

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) strives to be recognised as the national knowledge leader for autism services and practice that make a difference for people on the autism spectrum through evidence-based services, workshops, consultancies and research. The ongoing commitment to the Aspect Comprehensive Approach Research to Practice Model encourages and supports high standards of service provision across Aspect, with an emphasis on integrating learning from research into practice and policy implementation. The underlying goal of the research undertaken is to support the ongoing development of the Aspect Comprehensive Approach and to contribute to the wider growth of evidence-based and evidence-informed practice within Aspect and the wider community.

All research projects, which includes evaluations, that are conducted at Aspect are designed and coordinated by the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice and are coordinated by a lead researcher.

The Centre welcomes the contribution of all Aspect staff to research activities including identifying possible new areas of research, collecting data for approved research projects, co-presenting research findings and supporting the translation of research into practice.

Aspect is committed to inclusive research practices and co-production for and with the autism community. This is achieved by consultation and involvement with people on the spectrum and their families at all stages of the research process. Aspect is committed to protecting and upholding the privacy and rights of people on the spectrum and their families who may be the subject of research undertaken or auspiced by Aspect.

Aspect researchers conduct their investigations in a responsible and ethical manner. Aspect research procedures comply with laws, regulations and codes of practice that apply in Australia. Common law obligations also arise from the relationships between institutions, researchers and participants. Aspect recognises that, in addition to requirements established by law, other documents have an essential role in research governance. All research at Aspect complies with the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans](#). Aspect promotes ethical research that protects and respects research participants, and monitors the conduct of researchers to ensure conformity to this policy and Aspect research procedures.

Aspect ensures that research contracts clarify issues such as financial arrangements, management of actual or potential conflicts of interest, intellectual property, authorship and publication, consultancies, ethics clearance and ownership of equipment.

Aspect research staff regularly disseminate research findings and practice implications via journal articles, media releases, research reports, articles, conference presentations and academic texts.

Aspect has procedures to guide how research projects are developed and implemented, and findings are translated to autism practice; and outline systems for effective research governance and risk management. Approval for research projects to be undertaken are granted on the basis of alignment with Aspect's strategic priorities, extent of benefit to Aspect and the wider autism community, feasibility and available resources.

A database of research projects conducted at Aspect is maintained and reported to the Board on an annual basis.

External Framework

The Research and Evaluation policy illustrates Aspect's adherence to the:

- NDIS Practice Standards (2018) and NDIS Code of Conduct, specifically within the NDIS Practice Standards & Quality Indicators:
 - Core Module: 2. Provider Governance and Operational Management, under the relevant Outcomes.
 - Core Module: 3. Provision of Supports under the relevant Outcomes.
 - Supplementary Module: 2. Specialist Behaviour Support Module, under the relevant Outcomes.
 - Supplementary Module: 2a. Implementing Behaviour Support Plans, under the relevant Outcomes.
 - Supplementary Module: 3. Early Childhood Supports, under the relevant Outcomes.
- Disability Standards for Education (2005), specifically:
 - Part 6: Standards for Curriculum Development, Accreditation and Delivery; and
 - Part 7: Standards for Student Support Services
- NESA Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW Manual), specifically:
 - 3. Requirements for Registered Non-government Schools, under requirements for Curriculum; Safe and Supportive Environment and Discipline.
- Standards for Registration and Review of Registration of Schools in South Australia, specifically the relevant quality related criteria for:
 - Standard 2 Student Learning and Assessment
 - Standard 3 Student Safety, Health and Welfare

Legislation References

National

Copyright Act 1968 (Cth)
Copyright Amendment (Moral Rights) Act 2000 (Cth)
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
Disability Services Act 1986 (Cth)
Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)
National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)
National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and other measures) Bill 2017 (Cth)
National Standards for Disability Services 2014 (Cth)
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
Privacy Amendment Act (Private Sector) Act 2000 (Cth)
Privacy Amendment (Enhancing privacy protection) Act 2012 (Cth)
Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Act 2017 (Cth)
Spam Act 2003 (Cth)
Trade Marks Act 1995 (Cth)

New South Wales

Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)
Community Services (Complaints, Reviews and Monitoring) Act 1993 (NSW)
Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW)

Victoria

Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)
Disability Act 2006 (VIC)
Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC)
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (VIC)
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (VIC)

South Australia

Children and young people (Safety) Act 2017
Disability Services Act 1993 (SA)
Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA)
Freedom of Information Act 1991 (SA)

Australian Capital Territory

Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)
Disability Services Act 1991 (ACT)
Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)
Freedom of Information Act 1989 (ACT)