



**Government of
South Australia**

Our work in 2025

State Autism Strategy Action Plan 2025–2029

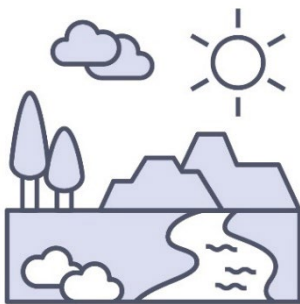
Easy Read version



Acknowledgement of Country



Aboriginal peoples are the First Peoples of South Australia.



They have always looked after Country.

Country means the land, water, sky and everything within them.



We respect the important connection that Aboriginal peoples have with Country.



And we respect their Elders from the past and now.

How to use this report



We are the Government of South Australia
Department of Human Services.

We wrote this report.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page **19**.



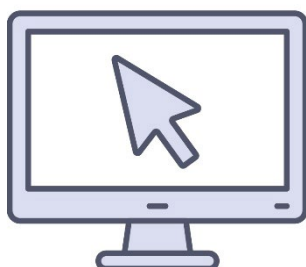
You can ask someone you trust for support to:

- read this report
- find more information.



This is an Easy Read summary of our report.

It only includes the most important ideas.



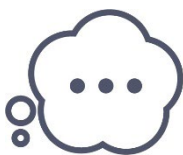
You can find our report on our website.

www.inclusive.sa.gov.au/our-work/state-disability-inclusion-plan/annual-reports

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About this report



Autism can affect how you:

- think
- feel
- communicate
- understand people.



This report is about the Autism Strategy Action Plan.

In this document we call it the Action Plan.



We made the Action Plan to help the government work towards the goals in the State Autism Strategy 2024–2029.



The State Autism Strategy explains the government's goals for how they will include Autistic people in the community.

We just call it the Strategy.

How we will talk about autism

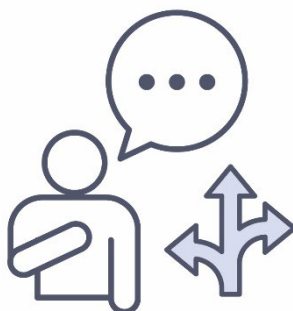


We asked people in the Autistic community what words they prefer to use to talk about themselves.



Many people told us they prefer the words 'Autistic people'.

We use these words in the Action Plan and this document.

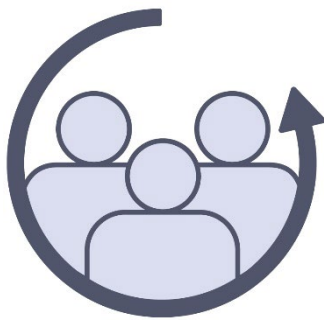


But we understand that each person might prefer different words for themselves.

About the Action Plan



The Action Plan is about making South Australia more **inclusive** for Autistic people.



When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.

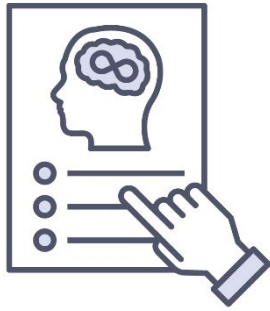


The Action Plan is also about making South Australia more **accessible**.



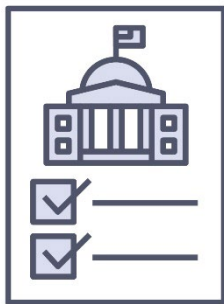
When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

- find and use things
- travel around.

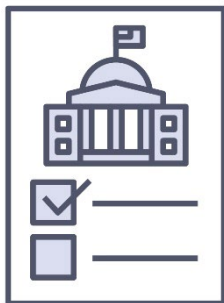


30 state government organisations need to follow the Action Plan.

The Action Plan includes actions for:



- every government organisation to work on



- some government organisations to work on.

What does this report focus on?



All 30 state government organisations filled out our survey about their work on the Action Plan this year.



They answered questions about 4 areas of their work.



1. Creating their own autism action plans



2. Sharing accessible action plans and using lived experience



3. Challenges creating action plans



4. Examples of work on the Action Plan

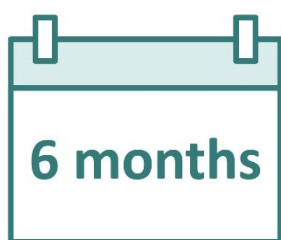


We explain each of these areas over the following pages.

1. Creating their own action plans



All 30 state government organisations need to have their own autism action plans.



They had 6 months to create their autism action plans.



But most government organisations needed more time to hear from the community.



20 autism action plans were ready by 30 June 2026.



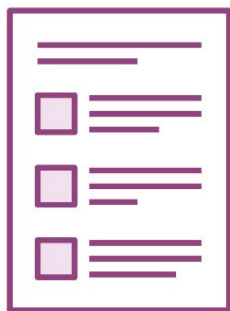
The other 10 autism action plans will be ready by 30 September 2026.

2. Sharing accessible action plans and using lived experience

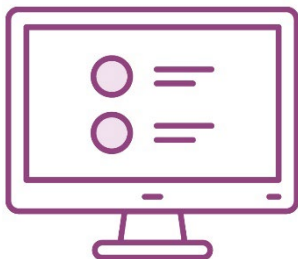


Most state government organisations are sharing their autism action plans in accessible formats.

For example:

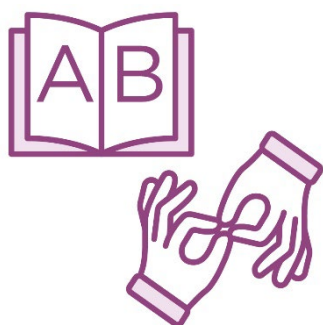


- 24 will be in Easy Read



- 24 will be in accessible **HTML**.

HTML is a way of creating web pages.



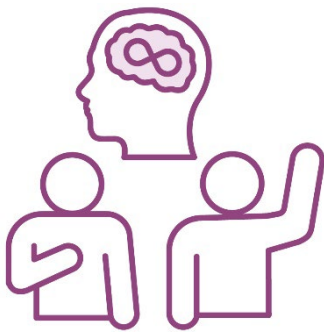
Some government organisations will also use other formats.

For example:

- large text
- Auslan videos.



State government organisations used **lived experience of autism** to know what to do.



Lived experience of autism means that you:

- have autism
- or
- know what life is like for an Autistic person.



14 government organisations heard from Autistic people who use their services.



15 government organisations used **advisory groups**.



An advisory group is a group of people who give advice about what:

- is working well
- needs to work better.



22 government organisations heard from their staff with lived experience.



13 government organisations heard from people in the community.



4 government organisations got help from experts to hear about lived experience.



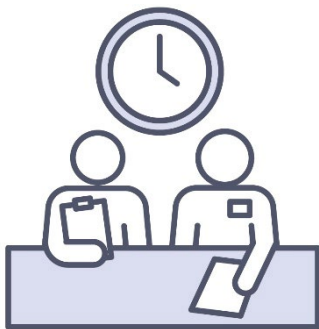
Some government organisations are still planning how they will get lived experience.

3. Challenges creating action plans

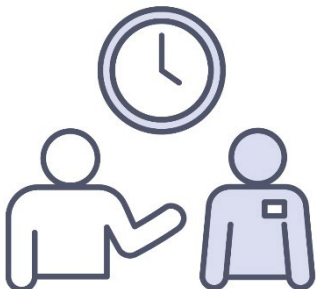


19 state government organisations told us they faced challenges in creating their autism action plans.

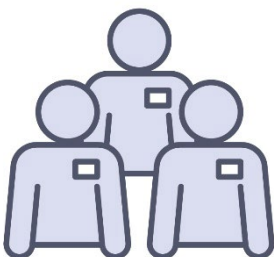
These challenges included not having enough:



- time to do the work



- time to hear form people with lived experience



- staff to do the work.



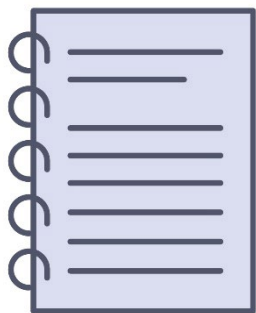
11 state government organisations told us they did not have challenges in creating their autism action plans.



Government organisations also told us about some things that helped them.

This included some things the Department of Human Services created.

For example:



- our guides



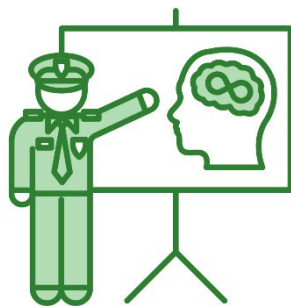
- our templates.

4. Examples of work on the Action Plan



State government organisations have worked to make South Australia more inclusive for Autistic people.

For example:



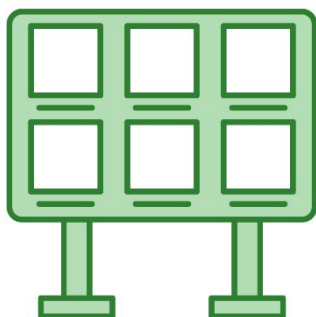
- training for the police about Autism



- programs to help Autistic people find jobs



- adding **communication boards** to help visitors at national parks.



Communication boards are boards with words and pictures.

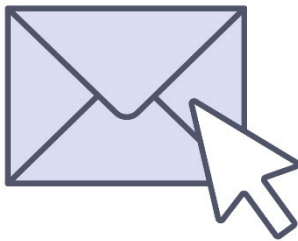
They help share important information with people who need support to communicate.

Contact us



You can call us.

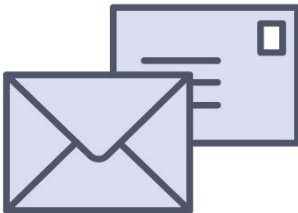
8429 7710



You can send us an email.

dhsdisabilityinclusion@sa.gov.au

You can write to us.

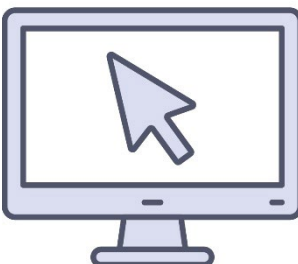


Disability Policy and Reform
Department of Human Services

Riverside Centre

GPO Box 292

Adelaide, SA 5001



You can visit the Inclusive SA website.

inclusive.sa.gov.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Accessible

When the community is accessible, it is easy to:

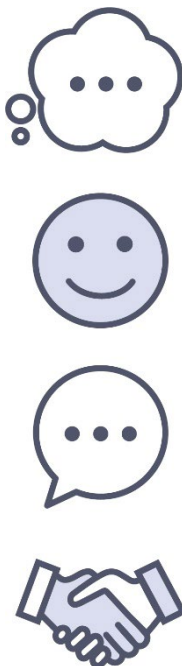
- find and use things
- travel around.



Advisory group

An advisory group is a group of people who give advice about what:

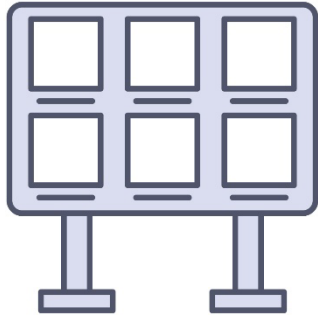
- is working well
- needs to work better.



Autism

Autism can affect how you:

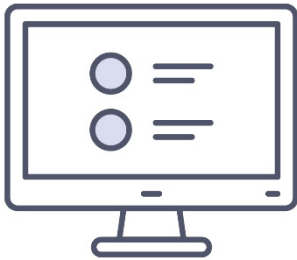
- think
- feel
- communicate
- understand people.



Communication board

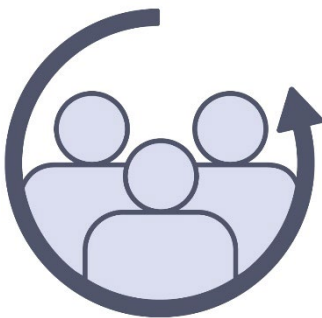
Communication boards are board with words and pictures.

They help share important information with people who need support to communicate.



HTML

HTML is a way of creating web pages.

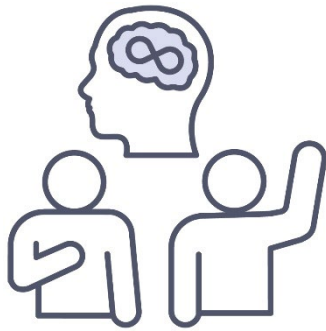


Inclusive

When the community is inclusive, everyone can:

- take part
- feel like they belong.

Lived experience of disability



Lived experience of disability means that you:

- have a disability
- or
- know what life is like for a person with disability.



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