

How to use this document



Autism CRC wrote this document.



We wrote this document in a way that is easy to read.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



This document is a summary.

A summary is shorter than the full report.

This means it only includes the most important information.



If you have any questions about this document you can email us at

info@autismcrc.com.au

You can find the full report on our website at

autismcrc.com.au

What is in this summary?

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Why the research was done

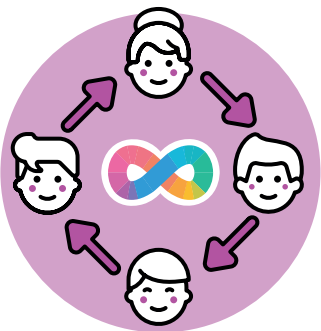


The Australian Government is making a National Autism **Strategy**.

We call it the Strategy.



A strategy is a plan to make things better.



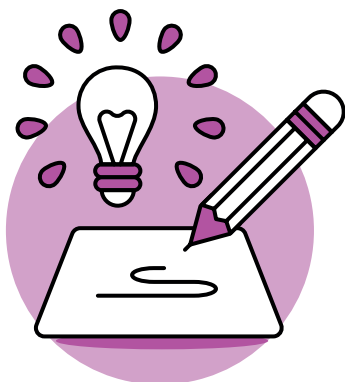
The Strategy needs to help all autistic people.



The government wanted to know what autistic people, their families and the people who work with them think should be in the Strategy.



Autism CRC, Griffith University and Curtin University did some **research**.



Research is when people do work to find things out and to understand what things mean.

What the research is about



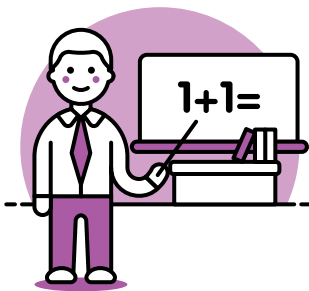
We wanted to know what autistic and other people thought about:



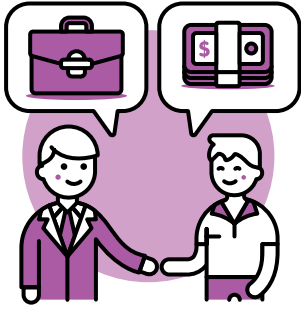
- Diagnosis



- Early intervention and support



- Education



- Employment



- Housing



- Justice



- Health services



- Mental health services.

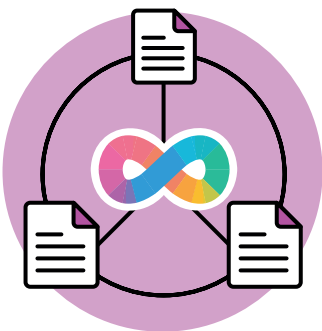
How we did the research



For this research we:



- Read other research about autistic people



- Read other strategies and plans that help autistic people



- Used a survey to ask people what should be in the Strategy



- Had more than 1000 people complete the survey



- Did a **gap analysis**

A gap analysis is when you find out what is working well and what is not so you can fix any problems.

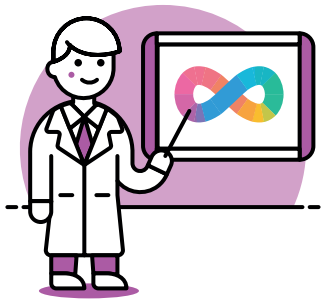
What we found out: Diagnosis



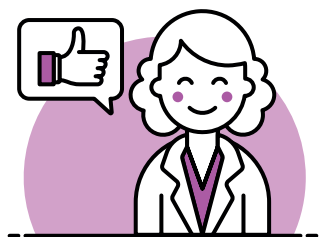
Australia needs more health professionals who can diagnose autism.



It should not cost too much money to get an autism assessment.



People and health professionals should know a lot about autism and that autistic people are all different.



People who diagnose autism should be more accepting and understanding of autism and neurodiversity.



Health professionals should use the same rules to diagnose autism.

What we found out: Early intervention and support



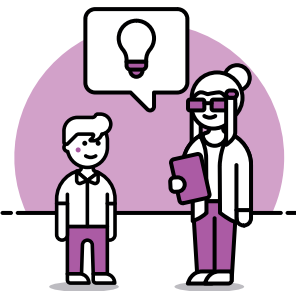
It needs to be easier for autistic children to get help early.



Families of autistic children need help to understand autism better.



Help for autistic children should not cost lots of money.

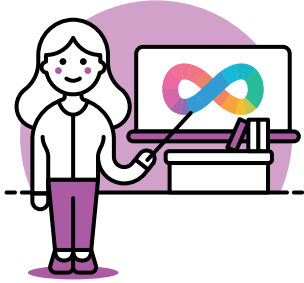


People who help autistic kids should know more about autism.



There needs to be more help for autistic children.

What we found out: Education



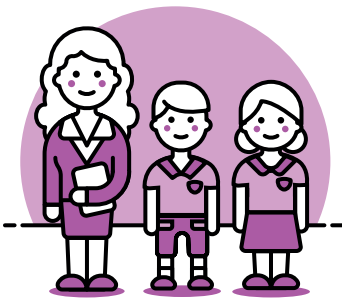
Teachers need help to learn more about autism.



Schools should be understanding of autistic people's sensory needs.



Schools should provide help and support to autistic students at school.



Schools should help people to be accepting of autistic students and include them in everything.

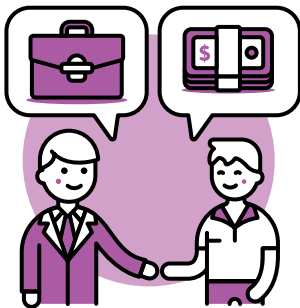
What we found out: Employment



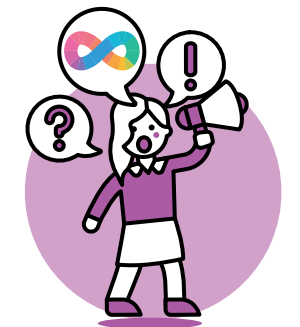
People at work should learn more about autism and be accepting and understanding of autistic people.



Workplaces should be suitable for autistic people and have the things they need to do their jobs.



Workplaces need to create more jobs for autistic people and find work that's right for them.



Workplaces should be more interested in hiring autistic people.

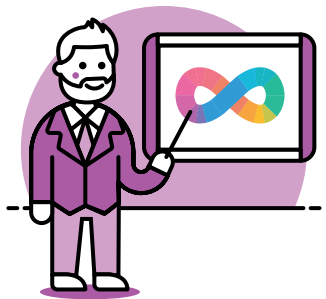


It needs to be easier for autistic people to apply for jobs.

What we found out: Housing



Homes need to be easier for autistic people to live in.



People who work in the government and in organisations need to know more about autism and what autistic people need.



There needs to be more homes that are good for autistic people to live in.



Autistic people should have more choices about where and how they live.

What we found out: Justice



People who work in the justice system need to know more about autism.



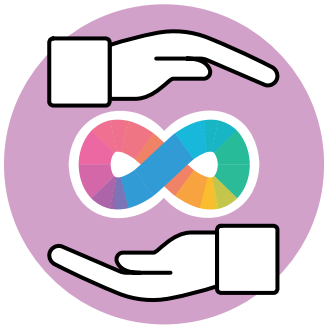
There needs to be a good way to diagnose autism or other conditions when people are in the justice system.



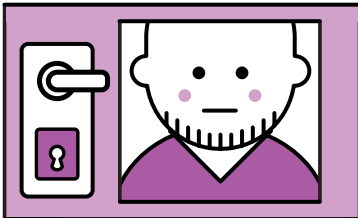
The justice system needs to be easier and better for autistic people to use and be part of.



Autistic people need support so they can use the justice system fairly.



Autistic people need to feel safe when they use the justice system.



There is a need to learn more about why autistic people end up in the justice system, as victims, offenders, or witnesses.

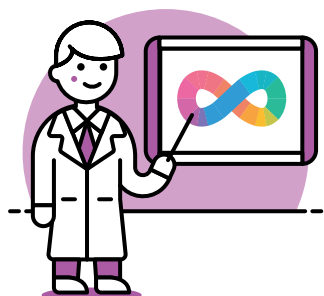


Research is needed to find ways to stop people from going to prison, and how to support them better if they do.

What we found out: Mental health services



Autistic people should be able to get mental health help when they need it, and it should not cost lots of money.



People who work in mental health should know more about autism and how to support autistic people.

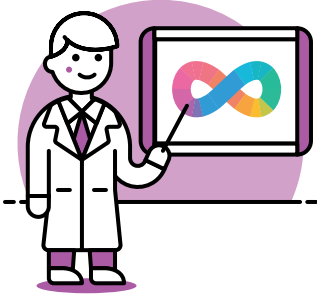


Mental health services should make changes so that autistic people can use their services.



Research is needed to learn more about why autistic people have more mental health problems than other people, and what can be done to change that.

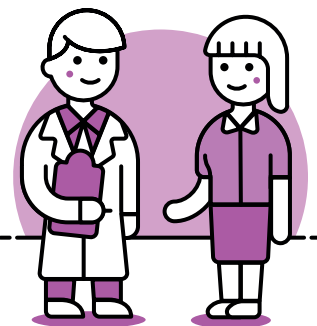
What we found out: Physical health services



People who work in health care need to learn more about autism.



Autistic people should be able to get medical care when they need it, and it should not cost lots of money.



Health services should listen to what autistic people and their supporters say and believe them when they talk about their health.



Health services should make changes and provide help so that autistic people can use their services.



Health services should be easy to use and should not be loud or have bright lights.

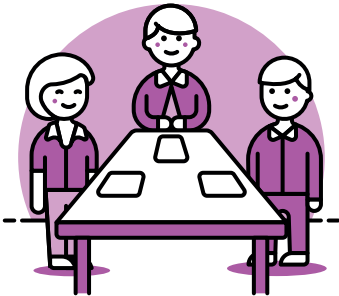


Research is needed to learn more about why autistic people have more health problems than other people, and what can be done to change this.

What needs to happen next



Autism CRC gave this information to the government.



This information can help the government decide what should be in the Strategy .

Our values



Inclusion

Valuing lived experience



Innovation

Solutions for long term challenges



Evidence

Truth in practice



Independence

Integrity through autonomy



Cooperation

Capturing opportunities together



AutismCRC

Independent national source of evidence for best practice



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