



Autism Victoria Inc. A14601C

www.autismvictoria.org.au

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Please find included in this package:

- Letter, explaining what documents we need from you.
- Our Data Sheet which you need to complete, sign and return to us with your child's documents.
- Helping Children with Autism Initiative Information Sheet explaining more about The Initiative including The Enhanced Primary Care Plan, the Better Access to Mental Health Plan and 20 Allied Health Services

'HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM'

Autism Advisor Program – Victoria

Information Package

- Location:** 24 Drummond Street, Carlton 3053 (near corner of Drummond St and Victoria Street; Melway Ref: 2B G11)
- Office Hours:** 9 am to 6 pm, Monday to Friday
- Car Parking:** Limited parking available at front of building
- Transport:** **Parliament Train Station** is a 10 minute walk exiting at the Lonsdale Street exit; continue along Spring Street to Victoria Street and up Drummond Street.
- Trams 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 16, 64, 67 and 72** – disembark near the corner of Swanston and Victoria Streets, continue down Victoria Street towards Carlton Gardens and into Drummond Street.

What is the 'Helping Children With Autism' Package?

The Australian Government, through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, The Department of Health and Ageing , and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations have committed \$190 Million to support families, and their children who have a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (as defined in the DSM-IV-TR under Pervasive Developmental Disorders).

The new package includes:

- New Medicare rebates for Diagnosis and 20 visits for early intervention treatment for children with ASDs;
- A National Autism Advisor Program to assist families and carers of children aged zero – six diagnosed with an ASD .
- Funding to increase access to early intervention services for children aged up to six years diagnosed with an ASD;
- Targeted playgroups across Australia for families and children aged zero to six years with an ASD or ASD – like symptoms;
- A national program of workshops to deliver flexible and targeted support to families and carers of children with an ASD;
- An ASD website to provide information, online resources and other interactive functions to parents, carers and professionals;
- Professional development for teachers and other school staff to support school students with ASDs to achieve better educational outcomes; and
- Additional funding to enable parents and carers of school aged children with ASDs to attend workshops and information sessions and to access online workshops and information.

In addition to the package, the Government is establishing six autism specific early intervention child care centres which will provide individualised programs for children with an ASD in a long day care setting.

The package has been established to augment and/or complement the current State and Territory government investment in ASD services.

Further information about the Helping Children with Autism Package available from www.fahcsia.gov.au , www.health.gov.au/autism and www.dest.gov.au/schools/autism

Who are the Autism Advisors?

Autism Victoria has been selected to provide **The Autism Advisor Program** for Victoria.

Autism Advisors will:

- Ensure that families and carers understand the diagnosis and the clinical treatment plan that is prepared by the diagnostician/s
- Provide factual, impartial and evidence based information about the types of educational and behavioural interventions that have produced positive outcomes for children with ASDs, a
- Discuss service options with families in relation to the authorised panel provider list
- Provide a gateway for access to the early intervention funding package for families, \$6,000 per child per Financial Year (up to \$12,000 in total)
- Link families and carers to local support networks, including links to advocacy groups that can act on their behalf if required
- Provide information about related allied health providers in their area
- Advise families/carers about available resources that can assist them to care for their child
- Provide information for families/carers to access support services or benefits that are provided by state government programs or other Australian Government programs e.g. Commonwealth Carer Respite Centres
- Assist families, carers and children from Indigenous and CALD backgrounds to access translation and culturally appropriate services
- Provide assistance for families, carers and children living in rural and remote areas to access early intervention and support activities.