

The following is visual representation of Aspect's **evolution** as an organisation, from its initial inception by a group of progressive parents to a nationally recognised peak body organisation providing autism-specific education and services to people on the autism spectrum of all ages.

2020

Disability Action Inclusion Plan (DIAP) and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) launched.

2019

Julie Hamblin, Chair of the Board, officially opened the Aspect Assessment & Therapy Centre in Flemington, Victoria.

Aspect and the Autism CRC announced the collaboration to deliver the Future Leaders program for 2019 and 2020.

Aspect launches the Aspect Research Centre for Autism Practice (ARCAP)

2018

Leadership Development Program (LEAD) released for emerging leaders in Education.

Certificate of Verification (TPV) against National Standards for Disability Services in NSW.

Product Conformity Certificates

- National Standards for Disability Services in Victoria
- Department of Human Services standards in Victoria

Aspect passed the National Standards for Disability Services (NSDS) audit in all states and services.

Disability Action Inclusion Plan commenced with ASAN.

2017

New feedback and complaints processes implemented

Work commenced on Reconciliation Action Plan

Aspect & Autism Initiatives sign an MOU to form an international alliance.

Quiet Hour was launched in 68 Coles Supermarkets nationwide as a result of a partnership between Aspect and Coles with widespread positive publicity.

Services offered by Aspect Choose and Connect Victoria commenced at the new respite facility at Werbee in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.

Aspect hosted the Asia Pacific Autism Conference at the International Convention Centre, Sydney with over 1311 delegates

Aspect's national flagship event - *Walk for autism* - held for the first time

2016

Implementation of Aspect online risk management system, RiskMan, commenced.

Resulted in automation of recording incidents, complaints and feedback, quality improvement initiatives, corporate risk management, and policy framework documentation register.

Accreditation against ISO 9001

Audit findings noted evidence of Aspect's framework to support continual improvement and a commitment to manage and enhance quality performance. Evidence sighted included the continuing rollout of the RiskMan system.

Policy Framework

Aspect started to transition its policy framework to align with the National Standards for Disability Services.

Aspect adopted the National Standards for Disability Services (to replace ISO in Victoria and NDSS in NSW).

Formal Performance Planning and Review process implemented for all management and non-award staff.

Accreditation against ISO 9001 Quality Management System Standards and the Department of Health and Human Services Standards achieved in Victoria.

Governance Committee created to provide advice to the Board on all significant governance matters, oversight of Aspect's Policy Documentation Framework and manage Board succession.

Governance Committee approved 17 overarching policies forming the basis of Aspect's new policy documentation framework.

Simulated Incident Management Exercise training delivered in all schools.

Safe and Secure Schools training.

The launch of the Australian Autism Alliance of which Aspect is an Alliance Partner along with eight other organisations.

The Aspect Treetop School, Ashford, South Australia was officially opened by Julie Hamblin, Chair of the Aspect Board - Aspect's ninth school and its first service in South Australia.

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) and EPIC Assist sign a strategic alliance to develop new employment opportunities for people on the spectrum.

Aspect hosted the Second National Autism in Education Conference held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Victoria and attended by 640 delegates

2015

Safeguarding the People We Support Committee expanded to include adults

- Oversees the implementation of the Aspect Culture of Safety and Wellbeing principles

Aspect signed an IP Agreement with Autism Initiatives (UK) giving Aspect exclusive access to Autism Initiatives Five Point Star in Australia, a person-centred autism-specific framework.

2014

Product Conformity Certificate - Department of Human Services standards in Victoria.

First Third Party Verification Audit against National Disability Service Standards in NSW.

Aspect's Quality Management Review committee established, retired in 2018 and absorbed into Strategic Executive meeting.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Review Committee recommended:

- Staff induction to include Aspect's Child Care and Protection Policy.
- Creation of new learning & development modules to ensure all staff receive a consistent and comprehensive overview of child protection and reporting obligations.
 - Development of a refresher module on child protection obligations to be completed annually by staff working with children and young people.
- Training outcomes are to ensure that staff are alert to the risk factors of abuse and neglect both in Aspect services and the wider community.

Alpha Autism in Victoria integrated into Aspect

The Board approves the establishment of the annual Aspect Practice National Research Seminar for Leaders in the Field of Autism Research which will replace the Research & Innovation Committee. The first seminar took place on 21 November.

The Inaugural National Aspect Autism in Education Conference held at the Australian Technology Park, Sydney attended by 451 participants.

Aspect commences delivering services under the NDIS as part of the Hunter NDIS trial site.

Aspect Choose & Connect commences as a new model for working with adults on the spectrum as Aspect prepares for the NDIS and consistent with its person-centred focus.

2013

Safeguarding Children and Young People Review Committee established

Aspect goes national by launching Aspect Practice, its first national program to share its evidence-informed practice and its applied research in the field of autism.

Aspect Hurstville commenced operation for adult services replacing the Bexley and Ailawah sites.

Implementation of Aspect's Learning Management System (LMS) to support delivery and learning and assessment management. The course portfolio was expanded to include on-demand modules including Child Protection.

Safeguarding Committee established.

New Vision, Mission and Values launched to reflect person-centred, family-focused and market-driven approach.

Aspect Practice launched We Belong Too Adolescents with Asperger's Disorder and high functioning autism: experiences, needs and service requirements - research report released.

2012

We Belong: A Study of the Experiences, Needs and Aspirations of Adults with High Functioning Autism (HFA) or Asperger's research report released.

Research into the Impact on Diagnostic Outcomes of Proposed DSM-5 Revision research findings published.

2011

The Parental and Community Engagement (PaCE) Project entitled: "Aboriginal People Talking up Autism" to deliver autism workshops across NSW based on the needs of the local Aboriginal communities.

Aspect delivers a high-level educational consultancy to the Victoria Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) to support the Victorian Government's implementation of their new Autism Inclusion Support Program (ISP) in six Victorian schools.

Aspect Riverina School was opened by Judy Brewer, former co-patron of Aspect.

Aspect Macarthur School was opened by the Mayor of Camden Cr Chris Patterson.

2010

Aspect achieved accreditation by the NSW Institute of Teachers for the courses offered by Educational Outreach.

The official opening of the newly renovated Aspect South East Sydney School Peakhurst Unit.

2009

Aspect co-hosted with the Australian Advisory Board on ASD the first Asia Pacific Autism Conference 2009 (APAC 09) at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre, Sydney with over 1600 delegates.

2008

Launch of the Helping Children with Autism package.

Re-aiding of Aspect's Employment and Accommodation Service for Adult to Sunshine Homes.

Aspect hosted its first Aspect Research Forum.

2007

Building Education Revolution funding projects at all Aspect schools 2007-2010.

Official opening of the Aspect Altonville office in Northern NSW.

2006

Staff Code of Conduct introduced.

Establishment of the Client Services Committee of the Board.

In 2011 it was proposed this committee become the Strategic Think-Tank on Aspect's Client Priorities, which later became the Strategy Group then the Strategy Committee which still exists now.

2005

The Autism Association of NSW became Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect).

2001

Aspect Policy Committee established.

Development of Aspect Comprehensive Approach for Education commenced.

1998

The Autistic Association of NSW became the Autism Association of NSW.

1994

The South East Sydney School was opened by The Hon Virginia Chadwick MLC, Minister for Education. (Now known as the Aspect South East Sydney School)

1991

The Association opened its new school building for Western Sydney School. (Now known as the Aspect Western Sydney School)

Aspect's first satellite class opens at Belrose Public School

1985

The Association opened a school in the Illawarra at Cringilla. (Now known as the Aspect South Coast School)

1984

The Autistic Children's Association of NSW became the Autistic Association of NSW.

The Association opened its first school in Western Sydney. (Now known as the Aspect Western Sydney School)

1983

The school on the Central Coast of NSW was opened by Brian McGowan BA MP. (Now known as the Aspect Central Coast School)

1977

The Association opened its first school in Newcastle. (Now known as the Aspect Hunter School)

1971

The first school of the Association was opened by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. William McMahon. (Now known as the Aspect Vern Barnett School)

1969

The Autistic Children's Association of NSW became a public company.

1967

The Association opened its first ever school class at Belrose.

1966

The first official meeting the Autistic Children's Association of NSW.