



AutismCRC

Guiding Principles

National Guideline for the assessment and diagnosis of autism in Australia

APRIL 2023

DRAFT UPDATED GUIDELINE FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Easy Read

This document is about **Guiding Principles.**



This tells us what is important to think about when assessing and diagnosing autism in Australia.

There are 11 things to think about.



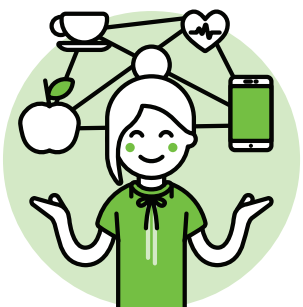
Client and family-centred

Each client and their family should be valued as individuals and their reasons for getting assessed respected.



Strengths focused

Assessment should look at what individuals are good at, what they care about, and what they are interested in.



Holistic

Assessment should look at how all the parts of a person's life fit together, what they want and need now, and what they may want and need in the future.



Helpful

Assessment should answer the questions people have and help them get support if they need it.



Evidence-based

What happens in an assessment should be based on what we know works from research and practice, as well as what people want and find helpful.



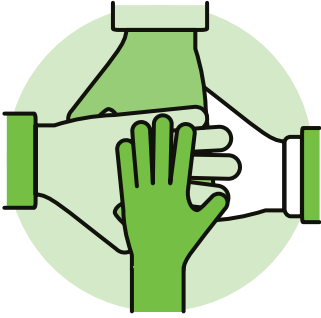
Culturally sensitive

Each person's culture should be respected, and affect how the assessment is done and how the findings are shared.



Respect First Nations Peoples

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first peoples of Australia, and have lived in Australia for tens of thousands of years.



Assessments should be safe, respectful, and helpful to First Nations Peoples.

For this to happen, we need to understand the bad things that people have done to First Nations Peoples.

We must show respect to First Nations culture, language, and ways of doing things like:

- Connection to Country
- How families work together
- Important stories and special places
- Sorting out problems
- Ceremony – a way of making something important more special.



Neurodiversity-affirming

Neurodiversity is the idea that brains work differently, and this is okay.

Professionals should:

- Respect neurodiversity
- Respect that each person is unique
- Not talk about trying to 'cure' autism.



Competent

Professionals should have up to date knowledge and skills to help them assess and diagnose autism.



Equity

Everyone should be able to get an assessment, regardless of who they are, where they live, or how much money they have.



Coordinated

Everyone should work together to make the assessment as easy, helpful, and affordable as possible for each client and their family.