

I agree that Autism is a priority.

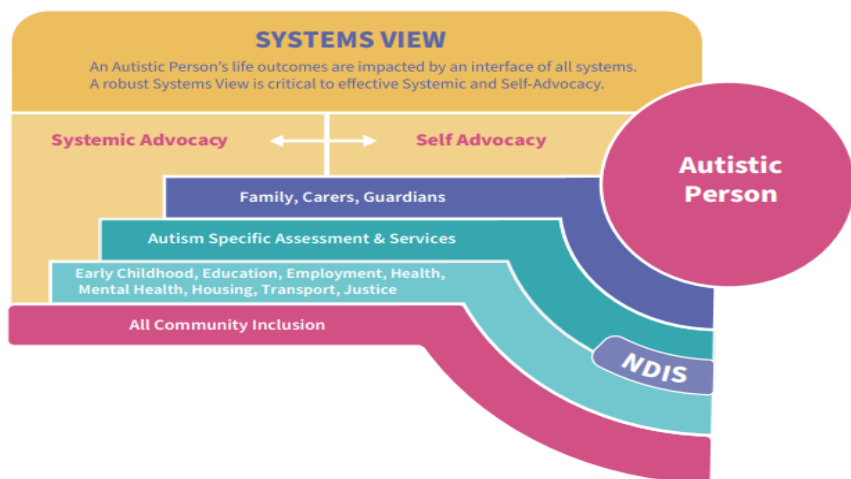
When elected, I commit to fund Autism Tasmania.

The Tasmanian Government needs the help of Autism Tasmania.

We must ensure that the many reforms to national programs and local services work for autistic Tasmanians, their families and carers.

We must build on and not waste what we have already achieved.

I commit to fund Autism Tasmania for \$300,000 per year for 3 years and ensure that autistic Tasmanians, their families, and carers have uninterrupted access to vital services, support and resources and a grassroots voice advocating for them.



This is a priority for Tasmania because:

- 1 in 4 Tasmanian families are impacted by autism.
- 1 in 7 Tasmanian are autistic¹.
- Each day the Tasmanian Autism community relies on Autism Tasmania – but National Funding ends 30 June 2024!
- **Autism Tasmania is the State's peak body organisation for autism but doesn't receive ANY funding from the Tasmanian Government unlike other State peak organisations.**
- Autistic people, their families and carers experience unfair social, economic, and emotional burden; and are recognised **as one of the most disadvantaged groups.**
- Today, there are many radical and complex national, state, and local reforms² aiming to fix this disadvantage.
- The **Tasmanian government is responsible** for ensuring these reforms work in our State – and needs the advice from Autism Tasmania to make this happen.
- The National and Tasmanian government **will not move fast enough** to decide how best to fund the support Autism Tasmania provides to the community.
- We must ensure that the **voice of all Autistic Tasmanians**, their families and carers is heard and informs the development of new services and supports in Tasmania.

_____/03/2024_____
NAME DATE SIGNED

¹ Comprehensive prevalence data is yet to exist.

² [NDIS Reforms](#), [National Autism Strategy](#), [Disability Royal Commission](#), [Accessible Island Framework](#)



autism
tasmania

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

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Level 2, 168 Collins St,
Hobart
Mon to Fri: 9am to 3pm

North
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North West
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Tue to Thu: 9am to 3pm





The Current Environment – Autism in Tasmania

1. 38% of all Tasmanians covered by the current NDIS (National Disability Insurance Scheme) are autistic people.
2. The most common disability type covered by the NDIS for 7 to 14 year-old participants is autism (65%).
3. **The national NDIS reforms impact the autistic community more than any other group of people** with plans to shift foundation supports like assessment and early childhood intervention to State delivery.
4. The **National Autism Strategy** will be released this month. It responds to the fact that “Autistic Australians’ experience greater economic, health and participation outcomes than other groups. A **Tasmanian-specific response** to this strategy is critical. National strategies need local tailoring to be effective and efficient.
5. **There is an urgent need for the voice of Autistic Tasmanians, their families, and carers to be heard** and to work with the Tasmanian government to take best advantage of these reforms. We need to use every cent of national funding well in Tasmania and we know that big national programs need locals to know how to build on what we do well here.
6. Every week, 40 Tasmanians contact Autism Tasmania seeking assistance and support to navigate the complex array of services and resources, to take part in vital peer networks and educational courses. Autism Tasmania catches and connects people because it is expert in autism and understands their needs that other services do not.
7. **Autism Tasmania’s Systemic advocacy is not funded** and is done by volunteers and with the support of tiny donations.
8. **The national funding supporting Autism Tasmania’s work ends on 30 June 2024 and will not continue as before.**
9. Did you know that other peak body organisations in the not-for-profit disability sector are already funded by the state government? Autism Tasmania is not. This is out of step with the recognised priority for the autistic community.
10. **The delayed release of the National Autism Strategy means there is a gap in funding coverage putting the delivery of vital services and connection for autistic Tasmanians at risk.**
11. Autism Tasmania has a 31-year history built off the passion and time of countless parents, carers, and autistic people. Autism Tasmania is the peak independent voice for the Tasmanian autism community and the only statewide solely autistic focused not-for-profit organisation in the sector.
12. Autism Tasmania has **self funded the Autism in Tasmania – State of the State Report**³ that provides a systems view of the array of reforms and their impact on the Tasmanian autistic community.

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