Australian Government

National Autism Strategy

National Autism Strategy 2025–31:

Review of Training for Service Providers

Status:

Complete

Related Actions

- *Commitment 1, Action 3* – Review autism related training for workers across education, health, justice, migration and media sectors.
- *Commitment 17, Action 1* – Review the effectiveness of existing training for service providers supporting Autistic people.

Who

Whereto Research Based Consulting partnering with an Independent Review Panel comprising I CAN Network, Autism CRC, Autism Queensland, Disability Employment Australia and three academic representatives.



Community engagement



- **556 participants engaged** through **40 activities, including** Yarning Circles, focus groups, interviews, workshops and an online survey.
- Strong representation across all priority cohorts.

What they did

- Reviewed autism related training programs across priority service sectors.
- Assessed effectiveness, reach and evaluation of existing training.
- Identified sector specific gaps, barriers to uptake and opportunities for improvement.
- Engaged Autistic people, families and sector representatives to inform findings.

What we learned

- **Autism training** across sectors is fragmented and inconsistent, with variable quality and low uptake leading to uneven service experiences for Autistic people.
- **Existing training** focuses largely on individual awareness rather than system level change, with minimal evaluation and limited evidence of improved outcomes.
- **Training** is often voluntary and deprioritised, with time, cost and employer support acting as key barriers.
- **Education, health and justice** are the highest priorities due to frequent contact and risk of harm, while gaps in pre service training continue to weaken system capability.

Challenges

- Lack of mandatory requirements and limited employer investment reduce training reach and impact.
- Minimal evaluation makes it difficult to demonstrate effectiveness or inform improvement.
- Some sectors undervalue autism specific training, limiting relevance and engagement.

Next steps

- Findings informed grant design for Commitment 12, Action 2(b) Assessment and Diagnosis and Commitment 1, Action 1(b) Community Awareness.

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