

Autism State Plan – Update – June 2007

The Facts

Preliminary Work commenced in February 2007 with the formation of a Working Party. The expected completion date is towards the end of 2008.

Lead Minister – Lisa Neville MP – Minister for Children, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Aged Care working closely with Gavin Jennings MP Minister for Community Services.

Working Party

*Autism Victoria Reps – Meredith Ward, Amanda Golding, Rosemary Malone,
Tracel Devereux & Judy Brewer-Fischer*

and

Department of Human Services Strategic Projects Branch – Joanna Birdseye and Lorraine Langley, with representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Disability Services, Mental Health Division and the Office for Children.

A Project Brief has been prepared by the Working Party, and has been accepted by Minister Neville (June 2007)

Yes - it's true - the promised Autism State Plan in partnership with Autism Victoria is becoming a reality and preliminary work has commenced! The plan will embrace Autism Spectrum Disorders across the life span – from early childhood to adulthood.

The Autism State Plan will be informed by current international and national research, using life stages framework and a contemporary understanding of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This will ensure the plan is cognisant of an evidence based practice and emerging potential “next practice” service continuum to improve outcomes for clients with an ASD. Mapping of the current Victorian service systems will occur with reference to this broader context.

You can view regular updates about progress with the Autism State Plan at www.autismvictoria.org.au/policy/relevant_government_policies.php, in the *eSpectrum* (our periodic electronic bulletin - subscribe free and online from our website www.autismvictoria.org.au) and in our quarterly magazine, *The Spectrum*.

Meredith Ward
Autism Victoria - Government Liaison & Public Relations
liaison@autismvictoria.org.au