

MC11-006964

000057  
MC11-006964

Australian Government  
Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs

## CORRESPONDENCE ACTION SHEET 2011

ACTION: ☒ Reply ☐ NFA ☐ Refer to: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ For Info ☐ Part-refer to: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ GC only  
☐ Serial Writer

CORRESPONDENT: Jon Martin  
 ON BEHALF OF: Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
 SUBJECT: Proposed blueprint to transform mental health and social participation

CATEGORY 1	CATEGORY 2	CATEGORY 3	CATEGORY 4	FOR INFO / NFA
URGENT / VIP / MINISTER	MP / SENATOR / LATE REFERRAL	ORGANISATION	GENERAL PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFERRED FROM: DOH-A

REPLY LEVEL:	MINISTER	ADVISER
Minister for FaHCSIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minister for the Status of Women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentary Secretary McLucas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parliamentary Secretary Collins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REFERRAL		
Macklin/Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ellis/Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arbib/Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McLucas /Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collins /Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date of Correspondence: 19.4Received in MO/PSO: XReceived in MPES: 9.8BRANCH: MH+AOUTPUT GROUP: C.O

Coding Officer: PS	Comments: <u>Cat 2 due to age of corra.</u>
Date: 9.8	Related PDR: <u>I thought I had seen this corra but could not locate it in MAPS.net.</u>



"DAVISON, Phil"  
 <Phil.Davison@fahcsia.gov.au>

02/06/2011 11:41 AM

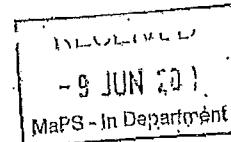
To: "Referrals@health.gov.au" <Referrals@health.gov.au>

cc

bcc

Subject: RE: Possible Referral from DoHA (M11009293)  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED**



Hi Leah,

FaHCSIA will accept this referral.

Thanx  
 Phil

**From:** Leah.Robins@health.gov.au [mailto:Leah.Robins@health.gov.au] **On Behalf Of**  
 Referrals@health.gov.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 May 2011 11:07 AM  
**To:** MPSS Referrals  
**Cc:** Referrals@health.gov.au  
**Subject:** Possible Referral from DoHA (M11009293) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning

Would you please review the attached referral and advise if this falls within FaHCSIA's Portfolio. If so, please reply with attachment and I will organise the referral and send over the hard copy.

I would appreciate if you could advise by Tuesday 7 June 2011. If you have any problems meeting this deadline please let me know.

Many Thanks

**Leah Robins**

Parliamentary Referrals Officer  
 Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch | Department of Health and Ageing  
 e: leah.robins@health.gov.au | n: 02 6289 7993

*Please note: This document is saved as a ttf file - Instruction on how to open a TIF document and also how to save it to a PDF are attached below.*

**"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are**



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing

Mr Jon Martin  
Chair  
Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders  
PO Box 361  
FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

Dear Mr Martin

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2011 to the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, regarding recommendations from the Independent Mental Health Reform Group.

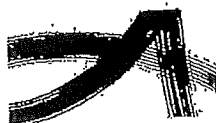
As the matter raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Jenny Macklin MP, I have forwarded your letter to that Ministerial Office for appropriate action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Macklin'.

Ministerial Liaison and Support Section  
6 June 2011

000060



# Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

20/5

 inc - MS  
 MB - MB  
 Mental 11

19 April 2011

The Honourable Mark Butler MP  
 Minister for Mental Health and Ageing  
 PO Box 6022  
 House of Representatives  
 Parliament House  
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

M1004293

Minister for Mental  
Health and Ageing

27 APR 2011

by	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minister	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept of State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Escalate
<input type="checkbox"/> Adviser	<input type="checkbox"/> Progress Call
	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Document	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent by
<input type="checkbox"/> Carer/Sign	
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to
<input type="checkbox"/> Background Information Required	
Comments:	

RECEIVED  
 21 APR 2011  
 MINISTER FOR AGEING

Dear Minister Butler

I am writing on behalf of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders in support of the proposed blueprint to transform mental health and social participation in Australia as recommended by the Independent Mental Health Reform Group.

As you are aware, mental health issues are experienced by many individuals living with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and as such, we ask that you give this proposal due consideration. We also ask that you give specific consideration to the unique needs of people with an ASD and the interface between disability and mental health systems.

The Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders is the national peak body representing people who have an ASD, their families, carers and helpers. Through its members, the Advisory Board represents a significant number of Australian citizens who live with an ASD and who are members of, or who obtain services from, the Advisory Board's member organisations.

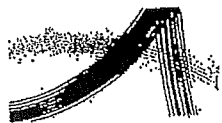
Please find enclosed a copy of the National Call to Action released as part of World Autism Day (2 April) and Autism Month.

I can be contacted on 08 8379 6976 or 0422 846 586 if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely

Jon Martin  
 Chair





## Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

### Call to Action 3: Early Intervention For Young Children (aged 0-7 years)

We call for early intervention services that ensure:

- Every child has access to a minimum 20 hours of ASD-specific intervention per week
- A wait period of no more than 3 months between diagnosis and service provision
- Equitable access for all children with special consideration given to families in rural and remote regions.

**This will be achieved by:**

- An increase in resources allocated that ensures the benchmark for intervention intensity is achieved
- The establishment of national service standards and codes of conduct for the delivery of early intervention services.

**This is a critical priority for the following reasons:**

- Research demonstrates that early intervention leads to better outcomes
- There are a number of significant stressors that impact on both the family and individual that are exacerbated by an unresponsive service system
- Sustainable positive outcomes are achieved by providing effective support in the early years.

The Advisory Board's Position Paper on Early Intervention Services may be found at [www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au](http://www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au).

### Call to Action 4: Education

We call for educational services for school age children with an ASD that ensure:

- Every child has access to an appropriate educational service appropriate to his/her needs in compliance with the federal Disability Discrimination Act (Education Standards, 2005)
- Educational services are based on sound evidence and quality indicators
- All government and non-government educational sectors provide educational services appropriate to the needs of children with an ASD
- Educational services are responsive to all children across the autism spectrum, including children with Asperger disorder who are frequently not diagnosed until they are at school
- There are a range of educational services for children with an ASD from specialised autism-specific programs to mainstream programs with appropriate adjustments
- There is a wait period of no more than six months between application for an educational service and enrolment
- Educational programs and services address the needs of speech, social skills, behaviour and sensory issues and family support.

**This will be achieved by:**

- An increase in resources allocated specifically for appropriate needs-based educational services across government and non-government educational sectors
- Improving the capacity of generic and specialised educational services to respond through the increased provision of training, education and consultancy support
- Increased collaboration between government and non-government educational sectors and across agencies.

11/1, Building 1, Level 2, 14 Annular Drive, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 Tel: 02 8977 8300 Fax: 02 8977 8359 Email: [info@autismadvisoryboard.org.au](mailto:info@autismadvisoryboard.org.au) P.O. Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087



## Australian Advisory Board on Autism Spectrum Disorders

**This is a critical priority for the following reasons:**

- Research indicates that positive outcomes are achieved by the provision of appropriate educational services related to the needs of children with ASD
- There is an increase in the number of children diagnosed with ASD that require specialised educational support
- There is a lack of educational programs and services that support the needs of children with ASD
- There are high rates of exclusions, suspensions and part time schooling for children with ASD.

The Advisory Board's Position Paper on Education may be found at  
[www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au](http://www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au).

### **Call to Action 5: Family Support, Assistance And Respite**

We call for the development of a comprehensive and integrated system of providing support to families that ensures:

- Families have access to a range of models for support and respite
- Models of support are flexible and responsive to the needs of families
- Specific services are targeted at meeting the needs of siblings of a person with ASD
- Specialised services are available for people with exceptional needs
- Generic services have capacity and capability to provide appropriate support
- Ageing carers of adults with ASD have access to flexible and affordable respite.

**This will be achieved by:**

- Gathering accurate data on the nature and extent of the need for family support to assist with future planning and effective resource allocation
- Improving the capacity of generic services to respond through the provision of training, education and consultancy
- Ongoing collaboration between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

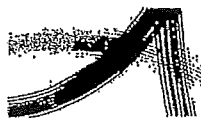
**This is a critical priority for the following reasons:**

- Proactive strategies decrease the likelihood of family breakdown, preventing progression to more expensive crisis response
- It improves quality of life outcomes for both families and individuals
- Community awareness, knowledge and understanding is improved.

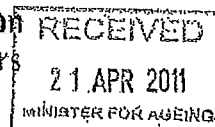
### **Call to Action 6: Services to Adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder**

We call for an improved range of services for all adults with ASD that ensures:

- Adults with ASD receive services and support from professionals with appropriate training in autism and related needs
- Adults with ASD are given every opportunity to have a full and rewarding life
- Adults with ASD are given every opportunity to be part of the work force
- Specialised models for long and short term accommodation services are designed to meet the specific needs of adults with ASD
- Adults with ASD who have a dual diagnosis have access to community, health, mental health and related services and support as required.



Australian Advisory Board on  
Autism Spectrum Disorders



**This will be achieved by:**

- Effective planning and support for transition to post school options
- Targeted funding for adults with ASD to establish specialised services in metropolitan and regional areas
- Targeted funding to support specialised training of staff working with adults with ASD
- Developing services and supports for adults with ASD that are based on sound evidence with quality indicators.

**This is a critical priority for the following reasons:**

- People with ASD are adults for much longer than they are children and require services and supports that will maintain the progress made during their childhood years
- Without appropriate supports, adults with ASD are at high risk of developing co-morbid mental and physical health conditions
- The human and financial costs associated with family breakdown and dysfunction increases significantly if the needs of adults with ASD are not met
- Employment and post-school experiences valued by the wider community are of enormous benefit to adults with ASD when provided with appropriate opportunities to participate
- Such support increases the social and economic participation of adults with ASD in the Australian community.

**Call to Action 7: Research**

We call for an Australian research program into the treatment, intervention and aetiology of ASDs.

**This will be achieved by:**

- An increase in resources allocated to ASD research
- Evaluation and assessment of existing and new programs, practices and services for children and adults with ASD
- Collaboration and partnerships with governments, universities and service providers
- Links with international research in the field
- Establishing a chair in ASD in a major Australian university.

**This is a critical priority for the following reasons:**

- There is an increase in the number of people being diagnosed with an ASD
- The Australian prevalence study (2007) indicates a prevalence rate of 1 in 160 for children aged 6 – 12 years
- The lack of interventions and services based on sound evidence and quality indicators.

**For more information on the Advisory Board's National Call to Action, please contact  
Jon Martin, Chairperson (08) 8379 6976.**

April 2011

Building 1, Level 2, 14 Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086 • PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087  
02 8977 8300 • 02 8977 8399 • [www.austismadvisoryboard.org.au](http://www.austismadvisoryboard.org.au) • PH 53 085 018 408

27 APR 2011