

AFSA AGENDA OF 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...

- #1...** Improving the quality and skills of all levels of support staff working with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including specialist training.
- #2...** Removal of all restrictive practices and replace with acceptable behaviour management strategies utilising functional behaviour assessments, behaviour support plans and appropriate safeguards.
- #3...** Provision of support for the development and use of functional communication plans utilising effective communication strategies and techniques.
- #4...** Effective consultation and communication by government and services with those with the lived experience - parents, carers, families and people with ASD.
- #5...** Adequate resourcing of advocacy services that are relevant, useful and available to all.
- #6...** Development of more responsive and accessible complaints systems by all levels of government.
- #7...** Provision of direction and oversight by state and Commonwealth authorities to hold service providers to account for continued safe delivery of quality services in all settings.
- #8...** Improvement of transition arrangements between services at critical age milestones.
- #9...** Making community services more ASD friendly especially for those with high support needs.
- #10...** Provision of adequate accommodation/housing and respite options that are safe, fit for purpose, appropriately located and able to meet demand for support in times of personal crisis.
- #11...** Provision of an effective response services and family counselling to support families/carers and people with ASD experiencing personal crises.
- #12...** Responsive and appropriate physical and financial supports being immediately available to families supporting members with ASD during health crises or natural disasters.
- #13...** Centre based day services, accommodation and in-home support services for adults with disabilities being deemed essential services during health emergencies and resourced accordingly.
- #14...** Action on the recommendations made by recent government reports.
- #15...** Preparation of regular report cards on the performance of the NDIA, Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the Victorian Department of Education & Training re ASD services, including regular reviews of and accountability for relevant government expenditure and programs.
- #16...** Improvements to the criminal justice system – training for first responders and other staff and supports for people with ASD and their families who interact with the justice system.
- #17...** The establishment of an ASD Hub to make it easier for families & carers to access a range of services including health and future planning.