

Dear Parent/Provider/Paediatrician,

Re: HELPING CHILDREN WITH AUTISM FUNDING PACKAGE

Thank you for registering with Autism Victoria for information about the Helping Children with Autism Funding package. The package launched by the Federal Government in October 2008, is intended to provide funding for Early Intervention for families who have a child with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (including Autistic Disorder/Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, Pervasive Development Disorder – Not Otherwise Specified, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder or Rett's Disorder).

FaHCSIA (Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) has developed an Autism Advisor Service, which Autism Victoria has been given the responsibility of implementing in Victoria. Autism Advisors process applications for eligibility and then meet with or telephone families to discuss the options available to them for use of the funding. The funding is up to \$12,000 for a child who has been diagnosed with one of the above disorders to assist with therapy until the child turns seven (provided the family has been eligible for the funding by the child's sixth birthday). The \$12,000 funding (a maximum of \$6,000 per financial year) is used by families to access Providers which have been approved by FaHCSIA.

In order for Autism Advisors to process applications, copies of the following need to be sent accompanying the completed and signed database sheet included within this pack.

- Copy of child's birth certificate
- Rates Notice or utility bill
- Child's Centrelink reference number which is on the child's Health Care Card
- A definitive statement of diagnosis (not suggestive or provisional) which has been signed by a Paediatrician, Psychiatrist, or Multi-disciplinary team.

Anyone applying for FaHCSIA funding must be an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident.

Advisors look forward to continuing to network within regions and appreciate assistance in the use of consultation rooms to meet families and the promotion of the package through Health Professionals and Diagnosticians. We thank you for your patience as this program has developed and look forward to working with you in the future to continue to enable families who are eligible for the funding to access this program.

Yours sincerely,



Emma L. Donaldson
Manager: Education, Accreditation and Advisory Units



AUTISM VICTORIA Inc.

is an association of organisations providing specialist services to people with autism, associated disorders and their families.