



Research & Evaluation

Easy English



Aspect works to be Australia's expert for people on the autism spectrum. It does this through workshops, talking with others, learning from our services, giving expert advice and research.



Aspect's research helps to build the skills of the community by teaching them to understand people on the autism spectrum and the best ways to support them.



Aspect's research is based on looking at what others have found and checking if it works to achieve the best outcomes for people on the autism spectrum. Aspect works with other people who do research to learn from each other.



Aspect shares the information it has with its staff, partners and others in the community so awareness of autism can grow. By sharing its research, Aspect helps the community to develop services and supports that have been shown to be helpful.



Aspect makes decisions based on research. This helps Aspect to know how to make sure its services and schools are good quality for people on the autism spectrum.

Choosing research projects



Aspect has detailed research approval plans and processes which are often improved by understanding what the community thinks is the best way to do research. These plans and processes make sure the research is done honestly and follows today's research rules.



Aspect has a group of people called the Aspect Research Approvals Committee, who know how to check that the research is honest, fair and follows the rules. It is the Committee's job to approve who can do research at Aspect.

Approval is given for research and projects that match what Aspect wants to learn and improve the way Aspect works.



Research must respect, protect and help:



- individuals on the autism spectrum;



- their families;



- Aspect services;



- the wider community.



Aspect will make sure that any research has a written agreement which says:



- what the researchers will be doing;



- where any money and funds come from;



- who owns the research;



- how people will be treated fairly and their information will be kept private;



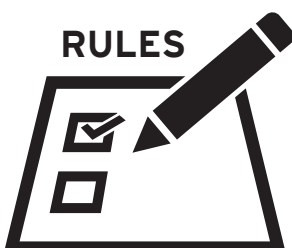
- who completes the research; and



- how the research will be shared with others.



Aspect makes sure that its research staff are trained well. There is support for staff who want to do research that improves the way Aspect works.



Aspect has clear rules about how to do honest research. This is very important when the research includes students/participants, their families and communities.



All researchers know that they need to manage any situation where their personal goals may affect their ability to do their job properly and fairly. This includes telling Aspect about it.



Aspect will support honest research that protects and respects the people involved in the research.



Aspect's written research rules clearly say what Aspect will do if any research does not follow the Australian laws and guidelines, codes of practice and our rules. Aspect checks regularly to make sure all research follows these rules.



Aspect staff use what Aspect learns from research in its schools and services. Aspect tells others about what it works on at conferences and in written reports.



When people on the autism spectrum and their families take part in any research by Aspect or by another organisation approved by Aspect, it makes sure they are treated fairly and their information is kept private.



A record is kept of research that is done at Aspect. This record is shared with Aspect management and the Board every year. It tells Aspect how the research could help it to improve its services.

This document was adapted from the Aspect Research and Evaluation Policy that can be found on the Aspect website at www.autismspectrum.org.au.

This document was developed in consultation with a variety of individuals throughout Aspect.

Should you need support to understand Aspect's written information in a language other than English, please call TIS on 131 450 to request an interpreter in your preferred language, and ask for Autism Spectrum Australia (1800 277 328).