

RESEARCH PRIORITIES SURVEY

AIM



The aims of the study were to identify a) what autism research will improve the lives of people on the autism spectrum, and b) what age group/s autism research should focus on, according to:

- people on the autism spectrum;
- people living with autism, being family members and carers of people on the spectrum; and
- professionals including autism researchers and practitioners.

WHO DID IT?



Autism CRC and Research Academy Alumni

- Dr Olivia Gatfield
- Ms Cheryl Mangan
- Ms Tori Haar
- Ms Abbie Kinniburgh
- Prof Sylvia Rodger AM

WHO WAS INVOLVED?



50 adults
on the autism spectrum



88 people
living with autism



20 professionals



Majority were female
(n=142, 90%) most common age group - 35-49 years (n= 81, 51%)

SURVEY



1. Demographic information
2. Three most important areas for autism research; and
3. age group autism research should focus on (prior to school, school years and/ or adult years) and qualitative rationale.

FINDINGS

Priorities for autism research across all groups

	Priority/ topic	No. of responses (total=323)
Priority 1	Therapies, issues and management	94
Topic 1	Anxiety and 'coping'	23
Topic 2	Development and behaviour	21
Priority 2	Understanding autism	52
Topic 1	Causes	11
Topic 2	Diagnosis	9
Priority 3	Educating	44
Topic 1	Children on the spectrum	31
Topic 2	Teachers and schools	7

For those on the spectrum understanding autism from the perspective of the lived experience, females on the spectrum, community attitudes and acceptance, were research topics of importance that were not raised by other groups.

AGE GROUPS FOR AUTISM RESEARCH



118 responses
adults 17+ years of age

The most frequently identified age group that autism research should focus on was adult years, being 17+ years of age.

The results should be interpreted with caution due to the relatively small sample size. Further, these data may not include the opinions of those who are on the spectrum and have an intellectual disability. This study provides a first step towards establishing broad Australian research priorities.

FIND OUT MORE

You can get the full report of this study at autismcrc.com.au/reports

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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