029
Final Report		31 August 2029
Financial Acquittal Report		31 August 2029

E.1 Performance Reports

Performance Report including Income and Expenditure Statement

The Grantee is required to submit to the Commonwealth, a Performance Report including an Income and Expenditure Statement on a template provided, every 12 months during the term of the Activity in accordance with the due dates specified in Item E.

Each Performance Report for the Activity is to contain information on the performance of the Activity during the reporting period, including:

- the extent to which the objectives of the Activity described in Item B of the Schedule have been met to date;
- a description of the specific Activity Milestones or other outcomes completed during the reporting period; and
- an explanation as to how the Grantee is addressing any issues, problems or delays previously identified with the Activity and an explanation of any further issues, problems or delays encountered in relation to the Activity to date and how the Grantee intends to address them and;
- an income and expenditure statement against the Activity Budget.

E.2 Activity Work Plan

The Grantee is required to submit to the Commonwealth, an Activity Work Plan and Budget on a template provided, every 12 months during the term of the Activity in accordance with the due dates specified at Item E.

The Activity Work Plan must set out the key work activities and deliverables of the Grant, and demonstrate how the Grantee will achieve the Activity objectives specified at Item B. It must include an annual budget and may include other administrative controls intended to help manage Activity risks.

Once approved by the Commonwealth, the Activity Work Plan will form part of the Agreement.

If the Grantee or the Commonwealth identifies a need to revise the approved Activity Work Plan, any proposed changes must be accepted and approved by the Commonwealth.

E.3 Financial Acquittal Reports

Financial Declaration and Non-audited Income and Expenditure Statement

The Grantee is required to submit to the Commonwealth, a Financial Declaration, on a template provided, and a Non-audited Income and Expenditure statement within one month after the Activity Completion Date in accordance with the due dates specified at the Item E.

The Financial Declaration and Non-audited Income and Expenditure Statement must be signed by the Grantee and certify that the Grantee has spent grant funding to perform the Activity as set out in the Agreement. Where applicable, the Grantee must include details of any unspent funds.

The Non-audited Income and Expenditure Statement must:

- be prepared in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards;
- be based on proper accounts and records for the Grantee;
- verify that grant funding was spent to perform the activity as set out in the Agreement; and
- Include any other matters as specified in the Agreement.

The Financial Declaration and Non-audited Income and Expenditure Statement must be certified by the Board, the Chief Executive Officer or an Authorised Officer of the Grantee.

E.4 Other Reports

Final Report

The Grantee is required to submit to the Commonwealth, a Final Report on a template provided by the date specified in Item E.

The Final Report for the Activity is to contain information on the performance of the Activity for the entirety of the Activity period, including:

- the extent to which the objectives of the Activity described in Item B of the Schedule have been met;
- a description of the specific Activity Milestones or other outcomes completed during the Activity period; and
- an explanation as to how the Grantee addressed any issues, problems or delays identified with the Activity.

Child Safe Statement of Compliance (Clause CB9)

The Child Safe Statement of Compliance is an annual Statement made by the Grantee's organisation. The Grantee's statement confirms that the Grantee has delivered the Activity consistent with the Child Safe Supplementary Term at clause CB9 of the Grantee's Agreement. The period of compliance is for 1 January to 31 December each year.

F. Party representatives and address for notices

Grantee's representative and address

Grantee's representative name	Mrs Jacqui Borland
Position	Chief Executive Officer
Business hours telephone	s47F
E-mail	

Commonwealth representative and email address

Business hours telephone	not applicable
E-mail	s47E(d) @communitygrants.gov.au

The Parties' representatives will be responsible for liaison and the day-to-day management of the Grant, as well as accepting and issuing any written notices in relation to the Grant.

This document has been released under
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the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Disclaimer and explanatory notes

Disclaimer

By executing this agreement you agree that you have read and accept this disclaimer, including the explanatory notes on how to duly execute this agreement. You warrant that your identity has been verified, you have legal capacity and authority to enter into this agreement, and you are signing in accordance with all legal instruments that apply to you and/or the legal entity which you represent.

Explanatory notes

- If you are an **individual**, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink in the presence of a witness (the witness date must be the same as the signatory date).
- If you are a **partnership**, the signatory must be all partners, or one partner with the authority to sign on behalf of all partners receiving the grant. You should be prepared to provide evidence of this authorisation upon request.
- If you are a **proprietary company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)**, the signatory must be the sole director and company secretary, as required under section 127 of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*. If required by your Constitution, please affix your **company seal** in the presence of the sole director and company secretary acting as a witness (the witness date must be the same as the date the company seal is affixed). For execution by company seal, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink.
- If you are a **company incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)**, the signatories must be two directors, or one director and one company secretary, as required under section 127 of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*. If required by your Constitution, please affix your **company seal** in the presence of two directors, or one director and one company secretary acting as a witness, or if your company has only one director – that director and a suitable witness, (the witness date must be the same as the date the company seal is affixed). For execution by company seal, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink.
- If you are a **company incorporated under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)** (CATSI Act), the signatories must be two directors, one director and one company secretary, or if your company has only one director – that director, as required under section 99-5 of the CATSI Act. If required by your Constitution, please affix your **company seal** in the presence of two directors, or one director and one company secretary, or if your company has only one director – that director. For execution by company seal, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink.
- If you are an **individual trustee of a trust**, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink in the presence of a witness (the witness date must be the same as the signatory date). You must sign in your capacity as a trustee and not the trust. The trustee is the legal entity entering into the agreement. The words 'as trustee for [name of trust]' should be included in the signature block.
- If you are a **corporate trustee of a trust**, the signatory must be the sole director and company secretary in the proprietary company, or two directors in the company, or one director and one company secretary in the company, as required under section 127 of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*. If required by your Constitution, please affix your **company seal** in the presence of the sole director and company secretary in the proprietary company, or two directors in the company, or one director and one company secretary in the company, acting as witness (the witness date must be the same as the date the company seal is affixed). For execution by company seal, you must download, print and sign the agreement in wet-ink. The company must sign in its capacity as a trustee and not the trust. The trustee is the legal entity entering into the agreement. The words 'as trustee for [name of trust]' should be included in the signature block.

- If you are an **incorporated association**, you must refer to the legislation incorporating the association as it will specify how documents must be executed. This process may differ between each State and Territory. If an authorised person is executing a document on behalf of the incorporated association, you should be prepared to provide evidence of this authorisation upon request.
- If you are a **university**, the signatory can be an officer authorised by the legislation creating the university to enter into legally binding documents. A witness to the signature is required (the witness date must be the same as the signatory date).

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Organisation ID:	1-XA-258
Agreement ID:	4-LVP8OQV
Program Schedule ID:	4-LVP8OQX

Signatures

Executed as an Agreement

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia represented by and acting through Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, ABN 83 605 426 759 by an authorised representative in the presence of:

s47F _____ (Name of authorised representative - print) _____ (Position of authorised representative)	s47F _____ (Signature of authorised representative) s47F _____ (Signature of witness) Date/...../.....
---	--

Signed for and on behalf of Autism Spectrum Australia (ASPECT), ABN 12 000 637 267 in accordance with its rules, by its representative(s) who warrant(s) that they are authorised to sign this Agreement:

s47F _____ (Name of the representative - print) Director _____ (Position held by the representative - print)	s47F _____ (Signature of representative) 8/4/2026 3:14 PM AEST Date/...../.....
s47F _____ (Name of the second representative/witness - print) Company Secretary _____ (Position held by second representative/witness - print)	s47F _____ (Signature of second representative/witness) 8/4/2026 3:02 PM AEST Date/...../.....



Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

National Autism Strategy Improving Social Connections Application Form GO8148

Closing date and time:	2:00pm (Canberra local time) on 6 February 2026
Commonwealth policy entity:	Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department)
Administering entity:	Community Grants Hub
Enquiries:	If you have any questions, contact the department via email: Grant.ATM@health.gov.au
Submitting:	Submit the completed application form and all necessary attachments by the closing date and time via the red Submit Application button on the left-hand side of GrantConnect. You should keep a copy of your application and any supporting documents. Registered users will receive an automated email notification acknowledging the receipt of the submission. If you do not receive an automated email notification within 48 hours of submission, please email Grant.ATM@health.gov.au. For technical assistance when submitting your application through GrantConnect please contact the GrantConnect Helpdesk: • Phone: 1300 484 145 • Email: GrantConnect@finance.gov.au

* Denotes mandatory fields

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1. Before you begin

1.1 Use of information *

Requested Information	Applicant Response
The department may use the information, other than personal information, provided in this Application Form to assist it to: - comply with the Australian Government requirement to publish the details of all grant recipients on the GrantConnect website - inform staff negotiating and establishing Grant Agreements of risks and issues that need to be addressed in the Grant Agreement for that program, and/or - inform future assessments for Applications. All information including personal information provided in this Application may be shared with other Commonwealth and law enforcement agencies for the purpose of preventing and detecting fraud. This includes personal information of any third party provided in this Application. You can only apply if you agree to the use of the information you provide in this form for the purposes listed above and that you have read and acknowledged the department's Privacy policy at: Privacy policy Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, and all relevant material (including the Grant Opportunity Guidelines) as they relate to the collection and handling of personal information.	I agree

1.2 Checklist *

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Ensure you read the entire grant opportunity package on GrantConnect, including: - Grant Opportunity Guidelines - Application Form (this document) - Sample Grant Agreement - Frequently Asked Questions - Attachment Pack - Attachment A	Complete
Ensure your organisation meets the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.	Checked and complete
Ensure all mandatory fields within this document are completed and the Declaration is signed by an authorised representative.	Checked and complete

2. Applicant Details

2.1 Entity details *

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Is the Applicant an existing Grant Recipient? * <i>If 'Yes', provide the Organisation ID as it appears on your Grant Agreement or your Receipt Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) from the department.</i>	Yes - Enter Organisation ID below
Organisation ID <i>The Organisation ID can be located on your Grant Agreement in the top right-hand corner on the grant details page or on any RCTI provided by the department. The RCTI will list a vendor number as FO1-1J3-29. When inputting the organisation ID to your application, please remove the FO reference, just use the ID (e.g. 1-1J3-29).</i>	1-XA-258
Applicant's legal/registered entity name * <i>Search using the ABN Lookup.</i>	Autism Spectrum Australia
Applicant's Australian Business Number (ABN) * <i>Search using the ABN Lookup. If not provided, you must provide a reason why.</i>	12000637267
Applicant's ABN Branch Number <i>This is limited to 3 digits (if applicable).</i>	
Applicant's legal entity type * <i>Only select one. If you are unsure, please seek professional advice (e.g. from your lawyer or accountant) or refer to the ABN Lookup. Attach Proof of Entity Type when submitting your application.</i>	Incorporated Association
Are you applying as a Trustee on behalf of a Trust? * <i>If 'Yes', attach a copy of the full signed Trust Deed when submitting your application.</i>	No
Is the Applicant registered as a charity? * <i>Select 'Yes' if the Applicant is registered as a charity with the ACNC.</i>	Yes

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Does the Applicant operate as not-for-profit? * <i>For further details about not-for-profit organisations – see the ATO website.</i>	Yes
Is the Applicant registered for GST? * <i>Search using the ABN Lookup.</i>	Yes
Applicant's financial email address for the receipt of any payment advice *	s47G(1)(a)

2.2 Main business address

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Floor / Building, Unit, Apartment *	Level 5, Tower B, The Zenith
Street number, name and type *	821 Pacific Highway
Suburb/Town *	Chatswood
State *	NSW
Postcode *	2067

2.3 Postal address

Requested Information	Applicant Response
What is the Applicant's postal address details? * <i>If 'Different from above', please complete the below details. If 'Same as above', move to the next section.</i>	Different from above
Floor / Building, Unit, Apartment	
Street number, name and type	s47G(1)(a)
Suburb/Town	
State	
Postcode	

3. Eligibility Requirements

3.1 Invited Organisation

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Confirm your organisation has been invited to apply and is listed under the <i>Who is eligible to apply for a grant?</i> section of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. * <i>Refer to section 4.1 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further details.</i>	I confirm

3.2 National redress scheme

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Confirm your organisation (or your project partner organisation) is <u>not</u> included on the National Redress Scheme's website on the list of 'Institutions that have not joined or signified their intent to join the Scheme'. * <i>The National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Grant Connected Policy makes non-government institutions named in applications to the Scheme, or in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, that do not join the Scheme ineligible for future Australian Government grant funding.</i>	I confirm

3.3 Workplace gender equality

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Confirm you are <u>not</u> an organisation, and if applicable, your project partner/s is/are <u>not</u> an organisation, included on the Workplace Gender Equality Agency website on the non-compliant list. * <i>Refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further detail.</i>	I confirm

3.4 Working with vulnerable people registration (or equivalent depending on the relevant state or territory)

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Having made diligent inquiries, do you have reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation itself, and staff working with Vulnerable People on behalf of the organisation in relation to the funding arrangements comply with relevant legislation relating to requirements for working with Vulnerable People in the jurisdiction in which the activities are delivered? * <i>Vulnerable person means:</i> a) a child or children, or b) an individual aged 18 years and above who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, or is unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation by reason of age, illness, trauma or disability, or for any other reason. <i>Refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further detail.</i>	I confirm

3.5 Child safety statement

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Having made diligent inquiries, I have reasonable grounds to believe that the organisation itself, and staff working with children on behalf of my organisation in relation to the funding arrangements: • comply with relevant legislation relating to requirements for working with children in the jurisdiction in which the activities are delivered, and/or • have complied with relevant legislation in their jurisdictions relating to mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect as required or otherwise defined by state or territory legislation. * <i>A child safety clause may also be included in the grant agreement if the Commonwealth considers the grant activity involves children more broadly.</i>	Yes

3.6 Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023 (DSI Act)

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Confirm your organisation understands the requirements of the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023. This includes the requirement for grantees to comply with the following statutory conditions: • comply with the code of conduct • implement and maintain an appropriate complaints management and resolution system • implement and maintain an appropriate incident management system. Please see the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information. *	I confirm

3.7 National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act) Banning Orders

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Please confirm that neither the organisation nor key personnel are subject to an NDIS banning order. If there are banning orders in place, you are not eligible for an arrangement or grant to be made under section 13 of the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023. * <i>To be eligible for this grant opportunity, your organisation and any key personnel (under section 10 of the Disability Services and Inclusion Act 2023), must NOT be subject to a banning order that is in force under section 73ZN of the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (NDIS Act).</i>	I confirm

3.8 Compliance with relevant legislation, policies, and/or industry standards

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Confirm your organisation meets the requirements listed under Specific legislation, policies and industry standards section of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines. * <i>Refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for further details.</i>	I confirm

4. Project/Activity Details

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Provide a short title of your Application for this Project/Activity * <i>Maximum 50 words</i>	s47(1)(b)
Provide a brief Project/Activity description * <i>Maximum 300 words</i>	

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Requested Information	Applicant Response
	s47(1)(b)

5. Financial Details

5.1 Funding amount

Provide a breakdown of the proposed funding amount applied for (GST exclusive) *				
2025/26FY	2026/27 FY	2027/28 FY	2028/29 FY	Total
s47(1)(b)				\$19383333

5.2 Bank account details

Requested Information	Applicant Response
BSB number * <i>Must be 6 numbers.</i>	s47G(1)(a)
Account number * <i>Must be 2 to 9 numbers.</i>	
Account name * <i>As it appears on the bank statement. 60-character limit.</i>	
<i>Bank verification must accompany this submission. Acceptable forms of verification include a recent bank statement, issued in the last 6 months, in a pdf file type. The transaction details and balances can be hidden but the BSB, Account Number and Account Name must be visible.</i>	

6. Assessment Criteria

6.1 Assessment Criterion 1

Requested Information

Alignment with grant requirements, objectives and outcomes *

Describe how the grant activity contributes to the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity as described under Section 2 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines (starting on page 5).

Your response must include:

- how the activities proposed in your organisation's application align with the grant opportunity's objectives and outcomes
- how your organisation will identify, engage and collaborate with relevant stakeholders (including Autistic-led organisations) to ensure co-design and the effective delivery of the grant objectives and outcomes i.e. the locations in which your grant activity will be delivered and
- how will lived experience, particularly Autistic peoples be embedded in leadership, decision-making and advisory roles at every stage of the activity?
- how you will evaluate the grant activity/grant activities (including how feedback from peer leaders and community inform activity delivery and improvement).
- how your organisation will deliver the activity in alignment with the guiding principles of the National Autism Strategy.
- how the activities proposed in your application contribute to meeting the Closing the Gap targets, as identified in Section 2 of the Guidelines

Applicant Response – 3500 characters/approximately 500 words (word limit)

s47(1)(b)

s47(1)(b)

6.2 Assessment Criterion 2**Requested Information**

Organisational capacity and capability to deliver the grant activities *

Describe your organisation's capacity and capability to deliver the grant activities, and how your proposal addresses the risks involved in undertaking the grant activity.

A strong response will include a detailed description of the proposed activities, the delivery methodology (including existing infrastructure and relationships that will support the project activities), and the key outputs.

You must demonstrate this through identifying:

- evidence of your track record in managing similar projects and access to personnel and/or partners with the right skills and experience
- what relevant experience and systems your organisation has to deliver the backbone National Coordination and Capacity Building Function.
- sound project planning to manage and monitor the project, which addresses associated timeframes, milestones, and risks, and
- how your partnerships and linkages with relevant stakeholders (including Autistic-led organisations) will work together to achieve your project outcomes.

In addition, you must complete the Risk Management Plan on the template provided on GrantConnect and include a thorough analysis of:

- all identified risks
- the likelihood of the identified risks occurring
- the impact on the activity should the identified risks occur and
- risk mitigation strategies to respond to identified risks.

The Risk Management Plan does not count towards the word limit for this criterion.

Applicant Response – 3500 characters/approximately 500 words (word limit)

s47(1)(b)

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s47(1)(b)

6.3 Assessment Criterion 3

Requested Information

Efficient and economical use of grant funds *

Describe how your organisation will ensure the efficient and economical use of grant funds when delivering your proposal.

A strong response will include details of intended outcomes, target priority groups for each project and a brief explanation of how each project will contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity in a cost-effective way.

Your response must include:

- how the proposed expenditure would contribute to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the grant opportunity and provide outstanding value with relevant money
- a breakdown of how the funds will be allocated over the four-year funding period
- how the proposed budget appropriate to support the successful delivery of the proposal
- how the project/activities will achieve high quality outcomes in a cost-effective way and
- how your organisation strives to adhere to ethical principles when administering grant funding.

Along with your response to this criterion you must complete the Indicative Activity Budget (template on GrantConnect). The Indicative Activity Budget must detail information on the successful organisations receiving medical research and/or equipment grants through the Government's donation, allocated funding to each of the organisations, and the intended outcomes of each grant.

The Indicative Activity Budget does not count towards the word limit for this criterion.

Applicant Response – 3500 characters/approximately 500 words (word limit)

s47(1)(b)

This document has been released under the Freedom Of Information Act 1982 by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

s47(1)(b)

7. Additional Information

7.1 Fraud/corruption

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Has the Applicant ever been engaged in proceedings associated with fraud/corruption in relation to a Grant Agreement entered into with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing? * <i>The department has advanced controls in place to find fraud/corruption and is committed to making sure public funds reach those who really need it. You may be contacted for further information regarding any proceedings associated with fraud/corruption.</i>	No

7.2 Other sources of funding

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Does the Applicant (or any potential consortium member/s) receive or has applied for funding for the activities that are the	No

Requested Information	Applicant Response
subject of this application from any other organisation or government department? * <i>If 'Yes', provide the details below. If 'No' move to the next section.</i>	
Funding source name <i>e.g. Department of Health, Disability and Ageing</i>	
Description/name of the project <i>e.g. Expansion of Health Services</i>	
Amount of funding received or applied for	\$
Period of funding	

7.3 Non-compliance

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Has the Applicant ever been engaged in proceedings associated with non-compliance in relation to a Grant Agreement entered into with the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing? * <i>You may be contacted for further information regarding any proceedings associated with non-compliance.</i>	No

7.4 Attachment/s

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Attachment/s to the Application: * • Proof of Entity Type • Bank Verification (Recent Bank Statement) • Attachment Pack (activity budget template and risk management plan) <i>If you do not attach the requested documents, your application may not progress further in the process.</i>	Completed and attached

8. Applicant Contacts

8.1 Preferred authorised contact

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Title *	Mrs
First name *	Jacqui
Last name *	Borland
Position *	CEO
Telephone *	s47F
Mobile	
Email address *	

8.2 Alternate authorised contact

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Title *	Mrs
First name *	Robyn
Last name *	Eiker
Position *	CMO
Telephone *	s47F
Mobile	
Email address *	

9. Declaration

Requested Information	Applicant Response
Does the Applicant have any conflicts of interest that may occur related to or from submitting this application? * <i>If 'Yes', please provide details in the next response.</i>	No
Detail conflict of interest	

I declare that:

- The information contained in this form is true and correct.
- I have read, understood and agree to abide by the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.
- I have read, understood and agree to the Grant Terms and Conditions, should this Application be successful.
- I agree to receiving a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI) for this funding, should this Application be successful.
- I have read, understood and agree to the information provided in this Application being used for the purposes detailed in the [Use of information](#).
- If and where any personal details of a third party are included, the third party has been made aware of, and given their permission for those details to appear in this Application and for their personal information to be used and disclosed as detailed in the [Use of information](#).
- I give consent to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to make public the details of the Applicant and the funding received, should this Application be successful.
- I consent to receive correspondence, legal notices, grant agreements and any subsequent letters of variations to the agreement electronically. I understand and agree that my electronic correspondences constitute a valid and legally binding method for interacting under the grant agreement and the *Electronic Transactions Act 1999 (Cth)*.

Requested Information	Applicant Response
I understand and agree to the declaration above *	I understand and agree
I acknowledge that giving false or misleading information to the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing is a serious offence under Section 137.1 of the <i>Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth)</i>. *	I acknowledge
Signature of Authorised Representative * <i>This Declaration must be signed by an authorised representative of the Applicant (or, if this Application is a joint/consortium Application, an authorised representative of the lead organisation). The authorised representative should be a person who is legally empowered to enter into contracts and commitments on behalf of the Applicant.</i>	s47F 
Full name of Authorised Officer *	Jacqui Borland
Position of Authorised Officer *	CEO
Date *	5/2/2026