

FRC901520



9 May 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the commission. As a tertiary assessment service and part of the network of autism assessment teams in CAMHS and CYMHS services across Victoria we are increasingly concerned about the provision of services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and their families. Higher prevalence rates and increased recognition of autism spectrum disorders have resulted in a greater demand for services and longer waiting times for children and families.

Some of our further concerns are as follows –

- The increased focus on tertiary services seeing only the most complex children despite a lack of Tier 2 services.
- The difficulty families may have in navigating the system and understanding the various assessment options.
- The regionalisation of the autism assessment teams and the inequities this creates. Some areas, such as ours have a population that is low SES and have many growth corridors, which results in an increased need for services for young families. The different referral criteria and assessment processes for each of the teams also varies greatly.
- The difficulty families have in accessing NDIS following a diagnosis and the associated time that many parents have to wait prior to accessing intervention.
- The limitations around ongoing support, particularly for those children who are not eligible for NDIS funding.

Please feel free to contact us on [REDACTED] should you require any further information.

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