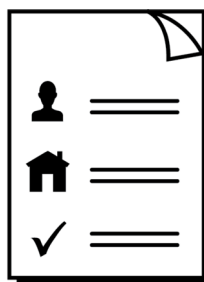


Victorian Autism Plan

Plan update 2023 to 2025



Easy Read

About this booklet



This booklet is from the Victorian State Government's Office for Disability.

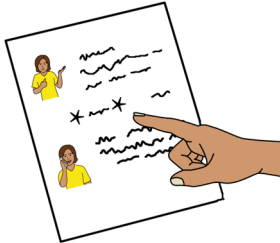


This booklet is written in a way that is easy to understand.



You can read more information about this plan on our website

vic.gov.au/victorian-autism-plan-refresh



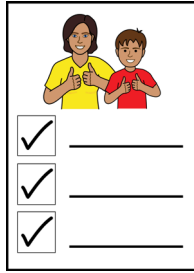
We add a star before and after ***hard words***. Then we explain what the words mean.



You can ask someone to help you read and understand this booklet.



Contact information is at the end of this booklet.



The Victorian Autism Plan

We have made some updates to the
Victorian Autism Plan.

We will call it the plan.



This plan has the best parts of our last autism plan
and some new ideas.



The plan will help make things
fair and ***inclusive*** for autistic people.

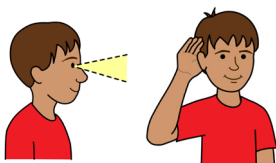


Inclusive means everyone can be part of something.



Autism is a disability that affects how someone

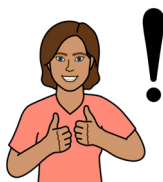
- talks and acts with other people



- experiences the world around them
 - for example, differences in the way autistic people see and hear.



The plan says what we will do to help make Victoria better for autistic people.



We will make sure we are doing the most important things for autistic people.



To help us make the plan we got ideas from

- autistic people



- families



- carers



- autism and disability organisations.

What the plan says

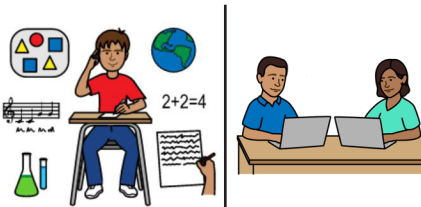


The plan will help autistic people get

- the right supports early



- health and mental health support

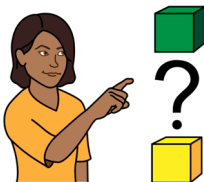


- a good education and jobs.



Our plan will make sure autistic people

- feel part of their community



- have choices



- are treated fairly



- have the help they need to live a good life.



We will help autistic people get together to help each other.



We will listen to what autistic people want before we make decisions that affect them.



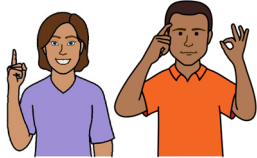
We will get more information about autistic people to help give better services.



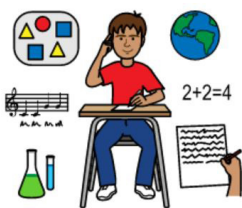
We have already done good things with the plan.

For example, we have

- helped more people understand autism



- helped make education better for autistic people



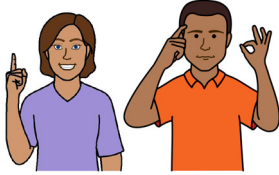
- helped more autistic people get health support.



There are 4 areas of the plan.

The first part of the plan

Inclusive communities

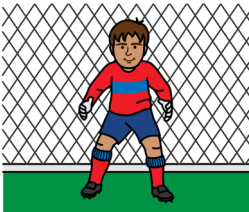


We will

- help more people understand autism



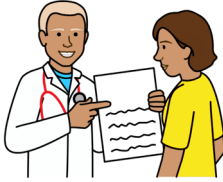
- help autistic people be ***independent***
 - independent means you can do things by yourself, for example, use public transport



- help autistic people be part of their community
 - for example, access to sports and art.

The second part of the plan

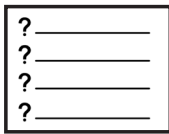
Health, housing and wellbeing



We will help autistic people find and use better health and mental health services.



This includes access to autism ***assessment*** and supports earlier in life.



Assessment means health care workers ask questions to find out if someone is autistic.



We will help autistic people to live in a house that meets their needs.



We will work with the NDIA to make plans that meet the needs of autistic people.



We will help autistic children and their families get the support they need to live better lives.

The third part of the plan

Fairness and safety



We will help everyone have equal rights with good disability ***advocacy***.



Advocacy means someone helps you

- understand information



- say what you want



- make decisions.



We will include autistic people when we plan for ***emergencies***.

Emergencies means something serious or dangerous happens and you need the police, ambulance or fire trucks.



We help autistic people feel safe and included in the ***justice system***.



The justice system means the police, courts and lawyers.



We will help autistic people in the justice system to get good support and services.



We will help police understand autism and how to help autistic people.



We will help autistic people and their families

- get away from family violence



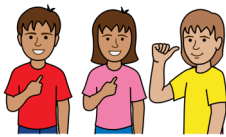
- get the right supports to keep them safe.

The fourth part of the plan

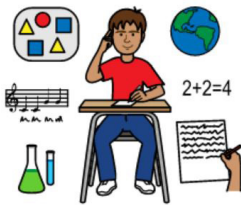
Opportunity* and *pride



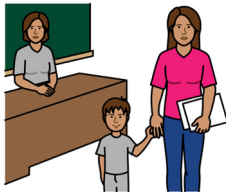
Opportunity means a chance to make something better.



Pride means you respect yourself.



We will help schools to better support and teach autistic students.



We will give more information to autistic students and their families about school and school supports.



We will help to make more job opportunities for autistic people. This includes autistic Aboriginal people.



We will work with governments and the community to help autistic people be leaders.



We will work with autistic people to celebrate what they did well.

How we will make the plan happen

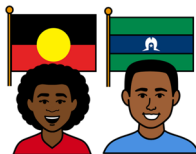


We will work with different groups and organisations to make the plan happen.



For example

- people with disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



We will make our information easy to understand.



We will get more information about autistic people to help give better services.



We will work with groups to make buildings that are good for autistic young people.

For example, sports and community spaces.

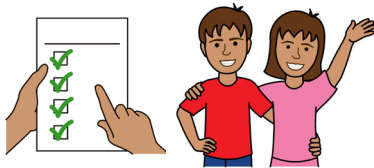


We will support people who work in government to understand autism and give good services to autistic people.

How we know the plan works



We will check how the plan is working and make changes if we need to.



We will know the plan works if we help make the lives of autistic people better.



We will make a report about

- what we did well



- what we can do better.



More information



For more information or to get this information in another format contact the Office for Disability.



Call 1300 880 043



Email ofd@dfh.vic.gov.au



Website dfh.vic.gov.au/office-disability



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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne. In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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