

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

The Department of Education accepts the term Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - 5th edition (DSM-5, American Psychiatric Association, 2014).

Eligibility Requirements

The following evidence is required to be submitted in order for Disability Services and Support to confirm eligibility for resourcing:

1. A signed letter or statement embedded within the text of a full report from any member of the diagnostic team:
 - stating the diagnosis
 - listing the names of the members of the diagnostic team
 - confirming that the members of the team conferred following the completion of all assessments, and each of them agrees with the diagnosis and final agreed levels of severity
2. All final assessment reports stating the:
 - diagnosis
 - current severity requiring support; substantial support or very substantial support (as per DSM-5)Specify if:
 - with or without intellectual impairment
 - with or without accompanying language impairment

General Information

- For students over the age of 12, the diagnosing paediatrician may determine that a speech assessment is not required. A psychiatric review may be required as part of the diagnostic procedure for these students.

DSM IV

- People already diagnosed with ASD under DSM-IV prior to 30 April 2014 will not be excluded. Any assessment commenced prior to April 30 but concluded after 30 April 2014 must adhere to the DSM-5 classification of diagnosis to be eligible for funding.

Interim ASD Funding

- For interim funding, a letter from a relevant professional (for example but not limited to a paediatrician or intake coordinator) indicating that the student is on the wait list for an assessment is required (a Disability Services Commission request for consent or a referral is not considered evidence).
- Interim resourcing may be available for a maximum of two years only.
- Interim resourcing is not available for students who have been re-referred for assessment.

Interstate or Overseas diagnosis of ASD

- Interstate or overseas diagnosis of ASD must be verified to WA Standards to be eligible for funding. A reassessment is not necessarily required. Interstate or overseas diagnosis may be verified by but not limited to a paediatrician or Disability Services Commission.
- Students with interstate or overseas ASD diagnosis may receive interim resourcing, whilst the diagnosis is being verified to WA standards as per eligibility criteria.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The Department of Education is committed to protecting privacy, integrity of information obtained and confidentiality. All personal information must be obtained by lawful and fair means with the knowledge and consent of the person to whom it relates. Persons must be told why personal information is being collated and whether it may be accessible to any third party.

This includes parents of students who are under 18 years of age.

Parents or carers are directed to contact local school staff for further information.