

## AFSA AGENDA OF EDUCATION ISSUES 2021-23

*AFSA is the collective voice for autistic people with complex and high support needs and their parents, carers and families. We provide fellowship, peer support and information.*

### **AFSA calls on the Victorian government to facilitate the following...**

- #1...** Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) be given the necessary supports to access the curriculum on the same basis as other students.
- #2...** Students with a language deficit should have a communication assessment by a speech therapist with specific knowledge of ASD and the subsequent development of an individual communication plan.
- #3...** Social skills program offered to all students with ASD.
- #4...** Qualified and skilled staff to work with students with ASD.
- #5...** Removal of all restrictive practices. To be replaced with use of functional behaviour assessments and evidence based positive behaviour management plans, strategies and safeguards.
- #6...** Improvement of transition arrangements within schools, between primary and secondary and between all services at critical age milestones. Documentation including functional behaviour and communication assessments and individual education plans to be provided.
- #7...** Development of a more responsive and accessible complaint system with the establishment of an independent all schools commissioner with enforceable powers.
- #8...** Accountability for and transparency of the expenditure of Program for Students with a Disability (PSD) funding.
- #9...** Removal of the use of suspension, exclusion and part time attendance as a means of responding to behaviour related issues and provision of individualised 'transition back to school' supports.
- #10...** Individual learning plans to be of a satisfactory standard with SMART goals and measurable outcomes.
- #11...** PSD guidelines, including for student support group meetings, to be mandated.
- #12...** Making schools and other educational institutions more inclusive and ASD friendly including proactive policies to prevent bullying and exclusion of ASD students.
- #13...** Accountability for the expenditure of 'in kind' funding supports provided by the NDIA.
- #14...** Support for families who have no alternative but to home school students with ASD due to distance, bullying, school refusal or general failure of locally zoned schools to cater for students with ASD.
- #15...** Clear and consistent policies and approaches that are cognisant of the needs of students with ASD to be applied during health emergencies relating to "stay at home" rules, remote learning and school attendance eligibility.