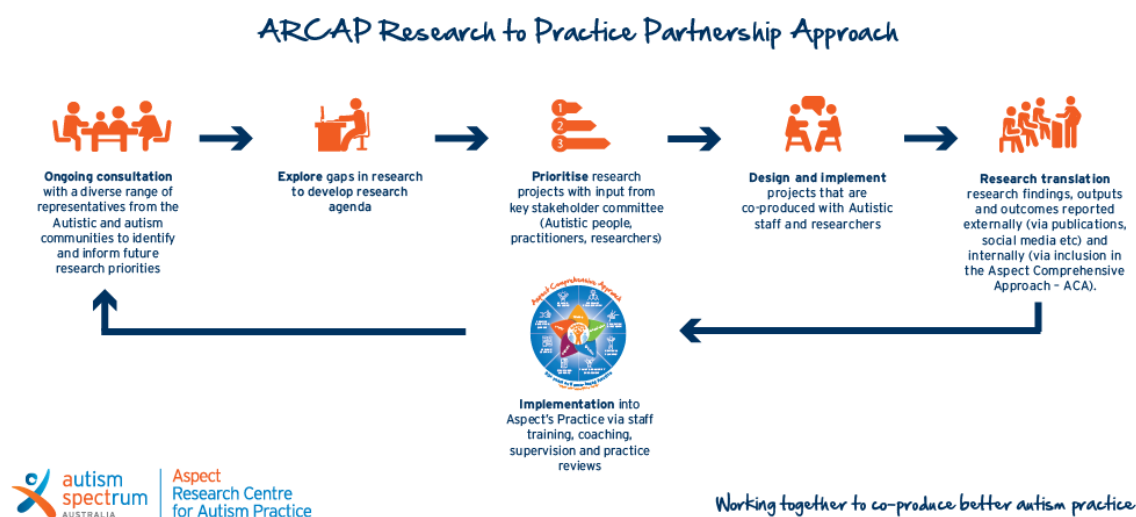


RESEARCH AT ASPECT

Autistic people and their families have a right to effective evidence-based services, practices and supports that respect neurodiversity (see Definitions) and are developed through partnership with the Autistic and autism communities (see Working in Partnership policy). The focus of Aspect's research program is on autism practice research, that is, researching services, programs and supports that improve outcomes for Autistic people. Aspect encourages and supports high standards of research and evidenced-based (see Definitions) service provision across Aspect, with an emphasis on integrating learning from research into the Aspect Comprehensive Approach (ACA) by implementing evidence-based practices across Aspect services. The aims of Aspect's research carried out by the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP), is to:

- support the ongoing development, evidence-base and continuous improvement of the Aspect Comprehensive Approach (ACA) (see [Aspect Comprehensive Approach](#) policy); and
- contribute to the development of evidence-based autism practice within Aspect and the wider community.

ARCAP Research to Practice Partnership Approach



ARCAP is responsible for coordinating the Aspect research program and ensuring all research undertaken at Aspect is of the highest quality. Aspect is committed to conducting research projects that incorporate input from Autistic people in the project design, implementation and reporting phases.

Aspect is committed to inclusive research practices by:

- partnering with the Autistic and autism communities to develop meaningful and respectful research priorities, and research projects;

- co-production of research by the involvement of Autistic researchers when available.

ARCAP welcomes the contribution of all Aspect staff to research activities including identifying possible new areas of research, assisting with research design, collecting data for approved research projects, co-presenting research findings and supporting the translation of research into services and practice at Aspect.

Aspect researchers conduct their investigations in a responsible and ethical manner. Aspect is committed to protecting and upholding the privacy and rights of Autistic people and their families who may be the subject of research undertaken or auspiced by Aspect.

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 does not engage in research about causes or 'cures' for autism.

Aspect ensures that any research contracts with university partners, 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.

The *ARCAP Research to Practice Partnership Approach* includes procedures to guide how research projects are developed, implemented, findings translated into Aspect's evidence-based autism practice (the ACA), and systems for effective research governance and risk management. Approval for research projects to be undertaken are granted by the Director, ARCAP on the basis of alignment with the priorities of the ACA, Aspect's strategic priorities, identified Autistic and autism communities' priorities for research, extent of benefit to Aspect and the wider Autistic and autism communities, and feasibility and available resources.

The inclusion of autism practices in the ACA is based upon Aspect's own definition of what constitutes an evidence-based practice (see definitions).

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

The outcomes and practice implications of Aspect's autism practice research are disseminated to the wider Autistic and autism communities via journal articles, stakeholder research reports, media releases, articles, conference presentations and academic texts.

Aspect is committed to implementing the ACA as the framework that underpins all services Aspect provides. The ACA aims to assist Aspect to improve the quality of life



for Autistic people by working in partnership with students/participants and their families. It comprises a respectful positive strengths-based understanding of autism, the Five Point Star and eight elements of evidence-based practices (see Aspect Comprehensive Approach policy).

Critical Definitions

Evidence-based – Aspect defines evidence-based practice as strategies that:

- have the highest quality available research showing positive impacts for Autistic people and their families in real-world settings;
- meet the aspirations, preferences and values of people on the autism spectrum;
- fit with Aspect's 50 years of expertise in autism practice and assists the work of our educators, therapists and support staff;
- are positive and not painful or distressing, respect the full diversity of Autistic people and can contribute towards an Autistic person's satisfaction with their quality of life and their inclusion in society.

Evidence-informed – Evidence-informed practice refers to emerging practices that have yet to develop a research base.

Sometimes, it takes time for new research evidence to emerge. Where there is limited research available and strategies meet Aspect's evidence-based practice criteria, Aspect's Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP) conducts research in partnership with the Autistic community to investigate evidence-informed strategies. This might include the use of technology (iPads or telehealth), strategies to support emotional regulation or approaches to training (e.g. the police) to respond positively.

Neurodiversity - Neurodiversity refers to the fact that every human has a unique nervous system with a unique combination of abilities and needs. Just as the idea that conserving biodiversity is necessary for a sustainable, flourishing planet, so too is the idea that respecting neurodiversity is necessary for a sustainable, flourishing human society. Every person is neurodiverse because no two humans are exactly alike. Neurodiversity was first discussed in relation to autism by Judy Singer in 1998, as a political term to argue for the importance of including all neurotypes for a thriving human society.

External Framework

The Research to Practice 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 all 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 all Outcomes.
- Disability Standards for Education (2005) in the responsibilities of the schools and outreach to support students and their families in their individual needs in the following standards areas:
 - Part 3: Making reasonable adjustments;
 - Part 5: Standards of participation;
- NESA Registered and Accredited Individual Non-Government Schools (NSW Manual), specifically:
 - 3. Requirements for Registered Non-government Schools, under requirements for 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 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 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)

Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)

Privacy Amendment (Enhancing privacy protection) Act 2012 (Cth)

Privacy Amendment (Notifiable data breaches) Act 2017 (Cth)

Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000 (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's Protection Act 1993 (SA)
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)



