



National Autism Strategy - Consultation

30 October 2023

On behalf of the Tasmanian Autistic community, Autism Tasmania is pleased to provide our response to the consultation to inform Australia's first National Autism Strategy, (the Strategy). Autism Tasmania values deep, grass-roots connection with the Autistic community we serve. We understand the importance of designing engagement and consultation processes that fully accommodate the diverse needs for Autistic people and we work to recognise and respectfully collaborate with the organisations and networks that autistic people chose.

For this reason, we were pleased to support the community engagement activities delivered in Tasmania by Social Deck consultancy in late September 2023. Autism Tasmania led sixteen state-wide engagement activities to augment the four Social Deck led activities. This work resulted in the direct engagement of an additional 135 Autistic people and importantly the submission of their lived experiences and solutions to inform the Strategy, via this submission.

Our submission includes the following components:

1. Overarching recommendations
2. Autism in Tasmania – State of the State Report
3. Key themes from Autistic community
4. "One thing the Autism Strategy should do..." Video stories from the Autistic Community Advisory Subcommittee members.

1. Overarching recommendations – Build Reciprocal Capacity

1A - Invest in actions that build the capacity of all members of the community to ensure full community and economic inclusion through the **universal adoption of neurodiversity-affirming conduct**. The depth of this new capacity must:

- be commensurate with the individual and services roles and responsibilities.
- be embedded in respective professional standards where applicable; and
- be matched with clear accountabilities for acquiring and maintaining this capacity; including penalties for failing to do so.

1B – Invest in actions that build the self-advocacy capacity of Autistic persons, to choose to **communicate their unique needs** and to expect full community and economic inclusion.

We highlight two solutions currently being trialed in Tasmania which we believe are examples of these recommended actions:

1. "Be Open to Autism" Campaign.; and
2. National Assistance Card – Autism Trial in Tasmania.

www.autismtas.org.au/resource-supports/community-engagement/

Autism Tasmania is the peak independent voice for the Tasmanian autism community.

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North

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North West

9 King St, Burnie
Tue to Thu: 9am to 3pm



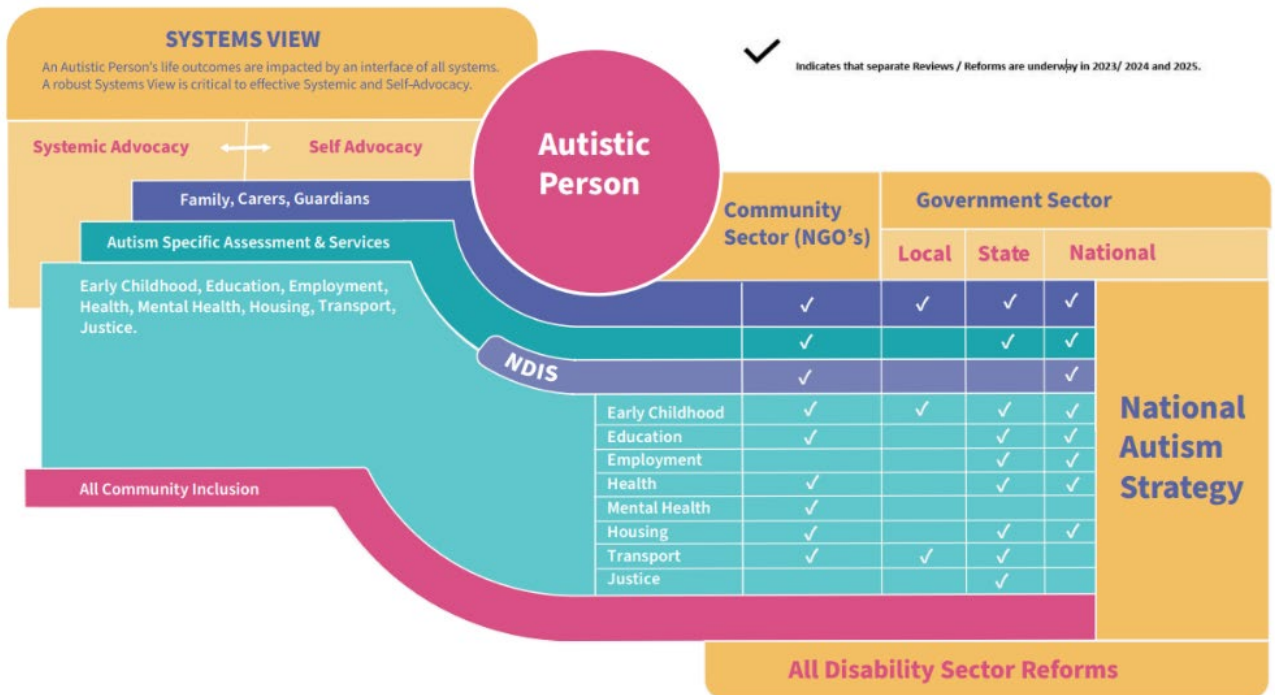
2. Autism in Tasmania – State of the State Report

On October 2023, Autism Tasmania released this report. ([Attachment 1](#))

It’s purpose is to “*Inform the Reforms*” as it a systems view of the array of local, state and national programs and policies; that influence the life outcomes for Autistic Tasmanians.

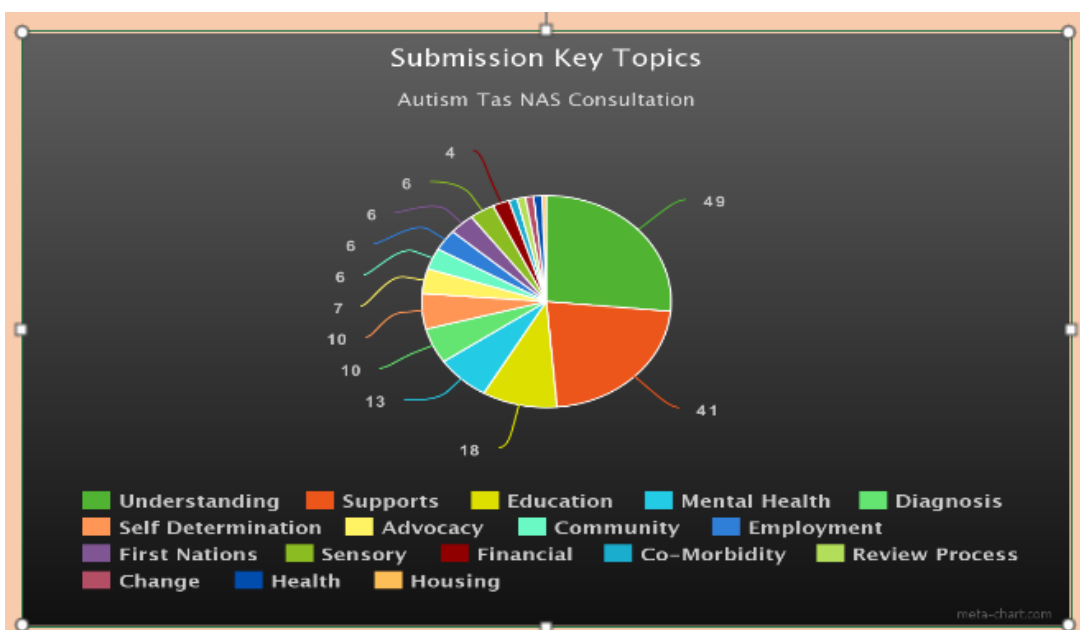
This report captures the voice of Autistic Tasmanian’s and recognises that urgent need for the National Autism Strategy align the array of reforms currently underway.

A Systems View Will Make A Difference



3. Key themes from Autistic community

The table summaries the key themes arising from the 135 Autistic people engaged through the initial consultation in September 2023. Detailed advice is included in this submission ([Attachment 2](#)).



4. Innovative Video stories from ACAS members **

The Autistic Community Advisory Subcommittee (ACAS) is a formal subcommittee of the Board and comprises diverse autistic persons. ACAS is actively engaged with the National Autism Strategy and:

- Convened a panel discussion titled "The National Autism Strategy should..." at Autism Tasmanians AGM on Wednesday 25 October 2023.
- Created an innovative format to support the autistic community to share their ideas on the "One thing the National Autism Strategy should do and why." Seven videos as examples of this format are included in this submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to inform this transformational National Autism Strategy.

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Attachments:

1. Autism in Tasmania: State of the State Report 2023.
2. Key Themes arising from Tasmanian autistic community.
3. 7 x Video Stories – Autistic Community Advisory Subcommittee (ACAS) ** submitted separately.

NOTE:

Autism Tasmania is a proud and active member of the two national autism organisations:

- *The Australian Autism Alliance ([www.australianautismalliance](http://www.australianautismalliance.org.au)) and*
- *The Australian Advisory Board on Autism (www.autismadvisoryboard.org.au.au).*

As systemic advocacy is not currently funded our detailed response to the National Strategy is included in the respective submissions of our national autism organisation.

Our submission aims to provide additional unique perspectives of Autistic Tasmanians.



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