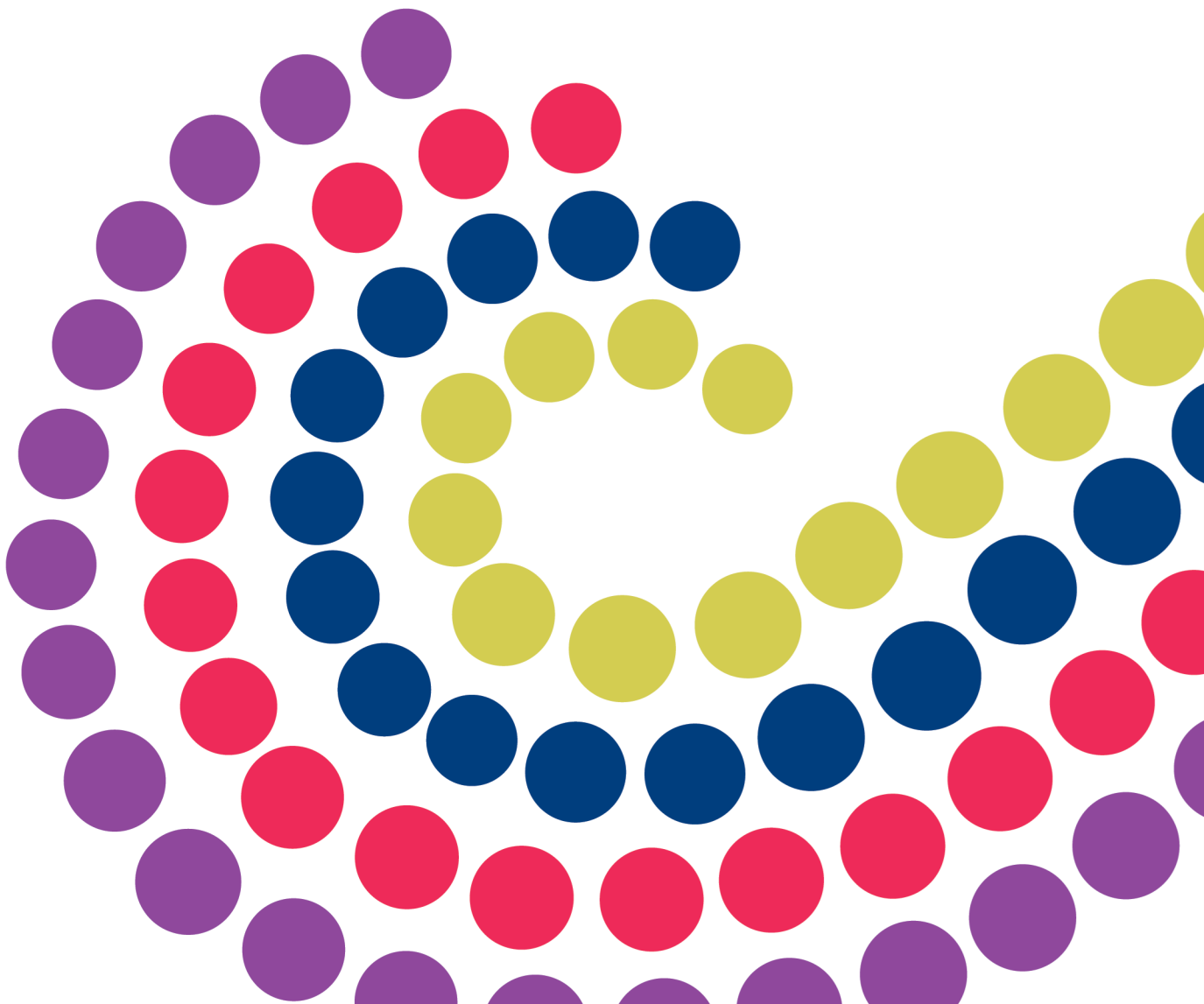


Draft South Australia Autism Strategy

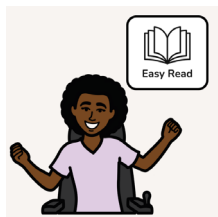
**Women's and Children's Health Network
2026–2030**



Easy Read



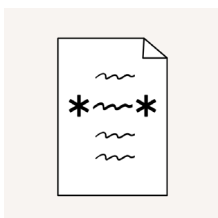
About Easy Read



This is an Easy Read book.



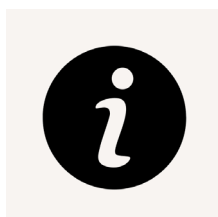
Easy Read uses simple words and pictures to explain ideas.



New words are ***bold with stars***.



We tell you what new words mean.



Easy Read is a summary.

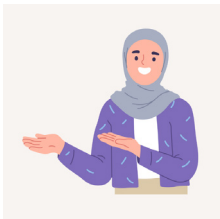


Get more information on our website
www.wchn.sa.gov.au

Who made this book?

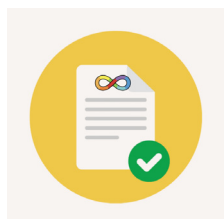


This book is from the
Women's and Children's Health Network.

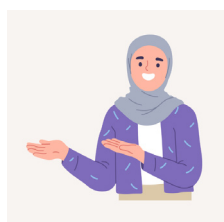


We are called **WCHN** for short.

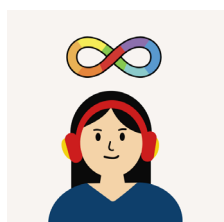
About this book



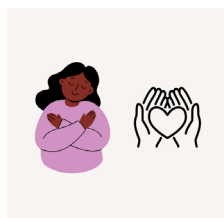
This book explains the ***Autism Strategy*** for South Australia.



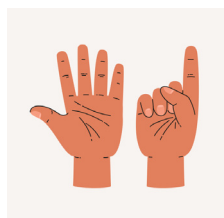
We call it **the strategy** in this book.



The strategy says how South Australia will be more ***inclusive*** of people with autism.



Inclusive means we make people feel safe and welcome.



The strategy has 6 parts.

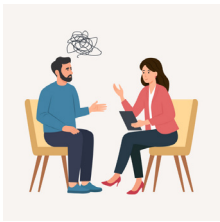


We will tell you what each part is about.

1 Pathways to diagnosis



Part 1 is about making the steps to ***diagnosis*** clear and fair.



Diagnosis means a health professional works with you to decide if you have autism.



We will make and share information about autism diagnosis and where to get help.

3 Thriving in the workplace



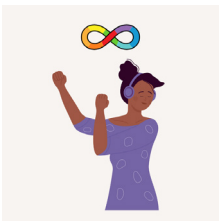
Part 3 is about how we help autistic people in the workplace.



We will give training to people in public and government jobs to understand autism better.



We will explore ways to collect data about autism in our workforce.



We will plan activities for the workplace to promote autism.



We will work with autistic workers to plan inclusion activities.



For example, to plan how we celebrate important disability dates.



We will update ***policies*** for how we give jobs to people so they are inclusive of autistic people.



Policies are the rules all workers must follow.



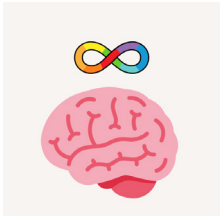
We will look at the steps we follow to make ***reasonable adjustments*** for workers.



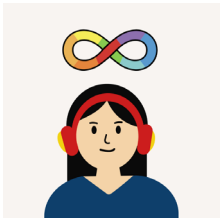
Reasonable adjustments are changes we make to help Autistic workers do their job.



We will update forms to be more inclusive of people who are ***neurodivergent***.



Neurodivergent means your disability changes how your brain and body takes in the world.



Examples of neurodivergent disabilities are

- autism



- ADHD



- dyslexia.



We will find new ways to help autistic workers tell us about their disability if they choose.



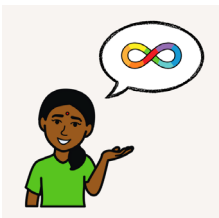
Our ***EAP*** services will be inclusive and culturally appropriate.



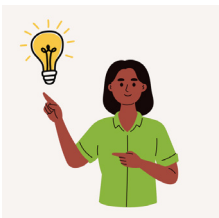
EAP stands for **Worker Assistance Program**.



EAP includes counseling and support for workers that is paid for by the workplace.



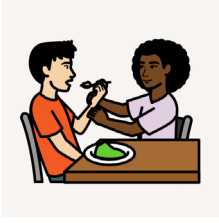
We will do programs to help autistic people get work experience.



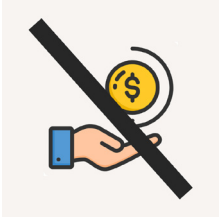
We will come up with more ways to help autistic people start new jobs in the public sector.



We will look at our trainings and see how we can make them better for autistic workers in the workplace.



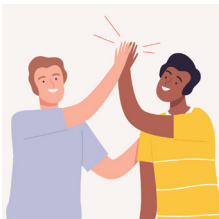
We will find more ***volunteering*** opportunities for autistic people across all state government agencies.



Volunteering means you get to help in a job to get experience but you are not paid.



We will check for ways we can make our ***peer support programs*** more inclusive.



Peer support programs help people to build their skills at work with help from another worker.

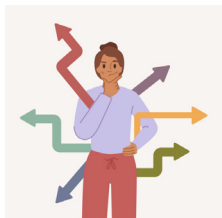


We will look at our ***graduate programs*** to see if we can make them better for autistic people.



Graduate programs help people who have just finished study to join the workforce.

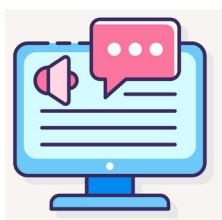
4 Access to supports and services



Part 4 is about making it easier for autistic people and families to find services they need.



We will find more ways to share information with autistic people in ***accessible*** formats.



Accessible means you can find and use it easily.

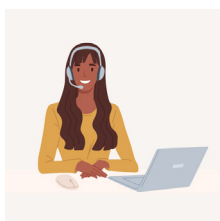


We will work with autism organisations when we work on our

- policies



- supports



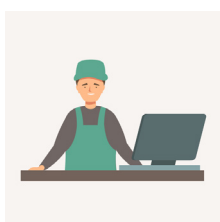
- services.



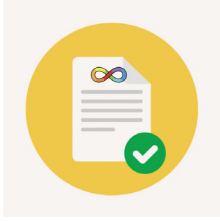
We will ask for help from ***reference groups*** on autism topics to improve access to services.



Reference groups include a group of people with lived experience who give advice.



We will update customer service areas to make sure autistic people get the service they need.



When we plan new strategies and activities, we will link the work to this Autism Strategy.

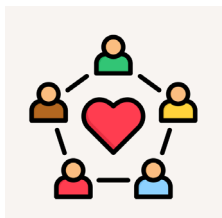


We will ask people if they are autistic when they help us on projects.



We will ask people if they are autistic so that we know what is important to autistic people.

5 Participation in the community



Part 5 is about autistic people truly taking part in our community.

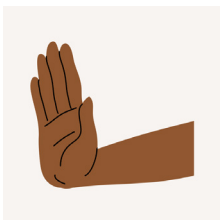


We will consult with the autism community to plan inclusive events.

6 Access to health and mental health services



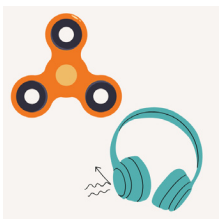
Part 6 is about fixing ***barriers*** to getting healthcare and mental health services.



Barriers are things that stop autistic people and their families from finding or using services.



We will do autism awareness training to healthcare workers.



We will offer sensory toolboxes for volunteers to offer to patients in hospitals.



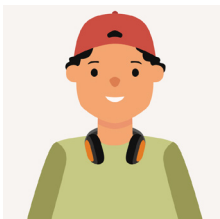
We will check if we can make our
early intervention processes better.



Early intervention means we help people
before a health problem gets worse.



We will look for more ways to help people
in emergency with sensory needs.



We will find ways to help young
people move into adult services.



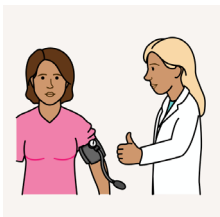
We will share resources and supports
with family members of autistic people.



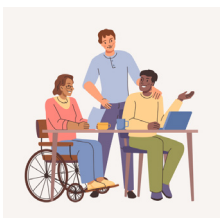
We will use information from the Hidden Disability Sunflower program to make surgery and care more inclusive.



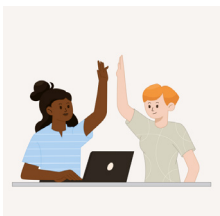
We will learn from autistic people as ***consumers*** to make our services inclusive.



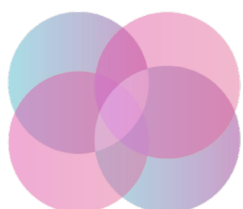
Consumers are people who use our services. For example, patients and their family members.



We will use ***co-design*** to make signs better for people to find their way.



Co-design means we work with people with disability to plan and run programs or services.



Embrace **Access**

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