Aspect Schools
Giving children the opportunity to reach their full potential
We are passionate about people, about being positive and about what’s possible.
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Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia’s largest autism-specific service provider. We provide information, advice, support and education to give you the specific skills, resources and networks you need.
Established in 1966, Aspect’s specialised evidence-based autism educational program is one of the largest in the world. We work in partnership with individuals, families and communities to provide the best opportunities for people on the autism spectrum and their families.
Aspect runs one of the world’s largest autism-specific education program, with nine main schools, more than 100 satellite classes and approximately 1100 students.

Aspect schools enrol students on the spectrum from the age of 4 years, up to 17 years. The primary focus of Aspect schools is to equip students with the skills to become as independent as possible and enable them to transition into the wider community wherever possible.

Each Aspect school consists of a variety of classes. There are classes located at our administrative main sites and a range of satellite classes located at other school sites.

Locations include Northern Sydney, Western Sydney, South East Sydney, the Hunter Region, the Central Coast, the Riverina, the Macarthur Region, and the South Coast, as well as satellite classes in the Mid and Far North Coast of NSW. In 2016 we opened our first main school outside of NSW in Adelaide, SA.
Aspect Comprehensive Approach for Education (ACAE)

The ACAE recognises the need for specialised education intervention to meet the range of individual needs of all students and includes a specialised curriculum focussing on skills training underpinned by individual assessment and planning.

The ACAE aims to:
• develop students’ skills for continued education in the wider community
• maximise students’ learning potential and ability to adapt
• develop students’ self-regulatory abilities and independence

The ACAE helps students to develop their skills in four key areas:

- **social interaction**
  supporting students with their play, sharing and interaction skills and helping them to recognise and express their emotions

- **social communication**
  supporting students who have little or no verbal communication skills to develop their own communication style; helping children with good verbal skills to interpret facial expressions and gestures and to use clear and concise language

- **sensory processing**
  supporting students by modifying the impact of their environment or by increasing their levels of tolerance to environmental factors

- **behaviours**
  acknowledging the diverse support and developmental needs of students on the spectrum. System supports include staff training, a multi-disciplinary team approach and family involvement

Aspect Schools
Aspect
Comprehensive Approach for Education

Evidence-Informed Practice

- Curriculum
- Individualised Planning
- Environmental Supports
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Learning Support Team
- Professional Learning
- Structured Teaching Approaches
- Supported Transition & Inclusion
- Family Involvement & Support
Individual Plan

As part of the Aspect Comprehensive Approach for Education, students work to an Individual Plan (IP). With the support of their parents, teachers and professionals, each student develops their own IP, which highlights the learning style, techniques and supports most appropriate to his or her needs.

All IP based outcomes are taught in conjunction with the Curriculum Key Learning Areas; English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment, History and Geography, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (Primary School) and in High School - English, Mathematics, Creative Arts, Languages, Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Science.

We also deliver the Life skills curriculum in NSW, where required for Stage 4 & 5 (High School).

Each student’s IP promotes a positive learning environment that focuses on his or her strengths and interests.

“It’s so wonderful to see such an individualised focus… clear and tailored specifically to Jacob’s skill set and needs.”
The decision to transition a student is based on the student’s ability to work in a less specialised setting and is made as part of their Individual Plan.

A student might start at an Aspect main school, transition to a satellite class, and then into a mainstream setting or support class. This is dependent on the needs and abilities of the student, and is based on the Individual Plan agreed on by the student, the parents or carers, school staff and other relevant professionals.

After transition we provide ongoing support to students, their families and the receiving school to help them to succeed in their new environment.

Currently
1 in 5 students transition from Aspect Schools to less specialised school settings
A key feature of the ACAE is helping children to transition into more inclusive settings wherever possible. These settings include mainstream classes and support classes, or special schools.
Satellite classes

In 1992 Aspect established its first satellite unit. A satellite class is an Aspect autism-specific class operated by an Aspect school and located in a host school. In NSW this is either a Department of Education, Catholic mainstream school or an Independent School. This model for the satellite class system was developed by Aspect and has been very successful.

Generally, satellite classes cater for students on the autism spectrum who have lower support needs and could benefit from integration with a mainstream education setting. Student placement is directly related to their skill development and support needs at that time.

Satellite classes are an important step in the transition process for students on the spectrum who demonstrate the necessary skills for greater independence. Each school in NSW has a suite of infants and primary satellite classes. Some schools also have a secondary satellite class.

As well as the regions covered by our main schools, we have satellite classes in the Far and mid North Coast of NSW. See our website for the latest listings.
Our 9 main schools:

- Aspect Central Coast School (Terrigal, NSW)
- Aspect Hunter School (Thornton, NSW)
- Aspect Macarthur School (Cobbitty, NSW)
- Aspect Riverina School (Albury, NSW)
- Aspect South Coast School (Corrimal, NSW)
- Aspect South East Sydney School (Peakhurst, NSW)
- Aspect Treetop School (Adelaide, SA)
- Aspect Vern Barnett School (Forestville, NSW)
- Aspect Western Sydney School (Wetherill Park, NSW)
Additional Services

- Diagnosis Disclosure Programs
- School Consultancy
- Student Workshops
- Customised Learning and Development Courses for parents and professionals
- Social Clubs

School based, in-service professional development for teachers
Aspect Education Outreach supports the ongoing successful inclusion of children and young people in mainstream schools, support units, special schools and across the wider community, in collaborative partnership with their parents, schools and other professionals.

Programs and supports include:

• School-based support - whole school approach and individual student focused, peer education and group programs;
• Community based social supports - local social clubs and integration in community based activities;
• Individual supports - diagnosis disclosure, home education support, strengths/talent focused supports/programs;
• Professional learning - customised workshops based on school identified learning needs, evidence-informed content and practical application for the whole school, classrooms and other environments. Many of the Aspect professional learning programs have been accredited with NESA.

Through Education Outreach we provide a range of direct and indirect services to children, adolescents, families, schools, and the broader community. Our service complements the transition of students from Aspect’s schools to more inclusive mainstream settings.
Aspect practice, including the ACAE is based on evidence. We are in the unique position of being able to take the latest research and findings, and apply them within the classrooms to provide autism practice that works.

Aspect schools have been involved in a number of research projects over the last five years; to evaluate a number of interventions with the aim of including positive strategies into the ACAE.

Aspect has established a model class program within each Aspect school. Each model class has a team of specialist staff and associated resources to demonstrate their evidence informed interventions to others.

Each model Class includes; resources related to the specific intervention, trained staff, a workshop program, including a mentoring program for visitors, and accreditation for training teachers, ongoing evaluation and publications.

All Aspect Schools practise all interventions; however, each school has chosen one intervention in which to specialise.
Some of our model classes are:

**LAMP**
(Language Acquisition through Motor Planning)
Aspect South Coast School

**Secret Agents Society Program**
Aspect South East Sydney School and Aspect Central Coast School

**iPads in the classroom**
Aspect Hunter School

**Pivotal Response Training**
Aspect Western Sydney School

**Structured Teaching**
Aspect Macarthur School
How to enrol in an Aspect school

Aspect Schools are open to children on the autism spectrum, aged between 4 and 17 years. We hold regular information sessions at each school to answer your questions and provide enrolment application forms.

You apply for an Aspect school, not a specific class. In collaboration with the family and observations, the school determines which class is best suited to any individual.

Requests for applications and referrals to schools may be made either by parents or by service providers in consultation with parents.

A non-refundable processing fee is required for each application submitted.

Enrolment applications are assessed and approved by an Aspect Schools’ enrolment committee.
Aspect schools are funded in part by the State and Federal Government, which has specific criteria for placement. To be eligible for placement in one of Aspect’s schools, prospective students must have the following:

1. Australian citizenship or permanent residency of Australia

in NSW we require a current diagnosis of autism from a specialist medical officer or clinical psychologist (which is not more than two years old) and a current psychological assessment.

2. in South Australia we require a second report from a Psychologist or Speech Pathologist to confirm the diagnosis and an education report.
School fees

A student’s placement at one of our schools is partially funded by the State and Federal Governments. However, these contributions do not cover all the costs of our specialised approach to autism education. The balance of the cost of each place is met through school fees.

We provide a discounted school fee for siblings of an existing student.

With community support, we are able to offer a limited number of sponsored places for eligible students, subject to relative need and availability, and, in exceptional circumstances may provide a fee reduction for a short period of time. This broadens access to Aspect School services to families who would otherwise not be able to afford the fees.

Our current fee schedule is available from your local Aspect School or from our website – aspect.org.au.

Conditions outlined in this brochure are subject to change.
Aspect Schools

Aspect Central Coast School
75 Duffy’s Road
Terrigal NSW 2260

Aspect Hunter School
3 Kooralbyn Street
Thornton NSW 2322

Aspect Macarthur School
229 Macquarie Grove Road
Cobbitty NSW 2570

Aspect Riverina School
437 Olive Street
Albury NSW 2640

Aspect South Coast School
4 Wilford Street
Corrimal NSW 2518

Aspect South East Sydney School
Monterra Avenue
South Peakhurst NSW 2210

Aspect Treetop School
87 Anzac Highway
Ashford SA 5035

Aspect Vern Barnett School
41 Cook Street
Forestville NSW 2087

Aspect Western Sydney School
295 Victoria Street
Wetherill Park NSW 2164