



Australian Government
Department of Industry and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Programme

An Overview of Autism CRC and Projects with a Rural and Remote Focus

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Overview of Presentation

- What is Autism CRC
- What is the focus of our research programs?
- What projects have rural/remote relevance and focus?
- Knowledge translation and outputs
- Keep in touch



Autism CRC – 8 years of Commonwealth Funding

- World's first national, cooperative research effort focused on autism across the lifespan.
- Our goal is to improve outcomes for people living with autism by implementing end-user driven research.
- We aim to provide evidence-based solutions for governments, service providers, education and health professionals and individuals/families.



Principles

The principles that will guide us:

Ethical	Personal, professional and research integrity
Collaborative	The majority of research projects have at least one end-user involved
Innovative	Research Academy and Inclusive Research Practices
Inclusive	Advisory groups for projects, ASD Hub Connect development, Volunteers who have autism
Respectful of diversity	People with autism on Committees, Visual Snapshot,
Committed to effecting change (passionate)	All research projects must have a translatable outcome which will make a difference in the lives of people with autism





Autism CRC Ltd

- Company Limited by Guarantee
- Governed by a Board of independent and nominee Directors
- Not-for-Profit company
- Charitable (ACNC) and deductible gift recipient status (DGR)
- Small headquarters in Brisbane with research based in Vic, NSW, Qld and WA, and end-users in every State



Autism CRC



- Commonwealth Government Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) program
 - “The CRC Program supports **industry-led collaborations** between researchers, industry and the community. The CRC Program was established in 1990 and since then CRCs have developed important **new technologies, products and services that help solve major economic, environmental and social challenges** facing Australia.”
 - Department of Industry
- CRCs made up of:
 - Essential Participants
 - Other Participants





Autism CRC EPs



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Queensland Government



LA TROBE UNIVERSITY



Curtin University





Autism CRC OPs



Asperger's Syndrome Clinic – Prof Tony Attwood



Dr Joseph Piven



CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Professor Pat Howlin: University of Sydney



Autism Specific Early Learning Centres x 6





Autism CRC

Research and resources are the means to an end



Translation and Utilisation

- Industry-led collaborations

- *Autism CRC requires at least one end-user be involved in each project, from definition → conduct → utilisation*

- End-user engagement, with emphasis on SMEs

- *2013 and 2014 investment Autism CRC rounds included 21 end-users (11 SMEs) and 23 end-users (14 SMEs)*

- Translation of high level research skills

- *Autism CRC has awarded 16 PhDs plus 9 post-docs*



Autism CRC



...will enhance the lives of millions living with ASD



Projects with Rural /Remote Focus and Relevance – Program 1

- **Aim**
 - To achieve earlier and more accurate diagnosis of autism (by 2-3 years).
- **How?**
 - Develop a national integrated autism diagnosis protocol (combining genetic, behavioural and biological discovery/data)
- **Project Investment**
 - National diagnostic practices survey – Lauren Taylor UWA
 - Graduate Certificate in Autism Diagnosis and Assessment – UWA, online, practical components, enrolling now, Battery World scholarships available (targeting Rural/remote practitioners)
 - Developmental Surveillance – SACS-R – LTU - MCH nurses, well child checks/immunisation – early red flags → identify at risk children
 - ASD subtyping study – UNSW - ASELCCs in all states
 - Development of Australia's first Autism Biobank – UWA/UQ
 - Genomics project – sequencing, methylation and genetic risk profile - UQ



Projects with Rural /Remote Focus and Relevance – Program 2

- **Aim**

- To enhance teaching and learning for students on the spectrum and to capacity build teachers/allied health professionals in schools to better manage these students.

- **How?**

- Projects grounded in mainstream classrooms in metro and rural/regional areas across a range of public, private, church, independent education systems in NSW, Vic, Qld, WA.
- Using methodologies (action research, case series, RCTs) that engage end-users (teachers/AHPs/principals) from the outset; developed, piloted, trialled and evaluated with end user input (professionals, parents, students where possible).

- **Project Investment**

- Handwriting and writing (conceptual/creative)
- Transition between tasks
- Whole of class social skills training
- Longitudinal study of Australian children with ASD



Program 2

- **School Connectedness Project - QUT**
 - Resourceful Adolescents Program RAP A, RAP T, RAP P ASD
 - Metro and remote school (similarities/differences) and needs re inclusive school communities
- **Behaviour Support Project - QUT**
 - Classroom teleconsultation to teachers in schools with students with severe challenging behaviours (rural, regional and metropolitan schools)
 - iinet, school systems, Autism Qld, Aspect, QUT, GU
 - Telehealth in the schools – Positive behaviour support
 - Exploring range of technologies for ‘remoting’ into school systems – synchronous/asynchronous.
- **Transition Project - ASPECT**
 - QLD, NSW, Vic – rural and metro schools
 - National curriculum – developing models of transition early years and between primary and secondary school transitions, instruction, curriculum transitions.



Projects with Rural /Remote Focus and Relevance – Program 3

- **Aim**
 - To improve post school educational and employment success and retention
 - To improve understanding of health and well being issues for adults by GPs, health professionals
 - To improve community participation through improved access (driving/public transport)
 - To improve social skills to support post school educational and employment success.
- **How?**
 - With end user input via advisory groups and co-production (peer research), to develop programs and tools to enhance post school vocational, educational and employment success and enhance health and well being.



Program 3

- **Project Investment**
 - STEP-A Successful transition educational protocol
 - IEST Integrated employment success tool
 - Longitudinal Studies – school leavers and middle aged adults
 - Health and well being needs and tools
 - Post school education – peer mentoring, academic success in STEM
 - Studio G – vocational options in creative media, design, gaming.



Knowledge Translation and Utilisation

- Modules, products, outputs on ASD Hub Connect
www.autismcrc.com.au



The Secret Agent Society

Place your orders here and find out about our upcoming training dates.



ASD Health Hub

The Health Hub provides resources to enhance the health and wellbeing in adults with autism and their families.



Inclusive Research Practices

Acknowledging that effective research cannot occur without the input of the people who have the lived experience of autism, we have produced a series of Inclusive Research Practice Guides and



AutismCRC
Research Academy

Researching Autism Together

News

Researching Autism Together: National Workshop 2015

[Read more ...](#)

[More News ... >](#)





<http://www.autismcrc.com.au/health-hub>





Knowledge Translation and Utilisation

- Modules for GPs, health and educational professionals upskilling
- CPD for GPs, mental/ health/ education professionals
- Information for adults on the spectrum
- Tools – STEP-A, IEST for employment
- Apps – anxiety intervention on line
- Cooking courses for adults on the spectrum
- Oral health
- Tools for GPs treating adults on the spectrum - A Well Suite



Contact us – keep in touch

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