



Australian Autism Research Council

What it is

The Australian Autism Research Council ('AARC') is a group that wants to help people who do or pay for research about autism. The AARC helps them to know what is important to the autism and autistic communities in Australia.

The 'autism community' means different kinds of people who care about or work with autistic people. Some of the kinds of people who belong to the autism community are autistic people, families, the Government, researchers and people who help autistic people to have a say or have a good life.

Autistic people are an important part of the autism community. They belong to their own community called the 'autistic community'.

The autism community includes lots of people who care about and work with autistic people.



The autistic community is just autistic people, and it is part of the autism community.

What the AARC does

The AARC wants to make sure that researchers understand what things the autism community want to be researched to help autistic people and their families.

The AARC has meetings to talk about what is important for research. The people who go to AARC meetings are called AARC members. The AARC has rules to make sure that important groups in the autism community are included as members. The AARC has a rule that at least three (3) members have to be autistic. One of the leaders of the AARC has to be autistic too. The AARC leaders are called co-chairs.

People on the AARC

Lots of AARC members are part of more than one important group in the autism community. Wenn is the current co-chair of the AARC. He is autistic. He is also a researcher and a parent.



Wenn Lawson, co-chair of the AARC.



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Finding out what the community needs

In 2020, the AARC asked a company called “ORIMA Research” to help work out which questions the autism community think are most important for researchers to answer. People in the autism community were asked to be part of groups to talk about what questions were important to them.

There were five groups. Each group talked about a different area. The five areas were:



Communication,



Education



Employment



Health and Wellbeing



Justice.

There were autistic people and family members in all of the groups. There were also professionals who knew lots about the area the group was talking about. There were different types of professionals like teachers, nurses and police.

People shared important questions and talked about them. Everyone who was part of the groups had their say to help put the questions in order so we knew which ones were the most important.

The most important questions were put into a report called **Research report on focus groups to identify research questions for community informed priority areas**.

There are **50 questions** in the report. There are **10 questions** for each of the five areas.

The AARC is sharing the report to help researchers know what questions are important to the autism community. People in the community can also read the report if they want to.

Where to find more information

You can find out more about AARC and download the report at autismcrc.com.au/aarc.

The AARC operates under the auspices of Autism CRC.



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