

## ENROLMENT POLICY - EDUCATION

[Aspect provides autism-specific educational services for eligible school-aged autistic children, whose needs can be reasonably catered for within the school resources, expertise and support. Aspect recognises that autistic children have the right to access and equitable education regardless of their race, gender, ethnicity, religion or language.

Aspect must demonstrate, under its legal obligations, that it has an enrolment policy and associated procedures that comply with all relevant laws and regulatory requirements.

This policy and its associated procedures outline the enrolment and selection process for prospective students and the conditions for acceptance.

### Entry criteria

To be eligible for placement in one of Aspect's schools, prospective students must satisfy the criteria outlined below.

A child must:

- be aged between 4 and 17 years.
- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia or holds an eligible visa.
- Meet the relevant diagnosis requirements.

### Diagnosis requirements

In both NSW and South Australia, a child must have a diagnosis as being on the autism spectrum from a specialist medical practitioner, child psychiatrist or clinical psychologist with the necessary training and experience to be able to undertake a diagnostic assessment. The diagnostic report and/or letter must clearly state the child fulfils the diagnostic criteria for autism and is outlined in terms of the Diagnostic and Statistical manual (DSM) (see Definitions) or International Classifications of Diseases (ICD) (see Definitions). It should refer to the diagnostic assessment used and must provide evidence of developmental disability and a description of the student's functioning.

### In New South Wales

A child must have a current standardised cognitive or developmental assessment. Examples of acceptable assessments are outlined in appendix one and include IQ testing, Griffiths, WISC-IV, WPPSI-111, Woodcock-Johnson and other tests. This assessment needs to be no more than two (2) years old. A child may still be accepted onto a school waiting list prior to securing a current report where a family can provide evidence they are awaiting an assessment. Aspect will only be able to offer a place once that assessment is provided.

## **In South Australia**

If not already documented in the above reports, evidence that autism significantly impacts upon the child or young person in an educational setting should be provided. This may include assessment of adaptive skills, school or pre-school reports or occupational therapy reports. This can also be provided through a psychologist's report with a cognitive or developmental assessment, examples of acceptable assessment types are outlined in appendix one.

### **Reason for Distance Education pathway choice**

As well as citizenship, age and diagnosis criteria, a child may be deemed eligible for Distance Education if:

- they are geographically isolated; or
- their individual circumstances prevent them from regularly attending school; and
- they agree to abide by the Distance Education requirements as set out in the enrolment contract.

### **Visa Requirements**

Aspect welcomes applications from students of all nationalities. However, Aspect is not CRICOS registered so it is not able to enrol full fee-paying overseas students with temporary student visas. Enrolment is restricted to Australian citizens, permanent residents or dependents of eligible temporary visa holders with study rights. Aspect will determine whether domestic or international student fees apply based on a student's eligibility for Government funding.

### **Applications**

Applications for an Aspect School can be made at any time. An application is made for an Aspect school rather than a specific class. If a school is considering an application, the professional staff will determine which class is best suited to the educational needs of the student.

Each school is responsible for managing its own application, intake and waiting list process, which is managed by the school Principal under the guidelines provided in this policy and associated procedures.

Every application will be assessed for eligibility against the entry criteria outlined above. Those students deemed eligible will be placed on the school waitlist. The school will base any decision about offering a place to an eligible student on the waitlist on availability of suitable placements, will meet the needs of that student with appropriate and reasonable adjustments. Each school has an absolute discretion in determining whether to offer a place for a student.



## **External Framework**

Aspect's enrolment policy and associated procedures meet all compliance requirements under the following:

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)

Disability Standards for Education 2005

Education Act 1990 (NSW)

Education and Children's Services Act 2019 (SA)

NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) Registration Manual

## **Critical Definitions**

***Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DCM)*** A publication by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) for the classification of mental disorders using a common language and standard criteria. It is an internationally accepted manual on the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, though it may be used in conjunction with other documents.

## ***International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)***

A globally used medical classification used in epidemiology, health management and for clinical purposes. The ICD is maintained by the World Health Organization (WHO), which is the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations System. The ICD is originally designed as a health care classification system, providing a system of diagnostic codes for classifying diseases, including nuanced classifications of a wide variety of signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances, and external causes of injury or disease.

## **IQ testing, Griffiths, WISC-IV, WPPSI-111, Woodcock Johnson**

These tests are examples of developmental or cognitive assessments accepted by Aspect and used to measure child development, adaptive intelligence and cognitive abilities. A qualified professional would be able to determine which tests is most suitable for use with a particular child based on age, developmental level and other factors.

