



# Western Australian Autism Diagnosticians' Forum, Inc

A collaborative, cross-disciplinary and cross-sectorial approach  
to maintaining diagnostic excellence

[www.waadf.org.au](http://www.waadf.org.au)



## WAADF's Goals

- Define & promote state-wide assessment & diagnostic standards & guidelines
- Encourage active review & sharing of resources & information
- Promote provision of objective & comprehensive information to families
- Act as an advocacy voice in regard to assessment & diagnostic matters

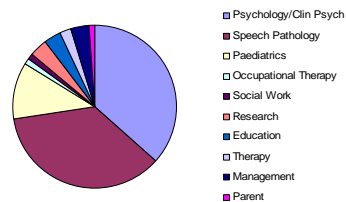


## Meeting the Goals

- Assessment & Standards Booklets
- Membership Support & Development
- Website
- Specialist Assessor Training
- Newsletter
- Community Advocacy
- Funding Options

## WAADF Membership

### Disciplines



### Organizations & Sectors

- ✓Disability Services Commission
- ✓Health Department
- ✓Education - public & private
- ✓Autism Association
- ✓Private diagnostic service providers
- ✓Public funded intervention service providers
- ✓Private intervention service providers
- ✓Parent representative

## Why is WAADF Important?

- Has been responsible for documentation of agreed standards & descriptions of best practice for assessment & diagnosis in WA
- Supports broad collaboration across disciplines & sectors
- These factors ensure best practices & highest quality service for families
- Accurate assessment & diagnosis is the first step in seeking ASD related service provision in WA
- Entrance to funded ASD EI services is dependent on diagnostic outcome



## ASD Assessment & Diagnostic Process in WA

- Diagnosis is by team of experienced clinicians
- Team comprised 3 "core" disciplines who can address the DSM criteria

**< 12 years,**  
**team comprises**  
✓Paediatrician  
✓Speech Pathologist  
✓Psychologist/  
Clinical Psychologist

**>12 years,**  
**team comprises**  
✓Paediatrician  
( up to 17 yrs ) &/or  
✓Psychiatrist  
✓Clinical Psychologist  
Speech Pathologist  
consult if needed

- Teams - **Multidisciplinary** (usually govt agencies with clinicians in one location) or **Collaborative** (usually private practice with members in different locations)
- Social Work & Occupational Therapy included where possible

## WAADF's Publications



- Standards & Guidelines published in 2005 - 2 versions
- Recognized by WA state agencies
- Taken into consideration by agencies when reviewing referral information & determining eligibility for services