

# Removing educational barriers in Australian schools for autistic students:

Current trends, gaps, and recommendations for educational research, inclusive policy, and educational practice

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## Supplementary Material

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## Autism CRC

Autism CRC is the independent national source of evidence for best practice in relation to autism across the lifespan and the spectrum.

We provide the national capacity to develop and deliver evidence-based outcomes through our unique collaboration with autistic people, families, professionals, services providers, researchers, and government. Together, we are addressing agreed needs and co-producing outputs with these stakeholders for the benefit of the community.

Autism CRC was established in 2013 as the world's first national, cooperative research effort focused on autism under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program. We receive funding from a number of sources, including the Australian Government. Autism CRC is no longer part of, or associated with, the CRC Program.

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## A note on terminology

We recognise that when referring to individuals on the autism spectrum, there is no one term that suits all people. In our published material and other work, we use the terms 'autistic person', 'person on the autism spectrum' or 'person on the spectrum'. The term 'autistic person' uses identity first language, which reflects the belief that being autistic is a core part of a person's identity.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is diagnostic terminology used by the healthcare sector and is used in the context of a person being 'diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder'.

Where we are citing others, we have amended their terminology where possible, but had to keep to the original terminology when citing policy title or publication titles.

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# 1. Scoping review search details and method

## 1.1 Inclusion criteria

The inclusion criteria for the scoping reviews were:

**Publication types:** Peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, theses, books, and book sections – ensuring a broad representation of research publications.

**Research methodologies:** Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods- ensuring a broad representation of research publications.

**Publication year** 2012-2022 (inclusive) - to capture research published over the last 10 years since the original Autism CRC Educational Needs Analysis was conducted.

**Language:** English.

**Education setting:** Mainstream, regular, inclusive, specialised (where relevant) to ensure broadest representation of educational research across a wide range of contexts.

**School level:** Early years (preschool, early childhood), elementary (primary), secondary, middle school, high school - ensuring inclusion of a wide range of educational year levels that may influence enablers and barriers for different aged learners.

Furthermore, the scoping reviews focused on both national and international research to help ensure a broad representation of geographical contexts both nationally and internationally.

Due to the focus on education four key databases were searched:

- EBSCOHost
- PsychInfo
- ERIC
- Academic Search

In addition, where applicable hand and ancestry searches were completed.

Initial search terms were advised by members of the team including autism community partners and autistic consultants. However, the search string/s and parameters for each theme were developed iteratively to ensure they were reflective of the focus of the theme and to ensure the team could identify a broad range of primary research linked to the theme. As part of this process, two autistic research assistants on the research team were consulted as searches progressed to help ensure a broad range of research could be captured from an autistic perspective.

Each member of the scoping review research team led several different searches related to the different themes that had been identified. Research questions relevant to the individual themes were identified and exclusion and inclusion criteria were established. An initial search involved examining the titles and abstracts of research papers to be examined and exclusions were made based on the individual criteria for each scoping review. To further assess eligibility, a further full text review of each document was conducted across the findings, discussion, and conclusion to ensure eligibility.

## 1.2 Data extraction and synthesis

To map the data across each theme, relevant information from each publication was extracted into a spreadsheet for further analysis, checking and independent review. Publication information that was extracted included:

- author/s
- year of publication
- title
- country/context
- relevant areas, key words
- method/research design
- participants
- research aims and questions
- research methodology
- key findings (qualitative or quantitative or both)
- recommendations
- limitations/weaknesses
- links to other scoping review themes.

At least one other member of the team independently reviewed and checked the records for duplicates. While some articles could cover topics linked to more than one theme a decision was made by the team which theme was the focus of the article and the article was recorded in that theme. Links to other topics were identified when the article was recorded in the spreadsheets.

Once each scoping review was completed and the data set was cleaned, a summary table of key information for each theme/sub theme was produced. Using descriptive coding and thematic analysis (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005, Peters et al., 2020), this summary document included key themes identified across the theme or subthemes in relation to:

- the research findings
- conceptual/methodological limitations
- gaps
- future research priorities.

In addition, summary documents included a final list of references used for the scoping review theme/subthemes.



### 1.3 Information in the literature review tables

Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in the following sections. The tables report the number of empirical research studies and reviews identified, along with their location and research approach (i.e., qualitative research, quantitative research, or mixed methods). It is important to note there were articles that had relevance and overlap to more than one theme in the scoping reviews. In this situation the theme that was considered the best fit for the article and the focus of the research was selected and the article was only counted once with links to other themes noted as part of the mapping process. When reviewing the literature, articles that were identified as providing insight into other themes within this report were identified in the column titled "linked themes".

More detail of what is summarised in the table include the:

- topics covered
- number of articles reviewed
- country where the empirical research took place (i.e., those in which data was collected from participants or relevant stakeholders)
- number of articles that were reviews of other research
- country where authors of reviews were located
- methods used to conduct the research are also reported. Studies used a variety of methods, including those which focusing on gaining numerical data and analysing this statistically (i.e., quantitative methods), those that encourage verbal or written responses to questions and/or surveys (e.g., qualitative methods), and those that used a mixture of both.

## 2. Theme 1: Academic and learning considerations

### 2.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Theme 1 searches incorporated the perspectives of different stakeholder groups, including educators, allied health professionals, parents, and autistic students. Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction to ("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") for different searches. Details are provided in Table S1.

**Table S1: Academic and Learning Search Terms**

Theme 1 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") AND
(view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception)
"academic skill*" OR "academic performance" OR "academic ability" OR "learn*" OR "math*" OR "science" OR "reading" OR "writing" OR "literacy" OR "numeracy") NOT college or university or higher education.
(teachers OR educators OR "school professionals" OR "education professionals") AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts)
(parents OR carers OR families OR caregivers OR mothers OR fathers) AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts)
(enable* OR facilitat* OR support OR accommodat* OR promote)
(barrier OR exclu* OR block OR obstacle OR limit* OR obstruct* OR prevent)
(embodied learning or embodied education or embodied pedagogy or embodied cognition or embodied) AND (schoolteacher or teacher or educator or instructor or parent) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)
twice exceptional NOT (college or university or higher education)
(Gifted or giftedness or talent or talented) NOT (college or university or higher education)
strengths
interests
(technology in education or technology in classroom) AND (schoolteacher or teacher or educator or instructor) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)
(school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND transitions NOT (university or college or higher education)

**In total 132 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in Table S2.

**Table S2: Mapping Summary of Academic Related Literature**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Literacy Total k = 55</b>								
<b>Reading focus (k = 42)</b>	k = 37	k = 5	Empirical articles USA k = 27 UK k = 3 Canada k = 2 Singapore k = 1  Reviews USA k = 2 Ireland k = 1	Australia articles k = 4  Reviews k = 2	k = 20	k = 10	k = 7	Identity
<b>Writing focus (k = 13)</b>	k = 11	k = 2	Empirical articles USA k = 8 Canada k = 1 Greece k = 1  Reviews USA k = 2	Australia articles k = 1	k = 9	k = 2	k = 0	Identity Technology
<b>STEM Total k = 26</b>								
<b>STEM focus</b>	k = 1	k = 0	USA k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 1	k = 0	No records
<b>Science focus (k = 6)</b>	k = 5	k = 1	USA k = 4 UK k = 1  Reviews USA k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 1	k = 4	Complex needs Literacy Technology
<b>Maths focus (k = 19)</b>	k = 14	k = 5	USA k = 11 UK k = 1 Indonesia k = 1  Reviews USA k = 3 Malaysia k = 2	Australia k = 1	k = 8	k = 4	k = 2	Inclusive policy Academic needs Complex needs Self-concept Technology Thriving None
<b>Other academic related literature Total k = 51</b>								
<b>Languages</b>	k = 1	k = 0	Poland k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 1	k = 0	No records
<b>Music</b>	k = 1	k = 0	USA k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 1	k = 0	No records
<b>General academic needs (k = 20)</b>	k = 18	k = 2	USA k = 10 India k = 1 UK k = 3  Reviews USA k = 2	Australia k = 4	k = 2	k = 11	k = 5	Bullying Communication Complex needs General Academic needs Geographical influences Social communication Social skills Technology Transitions Wellbeing

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Giftedness/ Twice exceptional (k = 7)</b>	k = 6	k = 1	USA k = 4 UK k = 1  <b>Review</b> USA k = 1	USA & Australia k = 1	k = 0	k = 4	k = 2	Inclusive policy Academic needs Agency Quality of life Student voice Wellbeing
<b>Transitions</b>	k = 8	k = 1	USA k = 1 Ireland k = 2 England k = 1 France k = 1	Australia k = 3	k = 0	k = 4	k = 4	Inclusive policy, Academic needs Complex needs. Family context Identity Quality of life Self-determination Students' voice Wellbeing
<b>Technology (k = 13)</b>	k = 10	k = 3	USA k = 5 Netherlands k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 2 USA, UK k = 1	Australia k = 4	k = 1	k = 7	k = 2	Inclusive Policy Academic Needs Complex/Co-existing Needs Environment Family Context Wellbeing

## 2.2 Scoping review literature

### 2.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 2.1.2.1 Literacy

##### 2.2.1.1.1 Literacy – reading focus

Accardo, A. L., & Finnegan, E. G. (2019). Teaching reading comprehension to learners with autism spectrum disorder: Discrepancies between teacher and research-recommended practices. *Autism: The International Journal of Research and Practice*, 23(1), 236-246.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1362361317730744>

Arciuli, J., Stevens, K., Trembath, D., & Simpson, I. C. (2013). The relationship between parent report of adaptive behavior and direct assessment of reading ability in children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 56(6), 1837-1844.

[https://doi.org/10.1044/1092-4388\(2013/12-0034\)](https://doi.org/10.1044/1092-4388(2013/12-0034))

Arnold, S., & Reed, P. (2016). Reading assessments for students with ASD: A survey of summative reading assessments used in special educational schools in the UK. *British Journal of Special Education*, 43(2), 122-141. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/1467-8578.12127>

Bean, A. F., Perez, B. I., Dynia, J. M., Kaderavek, J. N., & Justice, L. M. (2020). Book-reading engagement in children with autism and language impairment: Associations with emergent-literacy skills. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 50, 1018-1030.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04306-4>

Bishop, K., & Isbester, K. (2016). Teaching reading: Junior secondary ASD students and the Australian curriculum: English. *Literacy Learning: The Middle Years*, 24(3), 53-62.

<https://doi.org/10.3316/informit.360416007272959>

Braun, G., Austin, C., & Ledbetter-Cho, K. (2017). Intensive intervention practice guide: Explicit instruction in reading comprehension for students with autism spectrum disorder. *Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education*. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED578103.pdf>

Breit-Smith, A., Busch, J. D., Dinnesen, M. S., & Guo, Y. (2017). Interactive book reading with expository science texts in preschool special education classrooms. *TEACHING Exceptional Children*, 49(3), 185-193. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0040059916685056>

Burke, L., Hsieh, W.-Y., Lopez-Reyna, N., & Servilio, K. (2016). Teaching reading comprehension to students with autism spectrum disorders in social studies classrooms: Middle school teacher perceptions. *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals*, 60-78.

<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1129751.pdf>

Carnahan, C. R., & Williamson, P. S. (2013). Does compare-contrast text structure help students with autism spectrum disorder comprehend science text? *Exceptional Children*, 79(3), 347-363.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/001440291307900302>

Chang, Y. C., Menzies, H. M., & Osipova, A. (2020). Reading comprehension instruction for students with autism spectrum disorder. *The Reading Teacher*, 74(3), 255-264.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/trtr.1929>

- Chatenoud, C., Turcotte, C., & Aldama, R. (2020). Effects of three combined reading instruction devices on the reading achievement of adolescents with mild intellectual disability. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 55(4), 409-423. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/27077933>
- Crvalho, D. A., Jimenez, Z., Shhub, A., & Solis, M. (2020). How grades 4 to 8 teachers can deliver intensive vocabulary and reading comprehension interventions to students with high-functioning autism spectrum disorder. *Beyond Behavior*, 29(1), 31-41. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1074295620907110>
- El Zein, F., Solis, M., Lang, R., & Kim, M. K. (2016). Embedding perseverative interest of a child with autism in text may result in improved reading comprehension: A pilot study. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation*, 19(3), 141-145. <https://doi.org/10.3109/17518423.2014.915893>
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- Fleury, V. P., Whalon, K., Gilmore, C., Wang, X., & Marks, R. (2021). Building comprehension skills of young children with autism one storybook at a time. *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*, 52(1), 153-164. [https://doi.org/doi:10.1044/2020\\_LSHSS-20-00026](https://doi.org/doi:10.1044/2020_LSHSS-20-00026)
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## 2.2.2 Reviews

### 2.2.2.1 Literacy

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Siregar, N. C., Rosli, R., Maat, S. M., Alias, A., Toran, H., Mottan, K., & Nor, S. M. (2020). The impacts of mathematics instructional strategy on students with autism: A systematic literature review. *European Journal of Educational Research*, 9(2), 729-741. <https://doi.org/10.12973/eu-jer.9.2.729>

Zhang, J., Rispoli, M., Xin, Y. P., & Sulu, M. D. (2022). *Mathematics interventions for secondary students with autism spectrum disorder: A review of research quality*. Indiana STEM Education Conference, Indiana, USA. <https://doi.org/10.5703/1288284317462>

### **2.2.2.3 General academic needs**

Fleury, V. P., Hedges, S., Hume, K., Browder, D. M., Thompson, J. L., Fallin, K., El Zein, F., Reutebuch, C. K., & Vaughn, S. (2014). Addressing the academic needs of adolescents with autism spectrum disorder in secondary education. *Remedial and Special Education*, 35(2), 68-79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0741932513518823>

Spencer, V. G., Evmenova, A. S., Boon, R. T., & Hayes-Harris, L. (2014). Review of research-based interventions for students with autism spectrum disorders in content area instruction: Implications and considerations for classroom practice. *Education and Training in Autism and Developmental Disabilities*, 331-353. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23881252>

### **2.2.2.4 Giftedness/twice exceptional**

Gelbar, N. W., Cascio, A. A., Madaus, J. W., & Reis, S. M. (2022). A systematic review of the research on gifted individuals with autism spectrum disorder. *Gifted Child Quarterly*, 66(4), 266-276. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00169862211061876>

### **2.2.2.5 Transitions**

Nuske, H. J., McGhee Hassrick, E., Bronstein, B., Hauptman, L., Aponte, C., Levato, L., Stahmer, A., Mandell, D. S., Mundy, P., Kasari, C., & Smith, T. (2019). Broken bridges—new school transitions for students with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review on difficulties and strategies for success. *Autism*, 23(2), 306-325. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361318754529>

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Aspiranti, K. B., Larwin, K. H., & Schade, B. P. (2020). iPads/tablets and students with autism: A meta-analysis of academic effects. *Assistive Technology*, 32(1), 23-30. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10400435.2018.1463575>

Glaser, N. J., & Schmidt, M. (2020). Usage considerations of 3D collaborative virtual learning environments to promote development and transfer of knowledge and skills for individuals with autism. *Technology, Knowledge and Learning*, 25(2), 315-322. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10758-018-9369-9>

Kim, S. Y., Rispoli, M., Mason, R. A., Lory, C., Gregori, E., Roberts, C. A., Whitford, D., & David, M. (2022). A systematic quality review of technology-aided reading interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder. *Remedial and Special Education*, 43(6), 404-420. <https://doi.org/10.1177/07419325211063612>



### 3. Theme 2: Built environment and learning space design considerations

#### 3.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction to ("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") for different searches. Details are provided in Table S3.

**Table S3: Built Environment and Learning Space Design Search Terms**

Theme 2 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") AND
(learning space design or classroom) AND (student or pupil or child or adolescent or teen) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)
(built environment or physical environment or building) AND (student or pupil or child or adolescent or teen) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)
(learning space design or classroom) AND (schoolteacher or teacher or educator or instructor or parent) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)
(built environment or physical environment or building) AND (schoolteacher or teacher or educator or instructor or parent) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school)

**In total 65 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in Table S4.

**Table S4: Mapping Summary of Built Environment and Learning Space Design and Refurbishment Literature**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
	<b>Total k = 65</b>							
<b>Built environment</b>	k = 41	See below	USA k = 8 Egypt k = 4 UK k = 8 N Ireland k = 1 Iran, UK k = 1 New Zealand k = 2 Sweden k = 2 Belgium k = 1 Canada k = 1 Malaysia k = 1 Norway k = 1 Poland k = 1	Australia k = 9 USA, Aust k = 1	k = 3	k = 32	k = 6	Inclusive Policy Academic Needs Complex/ Co-existing Needs Environment Family Context Identity Intersectionality Wellbeing
<b>Learning space design</b>	k = 10	See below	USA k = 5 UK k = 1 Ireland k = 1 Scotland k = 1	Australia k = 2	k = 0	k = 9	k = 1	Inclusive Policy Academic Needs Complex/Co-existing Needs Wellbeing
<b>Built environment and learning space design</b>	k = 9		USA k = 4 UK k = 1 India, USA k = 1	Australia k = 3	k = 0	k = 8	k = 1	Inclusive Policy Academic Needs Complex/ Co-existing Needs Environment Family Context Identity Intersectionality Wellbeing
<b>Reviews – both topics (incl. 2 scoping reviews)</b>		<b>Reviews</b> k = 5	<b>Reviews</b> New Zealand k = 1 USA, UK, Italy, Egypt k = 1 Netherlands, Belgium k = 1	<b>Reviews</b> k = 2 • Australia & Sweden • USA, UK, Australia, Egypt, Ireland, Sweden				Inclusive Policy Academic Needs Complex/ Co-existing Needs Environment Family Context Identity Intersectionality Wellbeing

## 3.2 Scoping review literature

### 3.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 3.1.2.1 Built environment

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Cassidy, M. K. (2018). *Neurodiversity in the workplace: Architecture for autism* [Master's thesis, University of Cincinnati]. OhioLink Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center. [https://etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws\\_etd/send\\_file/send?accession=ucin1525170488990925&disposition=inline](https://etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws_etd/send_file/send?accession=ucin1525170488990925&disposition=inline)

Clouse, J. R., Wood-Nartker, J., & Rice, F. A. (2020). Designing beyond the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA): Creating an autism-friendly vocational center. *HERD: Health Environments Research & Design Journal*, 13(3), 215-229. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1937586719888502>

Cunningham, M. (2022). 'This school is 100% not autistic friendly!' listening to the voices of primary-aged autistic children to understand what an autistic friendly primary school should be like. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 26(12), 1211-1225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2020.1789767>

Department for Education and Child Development (DECD). (2016, August). *Effective building practices for children and students with disability project report: A report to the South Australian Minister for Education and Child Development from the Ministerial Advisory Committee: Children and students with disability*. Government of South Australia. [https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/effective-building-practices-for-children-and-students-with-disability-august-2016.pdf?acsf\\_files\\_redirect](https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/effective-building-practices-for-children-and-students-with-disability-august-2016.pdf?acsf_files_redirect)

Department of Industry, Science, and Resources. (2021, September). *Premises Standards Review 2021: A review of the Disability (Access to Premises - Building) Standards 2010*. Australian Government. <https://www.industry.gov.au/publications/premises-standards-review-2021>

Dovey, K., & Fisher, K. (2014). Designing for adaptation: The school as socio-spatial assemblage. *The Journal of Architecture*, 19(1), 43-63. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2014.882376>

Frelin, A., & Grannäs, J. (2021). Designing and building robust innovative learning environments. *Buildings*, 11(8), 345. <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings11080345>

Frelin, A., & Grannäs, J. (2022). Teachers' pre-occupancy evaluation of affordances in a multi-zone flexible learning environment – introducing an analytical model. *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, 30(2), 243-259. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14681366.2020.1797859>

Ghazali, R., Md. Sakip, S. R., & Samsuddin, I. (2019). Sensory design of learning environment for autism: Architects awareness? *Journal of ASIAN Behavioural Studies*, 4(14), 53-62. <https://doi.org/10.21834/jabs.v4i14.338>

Grannäs, J., & Stavem, S. M. (2021). Transitions through remodelling teaching and learning environments. *Education Inquiry*, 12(3), 266-281. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20004508.2020.1856564>

Kanakri, S. M., Shepley, M., Tassinary, L. G., Varni, J. W., & Fawaz, H. M. (2017). An observational study of classroom acoustical design and repetitive behaviors in children with autism. *Environment and Behavior*, 49(8), 847-873. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0013916516669389>

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- Kinnaer, M., Baumers, S., & Heylighen, A. (2016). Autism-friendly architecture from the outside in and the inside out: An explorative study based on autobiographies of autistic people. *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment*, 31(2), 179-195. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10901-015-9451-8>
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- McAllister, K., McBeth, A., & Galway, N. (2022). Autism spectrum condition and the built environment. *Cities & Health*, 6(6), 1164-1178. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23748834.2022.2139210>
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Wilson, W. J., Downing, C., Perrykkad, K., Armstrong, R., Arnott, W. L., Ashburner, J., & Harper-Hill, K. (2020). The 'acoustic health' of primary school classrooms in Brisbane, Australia. *Speech, Language and Hearing, 23*(3), 189-196. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2050571X.2019.1637042>

### 3.1.2.2 Learning space design

Gaines, K. S., Bergen, L., Curry, Z. D., & Shin, S.-J. H. (2014). Full spectrum classroom design: Inclusive environments for students with autism. *International Journal of Learner Diversity and Identities, 20*(4), 16-28. <https://doi.org/10.18848/2327-0128/CGP/v20i04/48583>

Hanley, M., Khairat, M., Taylor, K., Wilson, R., Cole-Fletcher, R., & Riby, D. M. (2017). Classroom displays—attraction or distraction? Evidence of impact on attention and learning from children with and without autism. *Developmental Psychology, 53*(7), 1265-1275. <https://doi.org/10.1037/dev0000271>

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### 3.1.2.3 Built environment and learning space design

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### 3.2.2 Reviews

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## 4. Theme 3: Wellbeing considerations

### 4.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction to ("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum"). Details are provided in Table S5.

**Table S5: Wellbeing Search Terms**

Theme 3 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") not college or university or higher education or postsecondary education or undergraduate AND
mental health or wellbeing or depression or anxiety
belonging or connectedness
Interoception
metacognition
self-regulation
bullying
(social-emotional or social emotional or socioemotional) AND competenc*
(social-emotional or social emotional or socioemotional) AND needs
(social-emotional or social emotional or socioemotional) AND need*
(social-emotional OR social emotional OR socioemotional) AND competence
(social-emotional OR social emotional OR socioemotional ) AND need
emotional self-regulation
("emotional self-regulation" OR "emotional self regulation")
trauma or traumatic
teacher burnout OR educator burnout or Special education burnout
parent burnout OR father burnout or mother burnout or carer burnout

**In total 212 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in Table S6.



**Table S6: Mapping Summary of Wellbeing Literature**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Wellbeing and general wellbeing</b> (k = 48)	k = 33	k = 15	Empirical studies USA k = 17 UK k = 5 France, Canada k = 1 Canada k = 1 China k = 1 Taiwan k = 1 Not avail k = 1  Reviews USA k = 5 UK k = 4 Ireland k = 1 Japan k = 1 Switzerland k = 1 Canada, USA, & Germany k = 1	Australia k = 6        Reviews Australia k = 2	k = 11	k = 20	k = 2	Inclusive policy & practice Academic needs Complex needs Co-occurring considerations Family considerations Gender/sexual identity Identity Self-injurious behaviour Transition
<b>Mental health</b> (k = 20)  e.g., anxiety depression psychiatric conditions	k = 20	k = 0	USA k = 6 UK k = 4 Canada k = 1 Singapore k = 1 Greece k = 1	Australia k = 7	k = 10	k = 7	k = 3	Inclusive policy Complex needs Co-occurring considerations (behavioural) Social relationships
<b>Social relationships/ social emotional competence</b> (k = 28)	k = 27	k = 1	USA k = 20 Greece k = 1 Ireland k = 1 Norway k = 1 Spain k = 1 UK k = 1  Review USA k = 1	Australia k = 2	k = 4	k = 19	k = 4	Inclusive policy Inclusive practices Academic Autistic Identity Complex needs Culture Environment Identity Learning space design Mental health Sexuality Technology Wellbeing
<b>School belonging/ connectedness</b> (k = 18)	k = 18	k = 0	UK k = 3 USA k = 4 N Ireland k = 1 Canada k = 2	Australia k = 8	k = 2	k = 12	k = 4	Identity Inclusive policy Inclusive practice
<b>Masking/ camouflaging</b> (k = 9)	k = 8	k = 1	UK k = 7 Ireland k = 1 Review UK k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 8	k = 0	Family context Social relationships Wellbeing.
<b>Bullying/ cyberbullying/ victimisation</b> (k = 4)	k = 4	k = 0	USA k = 1	Australia k = 3	k = 1	k = 2	k = 1	Identity Inclusive policy
<b>Self-regulation</b> (k = 2)	k = 2	k = 0	USA k = 1 Scotland k = 1	k = 0	k = 2	k = 0	k = 0	Academic

<b>Interception</b> (k = 1)	k = 1	k = 0	USA k = 1	k = 0	k = 0	k = 0	k = 0	Not recorded
<b>Trauma</b> (k = 10)	k = 6	k = 4	USA k = 4 Canada k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 3	Australia k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> k = 1	k = 1	k = 3	k = 2	Not recorded
<b>Sleep</b> (k = 37)	k = 34	k = 3	USA k = 11 New Zealand k = 3 Israel k = 3 China k = 2 Canada k = 1 Germany k = 1 Ireland k = 1 Japan k = 1 Taiwan k = 1 UK k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 1 UK k = 1	Australia k = 9  <b>Reviews</b> Australia k = 1	k = 29	k = 2	k = 3	
<b>Teacher burnout</b> (k = 11)	k = 11	k = 0	USA k = 8 France k = 1 France, Canada k = 2	k = 0	k = 10	k = 0	k = 1	Not recorded
<b>Parent burnout</b> (k = 5)	k = 5	k = 0	Turkey k = 3 China k = 1 USA k = 1	k = 0	k = 5	k = 0	k = 0	Not recorded
<b>Thriving</b> (k = 16)	k = 12	k = 4	USA k = 2 UK k = 2 Canada k = 1 Finland k = 1 Sweden k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> UK k = 2	Australia k = 5  <b>Reviews</b> Australia k = 1 USA, Aust k = 1	k = 4	k = 5	k = 3	Inclusive policy Academic needs Agency Embodied learning Quality of life Self-concept Student voice Wellbeing
<b>Self-determination</b> (k = 3)	k = 3	k = 0	USA k = 3	k = 0	k = 1	k = 1	k = 1	Inclusive policy Academic needs Autonomy Complex needs Self-determination

## 4.2 Scoping review literature

### 4.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 4.1.2.1 Wellbeing and general wellbeing

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#### 4.2.2.5 Sleep

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Varma, P., Conduit, R., Junge, M., Lee, V. V., & Jackson, M. L. (2021). A systematic review of sleep associations in parents and children. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 30(9), 2276-2288. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-021-02002-5>

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Simpson, K., van der Meer, L., Patrick, L., Garland, R., Adams, D., Paynter, J., & Westerveld, M. (2022). Whose voice is heard, and whose is missing, in research exploring quality of life and well-being of autistic individuals: A systematic review. *PROSPERO 2022 CRD42022385357*. [https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospere/display\\_record.php?ID=CRD42022385357](https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/prospere/display_record.php?ID=CRD42022385357)

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## 5. Theme 4: Co-occurring considerations

### 5.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction with ("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum"). Details are provided in Table S7.

**Table S7: Co-occurring Considerations Search Terms**

Theme 4 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum") not college or university or higher education or postsecondary education or undergraduate AND
(Student OR Pupil OR learner OR child* OR adolesc* OR teen) AND (co-exist* or co-occur* or relate* OR accompan* OR overlap* or "secondary manifestation*") AND (identif* OR view* or perce* OR experien* OR feel OR believe OR consider OR attitudes) AND (school or education or "primary school" OR "high school" OR learning OR academic)
("co-existing condition" OR co-morbid* or co-occur* OR related OR accompany OR "Secondary manifestation") AND (student* OR Learn* OR pupil OR child* or adolescent) AND (views or Perception OR perceive OR feel OR believe OR consider OR attitude) AND (education OR school OR "primary school" OR "high school" OR academic)
("co-existing condition" OR co-morbid* or co-occur* OR related OR accompany OR "Secondary manifestation") AND (School OR educat* OR learning OR academic)
("co-existing condition" OR co-morbid* or co-occur* OR related OR accompany OR "Secondary manifestation") AND (Teachers OR Educators OR school professionals OR education professionals) AND (views or Perception OR perceive OR feel OR believe OR consider OR attitude) AND (education OR school OR "primary school" OR "high school" OR academic)
(Co-occur* OR comorbid* OR co-exist*) AND (student OR Pupil or learner) AND (views OR opinions OR perceptions OR beliefs)
(Co-occur* OR comorbid* OR co-exist*) AND (student OR Pupil or learner)
("challenging behaviours OR "behavioural difficulties" OR "withdrawn behaviours" OR "disruptive behaviours" OR "inappropriate behaviours") AND (school OR education OR classroom OR "primary school" OR "high school")
("complex communication needs" or "limited literacy" or "limited communication" OR "minimally verbal" OR "Non verbal") AND (Student* OR pupil OR learner OR child OR adolescent) AND (school OR classroom OR education OR "primary school" OR "high school")
(juvenile justice or juvenile delinquency or juvenile offenders or youth offenders or crime)
(student or pupil or child or adolescent or teen) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND (suspension or exclusion or expulsion) NOT (university or college or higher education)
(suspension or exclusion or expulsion)
Demand avoidance and autism and school
Meltdown
Shutdown
Dysregulation
School attendance
Sleep and school

**In total 174 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in Table S8.

**Table S8: Mapping Summary of Co-occurring Considerations Literature**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Co-existing conditions</b> (k = 17)  search term found articles with dual diagnoses e.g., ADHD anxiety blindness intellectual disability psychiatric conditions	k = 17	k = 0	USA k = 6 France k = 1 Norway k = 2 Spain k = 2 Sweden k = 1 Turkey k = 1  UK: Scotland k = 1 Ireland k = 1	Australia k = 2	k = 11	k = 2	k = 4	Academic Needs Behaviour Environment Wellbeing
<b>Intellectual disability</b> (k = 10)	k = 10	k = 0	USA k = 3 UK k = 3 France k = 1 Sweden k = 1	Australia k = 2	k = 2	k = 2	k = 6	Academic Needs Complex/ Co-existing Needs
<b>Communication</b> (k = 27)  complex communication needs e.g., augmentative alternative communication complex communication limited communication limited literacy minimally verbal non-verbal	k = 26	k = 1	USA k = 13 UK k = 7 Canada, Israel k = 1 Cyprus k = 1 Finland k = 1 Sweden k = 1  <b>Review</b> USA k = 1	Australia k = 1  USA, Aust k = 1	k = 16	k = 3	k = 7	Inclusive Policy Behaviour Complex/ Co-existing Needs Identity Intersectionality Wellbeing

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Behavioural experiences</b> (k = 120)  e.g., absence aggression anxiety attendance “can’t do school” challenging behaviours demand avoidance disruptive behaviour dysregulation, meltdown, shutdown engagement escape avoidance exclusion functional behaviour hurt others juvenile justice self-injurious behaviours socially appropriate suspension	k = 99	k = 21	USA k = 50 UK k = 22 Netherlands k = 4 Japan k = 4 Sweden k = 2 New Zealand k = 2 Canada k = 1 Finland k = 1 France k = 1 N Ireland k = 1 Norway k = 1 Qatar k = 1 Singapore k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 14 UK k = 3 Ireland k = 1 Italy k = 1 Sweden k = 1	Australia k = 6  USA, Aust k = 1  Australia, Netherlands k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> k = 1	k = 60	k = 18	k = 21	Complex/ Co-existing Needs Identity Wellbeing Some Intersectionality & Inclusive Policy  <b>Reviews</b> Inclusive Policy Behaviour Complex/ Co-existing Needs Identity Intersectionality Wellbeing

## 5.2 Scoping review literature

### 5.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 5.1.2.1 Co-existing conditions

Aasen, G., & Nærlund, T. (2014). Enhancing activity by means of tactile symbols: A study of a heterogeneous group of pupils with congenital blindness, intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities, 18*(1), 61-75. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1744629514522142>

Armstrong, K., DeLoatche, K. J., Preece, K. K., & Agazzi, H. (2014). Combining parent–child interaction therapy and visual supports for the treatment of challenging behavior in a child with autism and intellectual disabilities and comorbid epilepsy. *Clinical Case Studies, 14*(1), 3-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1534650114531451>

Backner, W., Clark, E., Jenson, W., Gardner, M., & Kahn, J. (2013). An investigation of psychiatric comorbidity and symptom awareness among male adolescents with autism spectrum disorders. *International Journal of School & Educational Psychology, 1*(4), 259-268. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21683603.2013.845737>

Berenguer, C., Roselló, B., Colomer, C., Baixauli, I., & Miranda, A. (2018). Children with autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Relationships between symptoms and executive function, theory of mind, and behavioral problems. *Research in Developmental Disabilities, 83*, 260-269. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2018.10.001>

De Verdier, K., Fernell, E., & Ek, U. (2018). Challenges and successful pedagogical strategies: Experiences from six Swedish students with blindness and autism in different school settings. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 48*(2), 520-532. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-017-3360-5>

Den Houting, J., Adams, D., Roberts, J., & Keen, D. (2022). Brief report: Investigating the impact of anxious symptomatology in autistic children. *International Journal of Disability, Development and Education, 69*(2), 523-532. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1034912X.2020.1727420>

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Llanes, E., Blacher, J., Stavropoulos, K., & Eisenhower, A. (2020). Parent and teacher reports of comorbid anxiety and ADHD symptoms in children with ASD. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 50*(5), 1520-1531. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-018-3701-z>

Posserud, M., Hysing, M., Helland, W., Gillberg, C., & Lundervold, A. J. (2018). Autism traits: The importance of “co-morbid” problems for impairment and contact with services. Data from the bergen child study. *Research in Developmental Disabilities, 72*, 275-283. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2016.01.002>

Ros-Demarize, R., & Graziano, P. A. (2021). Initial feasibility and efficacy of the summer treatment program (stp-prek) for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorder and comorbid externalizing behavior problems. *Journal of Early Intervention, 43*(1), 60-79. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1053815120917452>

Rosello, R., Martinez-Raga, J., Tomas, J. M., Mira, A., & Cortese, S. (2023). Cognitive and behavioral profiles in children with autism spectrum disorder with and without attention-deficit /hyperactivity disorder. *Child and Adolescent Mental Health, 28*(2), 269-276. <https://doi.org/10.1111/camh.12562>

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#### 5.2.2.2.2. Meltdown, shutdown, and dysregulation

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## 6. Theme 5: Identity considerations

### 6.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction with (“autistic students” OR “students with autism” OR “students with ASD” OR “student with ASC” OR “students on the autism” OR “students on the spectrum”). Details are provided in Table S9.

**Table S9: Identity Search Terms**

Theme 5 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum")
first nations people AND education or school or learning or teaching or classroom or education system
aborigin* AND autism
[cald OR identity]
[*cultural* OR [*lingusitic* AND *divers*]
[view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception] AND [cald OR cultural* OR lingusitic* OR divers*]
CALD OR *cultural* OR *lingusitic* AND *divers*
CALD OR cultural* OR lingusitic* OR divers*
School AND (CALD OR cultural* divers* OR lingusitic* divers*) NOT (health OR nursing)
autis* AND CALD
autis* AND [All Fields: cald OR All Fields: cultural* OR All Fields: lingusitic* OR All Fields: divers*]
("autistic child" OR "autistic children" OR "child with autism" OR "children with autism") AND (CALD OR cultural* OR lingusitic* OR divers*)
(cald or culturally and linguistically diverse)
('cultural influence' OR 'cultural influence on learning' OR 'cultural influence on education' )
school AND ('cultural influence' OR 'cultural influence on learning' OR 'cultural influence on education' ) AND Australia NOT (university OR universities OR college OR colleges)
autis* AND ( 'cultural influence' OR 'cultural influence on learning' OR 'cultural influence on education' )
('cultural influence' OR 'cultural influence on learning' OR 'cultural influence on education')
children or adolescents or youth or child or teenager AND sexual orientation or gender identity or gender expression or transgender LGBT or gender diverse or non-binary or queer or sexual/ity
(masking OR camouflaging)
(school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND self-determination NOT (university or college or higher education)
(student or pupil or child or adolescent or teen) AND (school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND agency NOT (university or college or higher education)
(school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND (self-concept or self-worth or self perception or self esteem) NOT (university or college or higher education)
(school or education or primary school or elementary school or secondary school or middle school or high school) AND student voice NOT (university or college or higher education)

**In total 183 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was included in this review and the topics they considered are summarised in Table S10.

**Table S10: Identity Mapping Summary of the Literature**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</b> (k = 35)	k = 22	Reviews k = 9  Aust Govt resource k = 3  Conference proceedings USA, k = 1	Canada k = 3 Canada, UK k = 2 USA k = 1 Taiwan k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 1 Canada, USA, Australia, NZ k = 1 New Zealand k = 2	Australia k = 15   <b>Reviews</b> Australia k = 5	k = 1	k = 17	k = 4	Inclusive policy & practice Academic needs Complex needs Co-occurring considerations Family context Intersectionality Learning space design Marginality Wellbeing
<b>Cultural influences</b> (k = 43)	k = 37	k = 6	USA k = 12 Canada k = 1 Pakistan k = 1 UK k = 3 Singapore k = 1 Indonesia k = 1 Taiwan k = 1 Brunei k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 3 UK k = 1	Australia k = 16 Made up of the following: Australia only k = 13 Australia, Cook Islands k = 1 Australia, Austria, France, Czech Republic k = 1 Australia, Lebanon, Sweden k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> Australia k = 2	k = 6	k = 26	k = 5	Inclusive policy and practice Academic needs CALD Complex needs Family context First Nations Learning space design Wellbeing
<b>Cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) learners</b> (k = 37)	k = 30	k = 7	USA k = 18 UK k = 1 Canada k = 1 Saudi Arabia k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 5 Singapore k = 1	Australia k = 9   <b>Reviews</b> Australia k = 1	k = 4	k = 20	k = 6	Inclusive policies and practices Academic needs Culture Family context Wellbeing
<b>Autistic identity</b> (k = 13)	k = 12	k = 1	USA k = 6 UK k = 3 USA, UK k = 1 Canada k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> UK k = 1	Australia k = 1	k = 3	k = 8	k = 1	Mostly unreported Belonging Intercultural communication Language acquisition Languages Transition Wellbeing

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Gender/sexuality identity</b> (k = 55)	k = 46	k = 9	USA k = 23 UK k = 5 Canada k = 3 Netherlands k = 4 Finland k = 1 Singapore k = 1 Taiwan k = 1 Turkey k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 2 UK k = 2 Mexico k = 1 Portugal k = 1 Italy k = 1 Canada k = 1 Netherlands k = 1	Australia k = 7	k = 29	k = 12	k = 5	Not reported

## 6.2 Scoping review literature

### 6.2.1 Empirical articles

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Norbury, C. F., & Sparks, A. (2013). Difference or disorder? Cultural issues in understanding neurodevelopmental disorders. *Developmental Psychology, 49*(1), 45-58. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0027446>

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#### **6.2.2.3 Cultural and linguistically diverse (CALD) learners**

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Steinbrenner, J. R., McIntyre, N., Rentschler, L. F., Pearson, J. N., Luelmo, P., Jaramillo, M. E., Boyd, B. A., Wong, C., Nowell, S. W., Odom, S. L., & Hume, K. A. (2022). Patterns in reporting and participant inclusion related to race and ethnicity in autism intervention literature: Data from a large-scale systematic review of evidence-based practices. *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*, 26(8), 2026-2040. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613211072593>

Wu, H.-Y., & Chu, S.-Y. (2012). Self-determination of young children with special needs from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. *Preventing School Failure: Alternative Education for Children and Youth*, 56(3), 149-156. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1045988X.2011.619221>

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André, T. G., Valdez-Montero, C., Márquez-Vega, M. A., Ahumada-Cortez, J. G., & Gámez-Medina, M. E. (2020). Communication on sexuality between parents and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review. *Sexuality and Disability*, 38(2), 217-229. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11195-020-09628-1>

Borges, L., & Riggi, G. (2021). Gender incongruence: A longitudinal perspective from childhood throughout adolescence. *European Psychiatry*, 64(S1), S817-S817. <https://doi.org/10.1192/j.eurpsy.2021.2159>

Glidden, D., Bouman, W. P., Jones, B. A., & Arcelus, J. (2016). Gender dysphoria and autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review of the literature. *Sexual Medicine Reviews*, 4(1), 3-14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sxmr.2015.10.003>

Maggio, M. G., Calatozzo, P., Cerasa, A., Pioggia, G., Quartarone, A., & Calabro, R. S. (2022). Sex and sexuality in autism spectrum disorders: A scoping review on a neglected but fundamental issue. *Brain Science*, 12(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/brainsci12111427>

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Oates, M., & Bean, A. (2023). Intersecting effects of sex/gender and autism on structural language: A scoping review. *Autism*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221151095>

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Picard-Pageau, W., & Morales, E. (2022). Interventions on sexuality for adolescents with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review. *Sexuality and Disability, 40*(3), 599-622.  
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<https://doi.org/10.3109/09540261.2015.1111199>

## 7. Theme 6: Family and community considerations

### 7.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, and the terms used in conjunction to ("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum"). Details are provided Table S11.

**Table S11: Family and Community Considerations Search Terms**

Theme 6 search terms
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC" OR "students on the autism" OR "students on the spectrum")
(sibling OR "sibling relationship" ) AND ( view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception
"sibling well*
sibling*
( "autism" OR "asd" OR "autism spectrum disorder" OR "autistic" ) AND sibling* relationship*
sibling* relationship* NOT adult*
autis* AND sibling* AND ( wellbeing OR well-being OR well being )
( "autism" OR "asd" OR "autism spectrum disorder" OR "autistic" ) AND sibling* relationship* AND Australia*
All Fields:autis* AND All Fields:sibling* AND [All Fields:wellbeing OR All Fields:well-being OR All Fields:"well being"]
[All Fields:autis* OR All Fields:asd] AND All Fields:sibling* relationship*
"family wellbeing" OR "family relationships" OR "quality of life" NOT Any field contains the term/s "university" OR "college"
"family wellbeing" OR "family relationships" OR "quality of life" NOT Any field contains the term/s "university" OR "college" NOT adult
( "autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" ) AND ( "family wellbeing" OR "family relationships" OR "quality of life" )
( "autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" ) AND ( "family wellbeing" OR "family relationships" OR "quality of life" ) NOT ( university OR college OR adult ) Limiters - Language: English
( "autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" ) AND ( "family well-being" OR "family wellbeing" ) NOT ( university OR college OR adult ) Limiters - Language: English
( "autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" ) AND ( "family wellbeing" OR "family relationships" OR "quality of life" ) NOT ( university OR college OR adult ) Limiters - Language: English
autis* OR asd AND family AND well-being OR wellbeing OR well being
family AND well-being OR wellbeing OR well being
autis* OR asd AND family relationships
autis? OR asd AND "quality"
autis? OR asd AND quality [no quotations]
autis? OR asd AND quality NOT adult OR university
"autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" AND "extended family"

"extended family"
( "autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASD" ) AND "extended family"
( autis* OR ASD ) AND ( "extended family" OR "extended families" )
( autis* OR ASD ) AND ( "extended family" OR "extended families" ) NOT adult*
rural

**In total 80 articles were included for review.** Details of the literature that was mapped and the topics covered are summarised in Table S12.

**Table S12: Mapping Summary of Family and Community Related Articles**

Topic	Total Number of Empirical Articles	Reviews	International: country of lead author	National (i.e., Australia): country of lead author	Number using Quantitative approaches	Number of studies using Qualitative approaches	Number of studies using Mixed Methods	Links to other themes
<b>Family considerations</b> (k = 14)	k = 12	k = 2	USA k = 6 UK k = 3 Canada k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 2	Australia k = 2	k = 7	k = 4	k = 1	Academic needs Ethnicity Learning space design SES Transitions Wellbeing
<b>Extended family considerations</b> (k = 10)	k = 9	k = 1	USA k = 2 USA, Saudi Arabia k = 1 USA, Palestine k = 1 China k = 1 France k = 1 UAE k = 1 UK k = 1  <b>Review</b> USA k = 1	Australia k = 1	k = 2	k = 6	k = 1	Inclusive policy & practice Cultural influences
<b>Siblings</b> (k = 18)	k = 16	k = 2	UK k = 3 USA k = 2 USA, Palestine k = 1 Canada k = 1 Italy k = 1  <b>Review</b> UK k = 1	Australia only k = 7  USA & Australia k = 1 <b>Review</b> Australia k = 1	k = 2	k = 11	k = 3	Extended family Family context NDIS Cultural influences
<b>Geographic/ socio-economic influences</b> (k = 38)	k = 34	k = 4	USA k = 23 Canada k = 2 Zimbabwe k = 2 Zambia k = 1 Taiwan k = 2 Nepal k = 1 England k = 1  <b>Reviews</b> USA k = 3	Australia k = 2       <b>Review</b> Australia k = 1	k = 6	k = 16	k = 12	Academic needs Complex needs Family context Quality of life Self-determination Socioeconomic status Technology Transitions Wellbeing

## 7.2 Scoping review literature

### 7.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 7.1.2.1 Family considerations

Botterill, S., Cottam, S., Fowke, A., & Theodore, K. (2019). "It put control back onto my family situation": Family experiences of positive behaviour support. *Advances in Mental Health & Intellectual Disabilities*, 13(3/4), 91-101. <https://doi.org/10.1108/AMHID-11-2018-0049>

Bradshaw, J., Gillespie, S., McCracken, C., King, B. H., McCracken, J. T., Johnson, C. R., Lecavalier, L., Smith, T., Swiezy, N., Bearss, K., Sikich, L., Donnelly, C., Hollander, E., McDougle, C. J., & Scahill, L. (2021). Predictors of caregiver strain for parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 51(9), 3039-3049. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-020-04625-x>

Burnham Riosa, P., Ensor, R., Jichici, B., & Davy, B. (2022). How my life is unique: Sibling perspectives of autism. *Autism*, 0(0), 13623613221142385. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221142385>

Gibson, A. N., Kaplan, S., & Vardell, E. (2017). A survey of information source preferences of parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 47(7), 2189-2204. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-017-3127-z>

Green, S. A., & Carter, A. S. (2014). Predictors and course of daily living skills development in toddlers with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 44(2), 256-263. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-011-1275-0>

Ivey-Hatz, J., & Frederick, K. (2014). Importance of quality of life issues: A pilot comparison of teachers and parents of children with autism spectrum disorders. *Journal of the American Academy of Special Education Professionals*, 25-38. <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1134795.pdf>

Leigh, S., Hayden, C., Paige, M., Warren, H., Javiera, C., Kerrie, D., Nicole, B., Peta, R., & Nicole, R. (2016). *Friends pay tribute to mum in murder-suicide case: A small catholic school community in Sydney's north is in mourning tonight after the murder-suicide deaths of two students with autism and their parents*, 7.30 Report, ABC1. <https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/TVNEWS.TSM201610180129>

Martin, N., & Peacock, B. (2020). Continuing the education of autistic pupils while focusing on family wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic. *Good Autism Practice*, 21(2), 5-10. <https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=sso&db=eue&AN=147031513&site=ehost-live&scope=site&custid=qut>

Mire, S. S., Tolar, T. D., Brewton, C. M., Raff, N. S., & McKee, S. L. (2018). Validating the revised illness perception questionnaire as a measure of parent perceptions of autism spectrum disorder. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 48(5), 1761-1779. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-017-3442-4>

Shivers, C. M., Sonnier-Netto, L., & Lee, G. K. (2019). Needs and experiences of family caregivers of individuals with autism spectrum disorders across the lifespan. *Journal of Policy & Practice in Intellectual Disabilities*, 16(1), 21-29. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jppi.12272>

Sideropoulos, V., Dukes, D., Hanley, M., Palikara, O., Rhodes, S., Riby, D. M., Samson, A. C., & Van Herwegen, J. (2022). The impact of COVID-19 on anxiety and worries for families of individuals with special education needs and disabilities in the UK. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 52(6), 2656-2669. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-021-05168-5>

Wicks, R., Paynter, J., & Adams, D. (2021). Exploring the predictors of family outcomes of early intervention for children on the autism spectrum: An Australian cohort study. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 43(1), 3-23. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1053815119883413>

### 7.1.2.2 Extended family considerations

Alotaibi, B. M. (2019). *Understanding the experiences of Saudi Arabian mothers of children with autism in the United States* (Publication Number 13809026) [Doctoral dissertation, Wayne State University]. ProQuest Dissertations Publishing. Michigan, United States. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2275500407#>

Dababnah, S., & Parish, S. L. (2013). "At a moment, you could collapse": Raising children with autism in the West Bank. *Children & Youth Services Review*, 35(10), 1670-1678. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2013.07.007>

Derguy, C., M'Bailara, K., Michel, G., Roux, S., & Bouvard, M. (2016). The need for an ecological approach to parental stress in autism spectrum disorders: The combined role of individual and environmental factors. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 46(6), 1895-1905. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10803-016-2719-3>

Fang, Z., Lachman, J. M., Zhang, C., Qiao, D., & Barlow, J. (2022). A virtuous circle: Stakeholder perspectives of a short-term intensive parent training programme delivered within the context of routine services for autism in China. *Autism: The International Journal of Research and Practice*, 26(8), 1973-1986. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/13623613211070869>

Heasman, B., & Gillespie, A. (2018). Perspective-taking is two-sided: Misunderstandings between people with Asperger's syndrome and their family members. *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*, 22(6), 740-750. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361317708287>

Lamba, N., Van Tonder, A., Shrivastava, A., & Raghavan, A. (2021). Exploring challenges and support structures of mothers with children with autism spectrum disorder in the United Arab Emirates. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 119, 104138-104138. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2021.104138>

Lilley, R., Sedgwick, M., & Pellicano, E. (2019). *We look after our own mob: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences of autism* (9780646803944). Macquarie University. <https://search.informit.org/doi/full/10.3316/aeipt.225231>

Phillips, L. (2020). Supporting families on their autism journeys. *Counseling Today*, 62(11), 33-38. <https://ct.counseling.org/2020/05/supporting-families-on-their-autism-journeys/>

Sicherman, N., Loewenstein, G., Tavassoli, T., & Buxbaum, J. D. (2018). Grandma knows best: Family structure and age of diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. *Autism: The International Journal of Research & Practice*, 22(3), 368-376. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361316679632>

### 7.1.2.3 Siblings

Burnham Riosa, P., Ensor, R., Jichici, B., & Davy, B. (2022). How my life is unique: Sibling perspectives of autism. *Autism*, 0(0), 13623613221142385. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221142385>



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- Cridland, E. K., Jones, S. C., Stoyles, G., Caputi, P., & Magee, C. A. (2016). Families living with autism spectrum disorder. *Focus on Autism & Other Developmental Disabilities, 31*(3), 196-207. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088357615583466>
- Dababnah, S., & Parish, S. L. (2013). "At a moment, you could collapse": Raising children with autism in the West Bank. *Children & Youth Services Review, 35*(10), 1670-1678. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2013.07.007>
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- Long, K. A., Chevalier, L., Chu, A., Guthrie, K. M., Kao, B., Plante, W., & Lobato, D. (2022). Cultural influences on sibling relationships, roles, and self-concept in the context of autism: Perspectives of Latino/a/x and non-Latino/a/x siblings. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 52*(9), 4100-4113. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-021-05287-z>
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Strohm, K. (2018). Commentary on “perceptions of non-caregiving roles among siblings of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities” (Lee, Burke, Arnold, & Owen, 2018). *Research and Practice in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 5(2), 128-137. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23297018.2018.1525306>

Strohm, K., & Siblings Australia. (2006). Siblings of children with special needs. In Learning Links (Ed.), *Helping Kids Learn Information Sheet 22*.

#### **7.1.2.4 Geographic/socio-economic influences**

Azano, A. P., & Tackett, M. E. (2018). Perceptions of teachers and parents on the educational experiences of students with autism in a remote rural community. *The Rural Educator*, 38(3). <https://doi.org/10.35608/ruraled.v38i3.219>

Chu, C.-L., Chiang, C.-H., Wu, C.-C., Hou, Y.-M., & Liu, J.-H. (2017). Service system and cognitive outcomes for young children with autism spectrum disorders in a rural area of Taiwan. *Autism*, 21(5), 581-591. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361316664867>

Doody, K. R., & Patti, A. L. (2017). Impact of a rural community-based event for families of children with autism spectrum disorders. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*, 36(3), 128-135. <https://doi.org/10.1177/8756870517721899>

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Goldman, S. E., Burke, M. M., Casale, E. G., Frazier, M. A., & Hodapp, R. M. (2020). Families requesting advocates for children with disabilities: The who, what, when, where, why, and how of special education advocacy. *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*, 58(2), 158-169. <https://doi.org/10.1352/1934-9556-58.2.158>

Hardesty, C., Moody, E. J., Kern, S., Warren, W., Cooley Hidecker, M. J., Wagner, S., Arora, S., & Root-Elledge, S. (2020). Enhancing professional development for educators: Adapting project echo from health care to education. *Rural Special Education Quarterly*, 40(1), 42-52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/8756870520960448>

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## 7.2.2 Reviews

### 7.2.2.1 Family considerations

Karst, J. S., & Van Hecke, A. V. (2012). Parent and family impact of autism spectrum disorders: A review and proposed model for intervention evaluation. *Clinical Child and Family Psychology Review*, 15(3), 247-277. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10567-012-0119-6>

Schertz, H. H., Reichow, B., Tan, P., Vaiouli, P., & Yildirim, E. (2012). Interventions for toddlers with autism spectrum disorders: An evaluation of research evidence. *Journal of Early Intervention*, 34(3), 166-189. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1053815112470721>

### 7.2.2.2 Extended family considerations

Ravindran, N., & Myers, B. J. (2012). Cultural influences on perceptions of health, illness, and disability: A review and focus on autism. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 21(2), 311-319. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10826-011-9477-9>

### 7.2.2.3 Siblings

Leedham, A. T., Thompson, A. R., & Freeth, M. (2020). A thematic synthesis of siblings' lived experiences of autism: Distress, responsibilities, compassion and connection [journal article]. *Research in Developmental Disabilities*, 97, Article 103547. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.103547>

Wolff, B., Magiati, I., Roberts, R., Pellicano, E., & Glasson, E. J. (2022). Risk and resilience factors impacting the mental health and wellbeing of siblings of individuals with neurodevelopmental conditions: A mixed methods systematic review. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 98, 102217. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2022.102217>

### 7.2.2.4 Geographic/ socio-economic influences

Marks, G. N. (2017). Is SES really that important for educational outcomes in Australia? A review and some recent evidence. *The Australian Educational Researcher*, 44(2), 191-211. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13384-016-0219-2>

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Valrie, C., Thurston, I., & Santos, Melissa. (2020). Introduction to the special issue: Addressing health disparities in pediatric psychology. *Journal of Pediatric Psychology*, 45(8), 833-838. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jpepsy/jsaa066>



## 8. Theme 7: Inclusive practices

### 8.1 Search terms and mapping summary of the literature

Multiple searches were conducted, information regarding different searches and terms used are provided in Table S13.

**Table S13: Inclusive Practices Search Terms**

Theme 7 search terms
autism, autistic, school, inclusion, experience, parents, students, teachers, educators, inclusive
(autistic OR autism OR ASD OR ASC) AND (student OR pupil OR child* OR adolesc* OR teen*) AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts) AND (inclusive OR mainstream OR regular OR traditional) AND (school OR education OR "primary school" OR "elementary school" OR "secondary school" OR "middle school" OR "high school")
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC") AND (views OR perspectives OR experiences OR attitudes OR perceptions) AND (educational OR learning OR academic OR social) AND (inclusion OR participation OR engagement OR access OR belonging OR success)
(autistic OR autism OR ASD OR ASC) AND (student OR pupil OR child* OR adolesc* OR teen*) AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts) AND (inclusive OR mainstream OR regular OR traditional) AND (school OR education OR "primary school" OR "elementary school" OR "secondary school" OR "middle school" OR "high school")
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC") AND (views OR perspectives OR experiences OR attitudes OR perceptions) AND (educational OR learning OR academic OR social) AND (inclusion OR participation OR engagement OR access OR belonging OR success)
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC") AND (views OR perspectives OR experiences OR attitudes OR perceptions) AND (educational OR learning OR academic OR social) AND (inclusion OR participation OR engagement OR access OR belonging OR success)
autistic OR autism OR ASD OR ASC) AND (student OR pupil OR child* OR adolesc* OR teen*) AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts) AND (inclusive OR mainstream OR regular OR traditional) AND (school OR education OR "primary school" OR "elementary school" OR "secondary school" OR "middle school" OR "high school")
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC") AND (views OR perspectives OR experiences OR attitudes OR perceptions) AND (educational OR learning OR academic OR social) AND (inclusion OR participation OR engagement OR access OR belonging OR success)
(autistic OR autism OR ASD OR ASC) AND (student OR pupil OR child* OR adolesc* OR teen*) AND (view OR perspective OR experience OR attitude OR perception OR opinion OR feelings OR thoughts) AND (inclusive OR mainstream OR regular OR traditional) AND (school OR education OR "primary school" OR "elementary school" OR "secondary school" OR "middle school" OR "high school")
("autistic students" OR "students with autism" OR "students with ASD" OR "student with ASC") AND (views OR perspectives OR experiences OR attitudes OR perceptions) AND (educational OR learning OR academic OR social) AND (inclusion OR participation OR engagement OR access OR belonging OR success)

**In total 74 articles were included for review.**

After eliminating duplicates and exclusions, 74 articles were included for review. Details of the literature that was “mapped” for each of the topics covered are summarised in Table S14.



**Table S14: Mapping Summary of Inclusive Practices Related Literature**

Topic	Total number of Articles	International	National	Quant	Qual	Mixed methods	Linked themes
<b>Student perspectives</b>	k = 21	UK k= 11 USA k =4 Canada/France k = 1 Sweden k =1	Australia k = 4	k = 1	k = 16	k = 4	Environment Identity Wellbeing
<b>Parent perspectives</b>	k = 17	Scotland k =1 South Africa k =1	Australia k =15	k= 4	k = 11	k = 2	Academic Needs
<b>Educator perspectives</b>	k = 22	UK k = 4 USA k = 3 Ireland k = 2 Sweden k = 1 Zimbabwe k = 1 Canada k = 1	Australia k = 10	k = 1	k = 19	k = 2	Not reported
<b>Multiple stakeholder perspectives</b>	k = 5	UK k = 3 USA k =1	Australia k =1	k = 0	k = 5	k = 0	Not reported
<b>Reviews</b>	k = 9	UK k = 2 Ireland k = 1 Sweden k = 1	Australia k = 3 Australia, New Zealand k = 1 Sweden, Australia k = 1				Intersectionality Wellbeing

## 8.2 Scoping review literature

### 8.2.1 Empirical articles

#### 8.1.2.1 Student perspectives

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Brownlow, C., Lawson, W., Pillay, Y., Mahony, J., & Abawi, D. (2021). “Just ask me”: The importance of respectful relationships within schools. *Frontiers in Psychology, 12*, 678264. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2021.678264>

Calder, L., Hill, V., & Pellicano, E. (2013). ‘Sometimes I want to play by myself’: Understanding what friendship means to children with autism in mainstream primary schools. *Autism, 17*(3), 296-316. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362361312467866>

Cook, A., Ogden, J., & Winstone, N. (2018). Friendship motivations, challenges and the role of masking for girls with autism in contrasting school settings. *European Journal of Special Needs Education, 33*(3), 302-315. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2017.1312797>

Crompton, C. J., Hallett, S., Axbey, H., McAuliffe, C., & Cebula, K. (2022). ‘Someone like-minded in a big place’: Autistic young adults’ attitudes towards autistic peer support in mainstream education. *Autism, 27*(1), 76-91. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13623613221081189>

Cunningham, M. (2022). ‘This school is 100% not autistic friendly!’ listening to the voices of primary-aged autistic children to understand what an autistic friendly primary school should be like. *International Journal of Inclusive Education, 26*(12), 1211-1225. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2020.1789767>

Danker, J., Strnadová, I., & Cumming, T. M. (2019). Picture my well-being: Listening to the voices of students with autism spectrum disorder. *Research in Developmental Disabilities, 89*, 130-140. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.04.005>

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Falkmer, M., Granlund, M., Nilholm, C., & Falkmer, T. (2012). From my perspective – perceived participation in mainstream schools in students with autism spectrum conditions. *Developmental Neurorehabilitation, 15*(3), 191-201. <https://doi.org/10.3109/17518423.2012.671382>

Goodall, C. (2018). ‘I felt closed in and like I couldn’t breathe’: A qualitative study exploring the mainstream educational experiences of autistic young people. *Autism & Developmental Language Impairments, 3*, 239694151880440. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2396941518804407>

Goodall, C. (2019). ‘There is more flexibility to meet my needs’: Educational experiences of autistic young people in mainstream and alternative education provision. *Support for Learning, 34*(1), 4-33. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9604.12236>

- Holmes, S. C. (2022). Inclusion, autism spectrum, students' experiences. *International Journal of Developmental Disabilities*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1080/20473869.2022.2056403>
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- Saggers, B. (2015). Student perceptions: Improving the educational experiences of high school students on the autism spectrum. *Improving Schools*, 18(1), 35-45. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1365480214566213>
- Saggers, B., Campbell, M., Dillon-Wallace, J., Ashburner, J., Hwang, Y.-S., Carrington, S., & Tones, M. (2017). Understandings and experiences of bullying: Impact on students on the autism spectrum. *Australasian Journal of Special Education*, 41(2), 123-140. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jse.2017.6>
- Sciutto, M., Richwine, S., Mentrikoski, J., & Niedzwiecki, K. (2012). A qualitative analysis of the school experiences of students with Asperger syndrome. *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*, 27(3), 177-188. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088357612450511>
- Tomlinson, C., Bond, C., & Hebron, J. (2022). The mainstream school experiences of adolescent autistic girls. *European Journal of Special Needs Education*, 37(2), 323-339. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08856257.2021.1878657>
- Woodfield, C., & Ashby, C. (2016). 'The right path of equality': Supporting high school students with autism who type to communicate. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 20(4), 435-454. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2015.1088581>

### 8.1.2.2 Parent perspectives

- Bruck, S., Webster, A. A., & Clark, T. (2022). Transition support for students on the autism spectrum: A multiple stakeholder perspective. *Journal of Research in Special Educational Needs*, 22(1), 3-17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1471-3802.12509>
- Carrington, S., Campbell, M., Saggers, B., Ashburner, J., Vicig, F., Dillon-Wallace, J., & Hwang, Y.-S. (2017). Recommendations of school students with autism spectrum disorder and their parents in regard to bullying and cyberbullying prevention and intervention. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 21(10), 1045-1064. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2017.1331381>
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- Clark, M., & Adams, D. (2020). Parent-reported barriers and enablers of strengths in their children with autism. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 29(9), 2402-2415. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-020-01741-1>

- Hodges, A., Joosten, A., Bourke-Taylor, H., & Cordier, R. (2020). School participation: The shared perspectives of parents and educators of primary school students on the autism spectrum. *Research in Developmental Disabilities, 97*, 103550. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ridd.2019.103550>
- Larcombe, T. J., Joosten, A. V., Cordier, R., & Vaz, S. (2019). Preparing children with autism for transition to mainstream school and perspectives on supporting positive school experiences. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders, 49*(8), 3073-3088. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04022-z>
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- Majoko, T. (2019). Inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder in mainstream early childhood development: Zimbabwean parent perspectives. *Early Child Development and Care, 189*(6), 909-925. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03004430.2017.1350176>
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- O'Hare, A., Saggars, B., Mazzucchelli, T., Gill, C., Hass, K., Shochet, I., Orr, J., Wurfl, A., & Carrington, S. (2021). 'He is my job': Autism, school connectedness, and mothers' roles. *Disability & Society, 1-22*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2021.1976110>
- Pillay, Y., Brownlow, C., & March, S. (2023). Autism and inclusive practices: Mothers speak out. *International Journal of Inclusive Education, 27*(4), 419-434. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2020.1842521>
- Reupert, A., Deppeler, J. M., & Sharma, U. (2015). Enablers for inclusion: The perspectives of parents of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Australasian Journal of Special Education, 39*(1), 85-96. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jse.2014.17>
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Vlcek, S., Somerton, M., & Rayner, C. (2020). Collaborative teams: Teachers, parents, and allied health professionals supporting students with autism spectrum disorder in mainstream Australian schools. *Australasian Journal of Special and Inclusive Education*, 44(2), 102-115. <https://doi.org/10.1017/jsi.2020.11>

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Able, H., Sreckovic, M. A., Schultz, T. R., Garwood, J. D., & Sherman, J. (2015). Views from the trenches: Teacher and student supports needed for full inclusion of students with ASD. *Teacher Education and Special Education: The Journal of the Teacher Education Division of the Council for Exceptional Children*, 38(1), 44-57. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0888406414558096>

Anglim, J., Prendeville, P., & Kinsella, W. (2018). The self-efficacy of primary teachers in supporting the inclusion of children with autism spectrum disorder. *Educational Psychology in Practice*, 34(1), 73-88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02667363.2017.1391750>

Bolourian, Y., Losh, A., Hamsho, N., Eisenhower, A., & Blacher, J. (2022). General education teachers' perceptions of autism, inclusive practices, and relationship building strategies. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 52(9), 3977-3990. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-021-05266-4>

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Danker, J., Strnadová, I., & Cumming, T. M. (2019). "They don't have a good life if we keep thinking that they're doing it on purpose!": Teachers' perspectives on the well-being of students with autism. *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 49(7), 2923-2934. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10803-019-04025-w>

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- Lindsay, S., Proulx, M., Scott, H., & Thomson, N. (2014). Exploring teachers' strategies for including children with autism spectrum disorder in mainstream classrooms. *International Journal of Inclusive Education*, 18(2), 101-122. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603116.2012.758320>
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## 8.2.2 Reviews

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## 9. Nationwide analysis of inclusive education policy

### 9.1 Selection criteria and mapping summary of policy documents

The search for inclusive education policy and strategy documents spanned years 2018-2023. Five inclusion criteria for selecting the documents included are presented in Table S15.

**Table S15: Key Criteria Applied for Selecting Inclusive Education Policy Documents**

Key criteria applied for selection of documents	
1	Had been published on the websites of Education Departments of states and territories in Australia
2	Included the word “policy” or “framework” or “charter” or “strategic” or plan” or “framework” or “directions” in their name
3	Included the word “education” or “inclusive education” or “inclusion” in their name
4	Included the word “disability” in their name
5	Included in the word “students” in their name

After exclusions, 22 documents were reviewed nationally across the six states and two territories of Australia. More details of the documents that were “mapped” are described and summarised in Table S16.

**Table S16: Mapping Summary of Inclusive Policy Documents**

State/territory	Documents	Number of Documents
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening Inclusive Education in ACT Public Schools: Discussion paper (November 2022).</li> <li>• Students with disability – meeting their educational needs procedure and hydrotherapy pools procedure (2022)</li> <li>• Students with a Disability Meeting their Educational Needs Policy (2022)</li> </ul>	3
<b>New South Wales</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Strategy: A living document – improving outcomes for children and young people, and their families (2019)</li> <li>• Inclusive Education Policy for students with disability (October 2022; policy document and easy read version)</li> <li>• Inclusive Education Statement for students with disability (October 2022)</li> </ul>	3
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework for Inclusion 2019-2029 (brochure and A3 summary)</li> </ul>	1
<b>Queensland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Education Strategic Plan 2021-2025</li> <li>• Equity and Excellence Strategy 2023</li> <li>• Every Student with Disability Succeeding Plan 2021-2025</li> <li>• Inclusive education policy v1.3 (10 June 2021)</li> </ul>	4
<b>South Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and students with disability policy (July 2020)</li> <li>• Principles of inclusion for children and students with disability in education and care (November 2021)</li> <li>• State Disability Inclusion Plan 2019-2023</li> </ul>	3
<b>Tasmania</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessible Island: Tasmania’s Disability Framework for Action 2018-2021</li> <li>• Department of Education Strategic Plan 2022-2024.</li> </ul>	2
<b>Victoria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students with Disability Policy (July 2021)</li> <li>• Supported Inclusion Schools: Operational Manual (April 2021)</li> <li>• Victorian Autism Education Strategy (Dec 2020)</li> </ul>	3
<b>Western Australia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2018-2023</li> <li>• Equity and Inclusion Charter: People and Services Committee (2021)</li> <li>• Every student, every classroom, every day - Strategic directions for public schools 2020-2024</li> </ul>	3

The steps for the review of inclusive education policy and strategy across the states and territories, in accordance with the dimensions of the UNESCO Policy Review Framework, are summarised in Table S17.

**Table S17: Summary of Steps Taken for Reviewing Inclusive Education Policy and Strategy of the Australian States and Territories**

Step	Explanation
<b>Step 1</b>	Evidence from the documents (Table S16) for each state and territory were recorded in an excel spreadsheet for each dimension using the four defining features. Regular meetings occurred between members of the team to discuss the dimensions, features of each dimension in the framework and the evidence that was recorded in each spreadsheet for the dimensions.
<b>Step 2</b>	This step involved each member of the team analysing the evidence from step one and reporting on strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations for each state and territory across the four dimensions. These findings were documented in an excel spreadsheet. Regular meetings occurred between team members to discuss and debate analysis process and interpretation using the UNESCO framework. Some features of dimensions were not used as there was little evidence in step one.
<b>Step 3</b>	The third step was used to report on step one and two. The team agreed to use the terms strengths, concerns, level of progress, and recommendations to report on the review and analysis of each state and territory in Australia. Level of progress comments were selected from Annex 2 in the review framework (UNESCO, 2017).
<b>Step 4</b>	The team created a visual map to represent how each state and territory is progressing for each feature in the dimensions of Concepts, Policy Statements, Structures and Systems, and Practices. Letters with colours represent the level of progress: <b>N = No evidence of progress found, D = Discussions → P = Planning → A = Actions</b> . Under each Table for each dimension, a summary paragraph considering strengths, progress and recommendations drawing on the findings for each state and territory was written.

## 9.2 9.2 Inclusive education policy documents

### 9.2.1 Australian Capital Territory

ACT Education Directorate. (2022, September). *Students with a disability meeting their educational needs policy* [SWD200810]. ACT Government.

[https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications\\_and\\_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/disabilities/students-with-a-disability-meeting-their-educational-needs-policy](https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/disabilities/students-with-a-disability-meeting-their-educational-needs-policy)

ACT Education Directorate (2022). *Students with disability – meeting their educational needs procedure and hydrotherapy pools procedure*.

[https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications\\_and\\_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/disabilities/students-with-a-disability-meeting-their-educational-needs-policy](https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/disabilities/students-with-a-disability-meeting-their-educational-needs-policy)

ACT Education Directorate. (2022, November). *Strengthening inclusive education in ACT public schools: Discussion paper*. ACT Government.

[https://www.education.act.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/2101135/Strengthening-Inclusive-Education-in-ACT-Public-Schools-Discussion-Paper-2022.pdf](https://www.education.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/2101135/Strengthening-Inclusive-Education-in-ACT-Public-Schools-Discussion-Paper-2022.pdf)

### 9.2.2 New South Wales

NSW Department of Education. (n.d.). *Inclusive education statement for students with disability*.

NSW Government. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/inclusive-education/Inclusive-Education-Statement.pdf>

- Easy read version: [https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/inclusive-education/Inclusive-Education-Statement\\_Easy-Read.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/inclusive-education/Inclusive-Education-Statement_Easy-Read.pdf)

NSW Department of Education. (2019). *Disability strategy: A living document - improving outcomes for children and young people, and their families*. NSW Government.

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NSW Department of Education. (2022, October 10). *Inclusive education for students with disability* [Policy document]. NSW Government. <https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/pd-2005-0243>

- Easy read version: [https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/inclusive-education/Inclusive-Education-Statement\\_Easy-Read.pdf](https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/teaching-and-learning/disability-learning-and-support/our-disability-strategy/inclusive-education/Inclusive-Education-Statement_Easy-Read.pdf)

### 9.2.3 Northern Territory

Department of Education. (n.d.). *Framework for inclusion 2019-2029*. Northern Territory Government. <https://education.nt.gov.au/publications/framework-for-inclusion-2019-2029>

- Brochure PDF: [https://education.nt.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/662779/Framework-for-inclusion-brochure.pdf](https://education.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/662779/Framework-for-inclusion-brochure.pdf)
- A3 Summary PDF: [https://education.nt.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/662778/A3-Summary.pdf](https://education.nt.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/662778/A3-Summary.pdf)

### 9.2.4 Queensland

Department of Education. (n.d.). *Every student with disability succeeding plan 2021-2025*. Queensland Government. <https://education.qld.gov.au/student/Documents/every-student-with-disability-succeeding-plan.pdf>

Department of Education. (2021). *Inclusive education policy (version 1.3)*. Queensland Government. <https://ppr.qed.qld.gov.au/attachment/inclusive-education-policy.pdf>

Department of Education. (2022). *Strategic plan 2021-2025 (2022 update)*. Queensland Government. <https://qed.qld.gov.au/our-publications/strategiesandplans/Documents/strategic-plan-2021-25-22-update.pdf>

Department of Education. (2023). *Equity and Excellence Strategy*. Queensland Government. <https://education.qld.gov.au/initiatives-and-strategies/strategies-and-programs/equity-and-excellence>

### 9.2.5 South Australia

Department for Education. (n.d.). *State disability inclusion plan 2019-2023*. Government of South Australia. [https://inclusive.sa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/95335/State-Disability-Inclusion-Plan-Inclusive-SA.pdf](https://inclusive.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/95335/State-Disability-Inclusion-Plan-Inclusive-SA.pdf)

Department for Education. (2020, July 1). *Children and students with disability policy*. Government of South Australia. <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/policies/pdf/children-and-students-with-disability-policy.pdf>

Department for Education. (2021, November 08). *Principles of inclusion for children and students with disability in education and care*. Government of South Australia. <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/parents-and-families/health-and-disability-support/health-anddisability-programs/principles-inclusion-children-and-students-disability-education-and-care>

### 9.2.6 Tasmania

Department of Premier and Cabinet. (2018). *Accessible island: Tasmania's disability framework for action 2018-2021*. Tasmanian Government. [https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0027/238095/Accessible\\_Island\\_Disability\\_Framework\\_for\\_Action\\_2018-2021.pdf](https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/238095/Accessible_Island_Disability_Framework_for_Action_2018-2021.pdf)

Department of Education. (2021, November). *Department of education strategic plan 2022-2024 learners first: Connected, resilient, creative and curious thinkers*. Tasmanian Government. [https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/\\_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=TASED-1969157292-35](https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/_layouts/15/DocIdRedir.aspx?ID=TASED-1969157292-35).



## 9.2.7 Victoria

Department of Education. (2020, December). *Victorian autism education strategy*. Victoria State Government. <https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-05/AES-2-pager-DE-logo.pdf>

Department of Education and Training. (2021, April). *Supported inclusion schools: Operational manual*. Victoria State Government. <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/PAL/sis-operational-manual.docx>

State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training). (2020, February). *Students with disability policy* [last updated 16 July 2021]. <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/students-disability/policy>

## 9.2.8 Western Australia

Department of Education. (n.d.). *Disability access and inclusion plan 2018-2023*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/lj3mr3x>

Department of Education. (n.d.). *Every student, every classroom, every day: Strategic directions for public schools 2020-2024*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/qe03re>

Department of Education. (2021, July 1). *Equity and inclusion charter: People and services committee, version 2*. Government of Western Australia. <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/x1p863d>

## Our values



### **Inclusion**

Valuing lived experience



### **Innovation**

Solutions for long term challenges



### **Evidence**

Truth in practice



### **Independence**

Integrity through autonomy



### **Cooperation**

Capturing opportunities together



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