

The Diagnosis and Management of Autism Spectrum Disorders

Phone 03 9594 6666 • Email autism.survey@rch.org.au
Developmental Disabilities Unit, 246 Monash Medical Centre, Clayton Road, Clayton 3168

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Dear Parent,

A team of researchers at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and Monash Children's is starting a new research project about the diagnosis and management of Autistic Spectrum Disorders like Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and other Pervasive Developmental Disorders. They want to learn more about parents' experiences, and how we can do better.

Why am I being asked?

You are being invited to participate in this project because your child has been diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the last year and a half.

What is this project about?

Having a child diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder can be difficult for families, but once the diagnosis is made we can start helping children and their families. The researchers want to know about your experiences before, during and after the diagnosis, and they hope to find out:

- How best to tell families the diagnosis.
- What information we should give families after the diagnosis.
- If we could make the diagnosis earlier in Australia.
- If families get enough help after the diagnosis.

What do I need to do now?

If you are interested in knowing more about this project, you don't need to do anything now – I will give the researchers your address and they will send you a letter and a questionnaire. After you get this information, you can decide if you want to take part or not.

What if I do not want to take part?

This letter has been sent from my office/rooms. Your details have not yet been provided to the research team. If you **do not** want to know more about the project, please fill out the form below, and return it in the reply paid envelope to my office/rooms **within the next 10 days**. You can also opt-out of the study by leaving a message for the research team by telephone or email (see contact details above and below). The research team will not tell me if you take part or not, and it is entirely your choice.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to email us at autism.survey@rch.org.au, or contact Dr Sabine Hennel from the research team by phone (03 9594 6666 and ask to leave a message for Dr Sabine Hennel) .

Yours sincerely

Dr <Paediatrician>

Parent Name	Child name	
Address		
Telephone Home	Mobile	
Email		
My Paediatrician's Name		