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EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

AUTISM VICTORIA PROFESSIONAL PANEL

BACKGROUND

As part of its Strategic Plan 2004 – 2007, Autism Victoria is establishing a Professional Panel. Many of the Australian and international Autism Associations have a Professional Panel, as does the Autism Council of Australia. The role of a Professional Panel can be varied, and a working group comprising Dr Amanda Richdale, Dr Allan Mawdsley and Amanda Golding developed a model to best meet the needs of the Autism Spectrum Disorder community in Victoria, and specifically, the needs of Autism Victoria and its member agencies. The Autism Victoria Executive Committee and State Council have approved this model. The Autism Victoria Professional Panel will clarify and enhance the role previously undertaken by the Autism Services Coordinating Committee.

DETAILS

1. The Autism Victoria Professional Panel will comprise:
 - i. A Chairperson, appointed by the Autism Victoria State Council
 - ii. Six members, each representing one of the following disciplines/areas of expertise
 - a. Education
 - b. Early Childhood
 - c. Medicine (paediatrician or psychiatrist)
 - d. Psychology
 - e. Clinical Services (Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy)
 - f. Family Welfare
 - iii. Up to three additional members will be appointed to ensure the following sectors are also represented
 - a. Adults
 - b. Regional
 - c. Research
2. The Autism Victoria Professional Panel will appoint
 - i. One member to deputise for the Chairperson as required
 - ii. One member to the **Autism Victoria State Council** (to take up a Co-opted position and to report on Panel activities to State Council)
 - iii. One member to represent Autism Victoria on the **Autism Council of Australia Professional Committee**

- iv. A convenor for each of the following existing Autism Services Coordinating Committee **Reference Groups** (these convenors will not necessarily be a member of the Professional Panel)
 - a. Research
 - b. Assessment
 - c. Education
 - d. Regional
 - e. Adult
 - f. Early Intervention
3. The tasks of the Autism Victoria Professional Panel will include:
- i. Responding to matters referred by the Autism Victoria State Council, including
 - a. Professional opinion
 - b. Media commentary
 - c. Advice and guidance to Autism Victoria staff and the Executive Committee and State Council
 - ii. Addressing issues raised by each of the Autism Services Coordinating Committee Reference Groups
 - iii. Providing consultancy support and expertise to the Autism Victoria Policy Committee
 - iv. Tasks as determined by panel members
4. Membership of the Professional Panel is by expression of interest (see attachment one) and vacancies will be advertised by the Autism Victoria Executive Committee from time to time.
- i. The period of tenure is normally two years, and members are eligible for reappointment, subject to application procedures
 - ii. Expressions of interest will be reviewed by the President of Autism Victoria, the Chairperson of the Professional Panel and the Executive Officer of Autism Victoria who will recommend appointments to the Autism Victoria Executive Committee for ratification
 - iii. Membership of the Autism Victoria Professional Panel is honorary, and the panel is able to request funds from Autism Victoria to cover reasonable costs such as communication, venue hire and refreshments
5. Selection Criteria for membership
- i. Be eligible for membership of their relevant professional association or college
 - ii. Have a demonstrated expertise in Autism Spectrum Disorders
 - iii. Be available to participate in the activities of the panel, including face to face meetings and electronic communication
 - iv. Be able to demonstrate a commitment to the aims and objectives of Autism Victoria as articulated in their 2004 – 2007 Strategic Plan (see attachment two)

If you are interested in a position on the Autism Victoria Professional Panel, please complete the following details and forward, in confidence, to Amanda Golding, Executive Officer of Autism Victoria, by mail or email. Expressions of interest can be lodged at any time and will be considered as vacancies become available. However, in order to be considered for membership of the initial panel, please forward your expression of interest no later than **Friday February 18th 2005**.

ATTACHMENT ONE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – AUTISM VICTORIA PROFESSIONAL PANEL

1. Full Name and Title

2. Postal Address.....
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3. Phone contact details (work and mobile preferred)

4. Email contact details (please include the address or addresses to which panel materials can be sent)
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5. Current position(s) held

6. Outline your area(s) of expertise and experience with Autism Spectrum Disorders.....
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7. Which discipline and/or sector do you wish to nominate to represent on the Professional Panel? (see items 1.ii and 1.iii above)
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8. Please detail any other information you think may be relevant to this Expression of Interest
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Signed

Date/...../20.....

Please forward to Amanda Golding at

Autism Victoria Professional Panel PO Box 235 ASHBURTON VIC 3147	or by email to amanda@autismvictoria.org.au
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ATTACHMENT TWO

AUTISM VICTORIA STRATEGIC PLAN 2004-2007

VISION

Our vision is for a world where every person affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders receives adequate education and support and reaches their full potential.

OUR MISSION

Autism Victoria aims to strengthen its role as a peak body whilst continuing to improve the quality of life for people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders.

Autism Victoria will achieve its mission by:

- Conducting policy analysis at both a State and National Level
- Providing a forum for members to communicate amongst themselves
- Representing the views of members and lobbying to support their interests
- Providing specialist information, support and advocacy for people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Increasing the public awareness of both Autism Spectrum Disorders and Autism Victoria

OUR STAKEHOLDERS



KEY RESULT AREAS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Policy Analysis, Research and Political Lobbying

- Increase the effectiveness and reach of consultation amongst membership on key issues affecting Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Inform Stakeholders on any developments in government policy, legislation or studies/reviews that affect people with Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Lobby government ministers and their representatives on behalf of stakeholders
- Foster a network of consultative research in Victoria

2. Information and Support

- Improve reach and efficiency of family support services
- Manage expectations of support services
- Improve reach and efficiency of information services
- Maintain and develop Autism Resource centre
- Disseminate policy, research and support information
- Stage Annual Autism Expo or State Conference
- Improve overall service delivery

3. Membership Development

- Shift the focus of the State Council meetings from Governance to Autism Spectrum Disorder issues
- Expand the membership base
- Explore models of best practice and benchmarking quality standards

4. Public Awareness

- Increase public awareness of Autism Victoria and improve branding
- Increase public awareness of Autism

5. Governance and Financial Sustainability

- Increase streams of revenue
- Increase membership
- Increase sponsorship and philanthropy
- Increase product sales
- Deliver Seminars and Conferences
- Improve office facility and staff amenity