

Aspect Comprehensive Approach for Education

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is committed to implementing the Aspect Comprehensive Approach (ACA) as the framework that underpins all services, education and supports Aspect provides. The ACA focusses Aspect on improving the quality of life for people on the autism spectrum by working together with students / participants and their families. It comprises the Five Point Star and Eight Elements.

Principles that Underpin the ACA

1. It is applicable to all people on the autism spectrum.
2. Interventions support all areas of the person's development and are based on assessment and evaluation of individual needs.
3. The approach is positive and supportive (rather than a deficit approach), acknowledging the strengths and interests of people on the autism spectrum.
4. The approach involves cooperation and collaboration between the person, the person's family and professionals.
5. The approach is based on ongoing reference to research and literature, and may therefore be inclusive of other interventions.

Five Point Star

At the centre of the ACA is the Five Point Star (adapted from Autism Initiatives UK), an autism specific, person centred approach focusing on the strengths and interests of the person on the spectrum. It supports Aspect staff to develop an understanding of autism and the individual they work with, with a particular focus on: thinking, communication, expectation, motivation, and sensory. The Five Point Star supports staff to consider the perspective of the person to shape positive interactions and to achieve progress towards goals and aspirations. It also builds the relationship between the participant and the staff member which allows adjustments to be made to improve outcomes for the student / participant.

Eight Elements of the ACA

The eight elements of the ACA, (outlined in Attachment 1) accord with recommendations found in comprehensive reviews of research and evidence-informed practice. The elements are:

1. Individual Planning;
2. Learning and Participation;
3. Structured Supports;
4. Positive Behaviour Support;

5. Health and Wellbeing;
6. Specialist Collaboration;
7. Transition and Inclusion;
8. Family and Community Engagement.

ACA Research to Practice Model

Aspect is committed to implementing and continuously improving its ACA. Aspect Research has developed the ACA Research to Practice Model to guide program evaluation, continuous improvement projects, and dissemination of findings to inform practice improvements.

External Framework

The ACA policy illustrates how Aspect services uphold the standards of the NSDS in:

- Standard 1: Rights by the framework that supports self-determination by the student / participant; optimal environments and family involvement in supports and planning;
- Standard 2: Participation and Inclusion by the use of individual planning, collaboration and inclusion focus through supports, skills teaching and adjustments;
- Standard 3: Individual Outcomes as services and supports are assessed, planned, delivered and reviewed to build on individual strengths and goal achievement;
- Standard 4: Feedback and complaints by the emphasis on student / participant and family relationships and communications with Aspect staff, leading to continuous improvement;
- Standard 5: Service Access through the consideration of individual needs and optimal environments, including communication needs, meeting expectations, collaboration with specialists and a focus on transitions and inclusion;
- Standard 6; Service Management in the contemporary practice and evidence-based person-centred management of services, inclusive of an emphasis on staff training and family collaboration.

The ACA policy upholds the areas of the Disability Standards for Education 2005 in the responsibilities of the schools and educational outreach to support students and their families in their individual needs in the following standards areas:

- Part 3: Making reasonable adjustments;
- Part 5: Standards of participation;
- Part 6: Standards for curriculum development, accreditation and delivery;
- Part 7: Standards for student support services; and
- Part 9: Treatment of a person who has an associate with a disability.

Legislation References

National

Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)
Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017 (Cth)
Disability Services Act 1986 (Cth)
Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)
National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)
National Disability Services Standards 2014 (Cth)

New South Wales

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW)
Disability Service Standards 2013 (NSW)
Education Act 1990 (NSW)
Teacher Accreditation Act 2004 (NSW)

Victoria

Disability Act 2006 (VIC)
Human Services Standards Victoria (VIC)

South Australia

Disability Services Act 1993 (SA)
Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act 2013 (SA)
Education Act 1972 (SA)
Education (Compulsory Education Age) Amendment Act 2007 (SA)
Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (SA)
Teachers Registration and Standards Act 2004 (SA)

Australia Capital Territory

Disability Services Act 1991 (ACT)

Attachment 1

Eight Elements of the ACA



*Based on Autism Initiatives (UK) Five Point Star