

Overview of CRC research and education programs

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In this paper I will provide an overview of the research programs being undertaken by Autism CRC (Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism Spectrum Disorders) established in July 2013. These three programs are:

- A better start—diagnosis and early intervention practices
- Enhancing teaching and learning during the school years
- Finding a place in society during post school and adult years.

The projects invested in to date, with particular emphasis on those that have immediate relevance to regional, rural and remote health and educational practitioners will be outlined. Specifically the following will be discussed:

- developmental surveillance and proposed national diagnostic protocol
- survey of diagnostic procedures across Australia (co-investment Department of Social Services)
- graduate certificate in autism diagnosis and assessment and scholarship
- early years behaviour support project with tele-classroom consultation in rural/remote schools
- School Connectedness Project with rural as well as urban focus
- adult longitudinal and transition studies (national recruitment)
- health and wellbeing tools/resources for health professionals and adults with ASC.

Methods of engaging with the research work of the Autism CRC as research participants as well as research applicants will be discussed. In addition the important role of the National Rural Health Alliance in shaping research outcomes that are useful for rural practitioners and engaging with dissemination and knowledge translation activities will be highlighted.