



SCHOOLS RESOURCING AND SUPPORT DIRECTORATE DISABILITY RESOURCING

Eligibility Requirements

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

The Department of Education accepts the term Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - 5th edition (DSM5, American Psychiatric Association, 2014). Autism Spectrum Disorder is characterised by severe and pervasive impairment in several areas of development: reciprocal social interaction skills, communication skills, or the presence of stereotyped behaviour, interests and activities and which limit or impair everyday functioning.

ELIGIBILITY

For eligibility under an autism spectrum disorder, diagnosis must have been made by a Multidisciplinary Team Assessment. For students under the age of 12 the team is comprised of three professionals experienced in the assessment and diagnosis of Autism. Each of the three (a paediatrician, psychologist and a speech pathologist) must have completed an assessment and written a report addressing the criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorders as indicated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the Mental Disorders – 5th Edition (DSM-5).

For students over the age of 12 the diagnosing paediatrician may determine that a speech assessment is not required. Since the onset for a number of mental conditions occurs during adolescence, a psychiatric review may be required as part of the diagnostic procedure for these students. In some instances, a student may be under the care of a paediatrician/psychiatrist as well as a clinical psychologist and the multidisciplinary team may only consist of two specialists depending on the needs of the student.

The Department will adopt DSM-5 as the preferred classification system for eligibility for people with ASD. This will be effective immediately, however either DSM-IV or DSM 5 assessments can be used for eligibility determination for a transition period until 30 April 2014. (This is consistent with Disability Services Commission.)

People with ASD already deemed eligible for Schools Resourcing the under DSM-IV prior to 30 April 2014 will not be excluded. Any assessment commenced prior to April 30 but concluded after 30 April 2014 must adhere to the DSM 5 classification of diagnosis to be eligible for supplementary resourcing.

EVIDENCE

A signed letter of diagnosis and final assessment reports stating;

- the diagnosis;
- current severity Level 1, 2, 3 (as per DSM-5);
- specify if:
 - with or without intellectual disability
 - with or without language accompanying language impairment
 - associated with known medical or genetic condition or environmental factors;
 - associated with another neurodevelopmental, mental, or behavioural disorder; or
 - with catatonia.
- the members of the multidisciplinary team; and
- that the members of the team conferred following the completion of all assessments and that each of them agrees with the diagnosis.

If the confirmation from DSC is submitted for verification of eligibility the full assessment report must accompany the DSC letter to meet eligibility for supplementary resourcing.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Interim ASD Funding

- A letter from a relevant professional indicating that the student is on the wait list for an assessment is required. (Disability Services Commission request for consent or a referral is not considered evidence).
- Once an interim diagnosis is established, a temporary fixed Disability Allocation Level (DAL) allocation may be provided prorata.
- A further period is available on receipt of a letter stating the student is still on a wait list.
- Interim resourcing is available for a maximum of two years only.
- For students who have previously not met diagnostic criteria for ASD, and are re-referred for assessment, interim resourcing is not available.

Students from other Australian states/territories OR from other countries

- Students with interstate or overseas ASD diagnosis may receive interim resourcing, whilst diagnosis is being verified to WA standards as per eligibility criteria - after 30 April 2014 verification must adhere to the DSM 5 classification of diagnosis.
- The DAL will be allocated prorata to enable the documentation to be verified to WA criteria.

Privacy and Confidentiality

The Department of Education is committed to protecting privacy, integrity of information obtained and confidentiality. All personal information must be obtained by lawful and fair means with the knowledge and consent of the person to whom it relates. Persons must be told why personal information is being collated and whether it may be accessible to any third party. This includes parents of students who are under 18 years of age.

The Department of Education respects the right to privacy. All information submitted to Schools Resourcing for an application of resources is confidential, in accordance with all relevant State and Federal legislation. All relevant statutory provisions and common law obligations will be adhered to.

Parents or carers are directed to contact local school staff for further information.