STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS 2016–2020
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Autism Spectrum Disorder* is a neurodevelopmental condition that impacts on child development in a number of key areas, including communication, social interaction and repetitive patterns of behaviour. Autism is also frequently associated with sensory sensitivities and sensory processing difficulties.

While Autism Spectrum Disorder is a complex lifelong developmental disability, with appropriate intervention children and adults with Autism can make significant progress and live fulfilling lives. Consequently, it is imperative that individuals with Autism have access to specialist services that understand their needs and are experienced in developing their skills and strengths.

Approximately one in every 160 children in Australia is diagnosed with the condition.

* For ease of use, the term “Autism” will be used throughout this report to refer to Autism Spectrum Disorder.
ABOUT THE AUTISM ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Autism Association is one of Australia’s largest not-for-profit Autism specific service providers. Established in 1967, our focus is on excellence in service provision, meeting the needs of individuals with Autism and related disabilities, supporting families and collaborating with peer reviewed research.

Current services include:

- Autism Advisors and family support for newly diagnosed children.
- Multi-disciplinary early intervention services.
- School support service and therapy services for school age children.
- Therapy and clinical services for adults with ASD.
- Community living support: Shared and individual homes.
- Short breaks for children (respite service).
- Individual support programs tailored to individual need, including post school options.
- Employment placement and support program.
- Professional development and training services.
- State-wide consultancy service.
- Family support.
FOR WHOM DO WE WORK?

People with Autism and related disabilities
OUR PURPOSE

To advance:
- the personal development
- equality of opportunity and
- community participation
of people with Autism and related disabilities
OUR VISION

What we work to achieve:

- All children with Autism have a great start in life
- All children with Autism receive the education they need
- All adults with Autism receive the support they need to lead an ordinary life
- A community where people with Autism are understood, accepted and celebrated
OUR VALUES

Passion to make the greatest difference
Respect for the uniqueness of each person
Commitment to treat individuals and families as we ourselves would like to be treated
Excellence in all that we undertake
Innovation to fulfill dreams and aspirations
Courage to strenuously advocate for people with Autism and their families
OUR LEADERSHIP

Passion to achieve the best possible life for children and adults with Autism

Services are tailored to each individual’s needs and aspirations

Determination to achieve great outcomes

Research to advance knowledge and understanding

Links with specialist organisations nationally and internationally
OUR CULTURE

**Belief** in great possibilities for every child and adult with Autism

**Driven** to assist each individual to achieve

**Respect** for individuals, families and advocates

**Learn** from people with Autism and their families

**Dream** **WE DREAM BIG** for each individual
OUR GOALS
GOAL 1
Enhance the lives of people with Autism

Strategy 1.1 Service growth
Strategy 1.2 Innovate
Strategy 1.3 Contemporary person-centred service

GOAL 2
Support families and carers

Strategy 2.1 Build family capacity
Strategy 2.2 Information and resources
Strategy 2.3 Advocate

GOAL 3
Influence and promote best practice

Strategy 3.1 Leadership
Strategy 3.2 Best practice
Strategy 3.3 Research

GOAL 4
Increase organisational capacity and efficiency

Strategy 4.1 Infrastructure, expansion and consolidation
Strategy 4.2 Internal systems and processes
Strategy 4.3 Staff training and development
WE DREAM BIG
for each individual