

URGENT ACTION

PRIORITIES FOR NDIS AUTISM ADVISORY GROUP TO ADDRESS



What's the problem?	How did this happen?	How do we fix it?
<p>Inappropriate tools and means used to determine eligibility and functional support needs administered by non-autism specialists</p> <p>Inappropriate use of assessment tools (i.e. PEDI-CAT, PEDI-CAT Autism) and diagnostic criteria (i.e. using DSM5 severity level ratings) to determine access to NDIS and resultant level of supports</p>	<p>Lack of required consultation with the field; or specialist clinicians; or research institutions who would have advised NDIA that the tools they were using to assess eligibility and/or support needs were inappropriate.</p>	<p>Revert to diagnosis and functional assessments by appropriately qualified and experienced allied health professionals until a reliable and proven Functional Assessment Tool has been identified</p> <p>Improved timely access to diagnosis for children and adults</p>
<p>After 12 months, the broader Autism Community nationally is unaware of any positive impacts or outcomes derived from the establishment of NDIS AAG</p>	<p>Lack of transparency in reporting back to NDIS AAG on issues outstanding e.g. The continued use of PEDI-CAT; information to planners to request that they cease using diagnostic levels to determine eligibility and lack of response to request to bring senior Autism Researcher on to the AAG as a member.</p>	<p>Public reporting of AAG work plan and progress</p> <p>Accountability framework</p>

<p>Inappropriate NDIS plans for people on the autism spectrum</p>	<p>Lack of autism knowledge of NDIS Administrators, Planners and Partners</p> <p>Use and reliance of Reference Packages instead of individualised plans</p> <p>Inconsistent and incorrect messaging by NDIS Planners and Partners</p> <p>Not accepting the advice of professionals and those with autism expertise outside the NDIS</p> <p>Ignoring the evidence base around interventions and supports for autism</p> <p>ECEI Partners with clear conflicts of interest</p> <p>Poor/rushed planning process that doesn't facilitate understanding of needs</p> <p>Lack of autism expertise with NDIA</p>	<p>Create Autism and Neurodevelopmental Stream</p> <p>Training of NDIS Planners and Partners in this stream</p> <p>Individualise the planning process and move away from reference packages</p> <p>Re-establish the Autism Advisor Program nation-wide to assist Partners and Planners.</p> <p>Short term interim plans to facilitate more robust planning process across environments (Home, Community and Mainstream)</p>
<p>Delays with plan approvals and reviews and gaps in service provision</p>	<p>ECEI Gateway not working for young children on the autism spectrum</p> <p>Poor system design has introduced delays that were not present in HCWA and Better Start</p> <p>Immature systems and systemic processes creating unnecessary barriers when funding exceeds reference guidelines</p>	<p>Children with Autism to bypass ECEI</p> <p>Investment in systems and upgrading/streamlining of processes</p> <p>Make plan approval process easier for plans above indexation</p>

<p>Unsuitability of ECEI light touch approach for children diagnosed on the autism spectrum</p>	<p>ECEI interventions generalised and not autism sensitive</p>	<p>Immediate access to NDIS and interim funding for all children with a diagnosis of autism</p> <p>Finalise complex criteria to determine presentations of autism eligible for fast track pathway and support</p>
<p>Lack of evidence of the effectiveness of the ECEI, participant profiles and proper outcomes reporting</p>	<p>Poor consultation and engagement with the sector</p>	<p>Independent review of ECEI model to determine its appropriateness and effectiveness</p> <p>Develop proper data collection, measurement and reporting</p>