



Strategic Plan 2011 - 2014

VISION

The Western Australian Diagnostician's Forum aims to inform practitioners of new developments in the assessment and diagnostic process, establish standards for consistent practice across WA, facilitate interpretation of diagnostic criteria, inform practitioners of service delivery and research developments, and provide opportunity for case discussion. The Forum also aims to help make the assessment process easily accessible to families.

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
Research	1. To develop a culture of evidence based practice
	2. To encourage members to engage in data collection and participant recruitment for existing research
	3. To improve member awareness of financial support for research and study
Families	1. To provide information to individuals and families on the assessment process
	2. To support professionals to communicate assessment results to individuals and families in an understandable and timely manner
	3. To support individuals and families with a recent diagnosis with adjustment and coping
Education	1. To educate families and community members on the diagnostic process for ASD
	2. To develop position papers on a range of topics
	3. To formalise the training and accreditation of autism assessors
	4. To provide professional development reflecting the needs of members
Membership	1. To motivate current members to remain as financial members
	2. To encourage members to become more involved at an individual level
	3. To increase the membership base including broadening the scope of professionals included in both diagnosis and intervention
Advocacy	1. To increase psychiatric contribution to WAADF and the diagnostic process
	2. To increase consistency of diagnostic process among WA clinicians
	3. Establish links with key agencies to ensure WAADF is consulted in decisions affecting diagnostic process



Strategic Plan – Key Focus Area: Research 2011 - 2014

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
RESEARCH	1. To develop a culture of evidence based practice
	2. To encourage members to engage in data collection and participant recruitment for existing research
	3. To improve member awareness of financial support for research and study

KEY FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
RESEARCH	Encourage presenters to distribute reference lists along with presentations. Preferably, but not necessarily peer-reviewed journals
	Facilitate understanding of evidence based practice amongst parents and families (e.g. FAQ to ask assessors/therapists)
	Establish focus groups targeting areas of research to feedback to other members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Genetics & Biological topics - Standardised assessments/screening tools - Diagnosis in very young children - Diagnosis in adolescents/adults Members to sign up for 'journal watch' and flag good articles to other members (at forum or on web site)
	Establish journal club for discussion of articles Gauge member interest in this – suitable times/format
	Develop database of scholarship and grant sources and make available to members
	Establish links with research organisations (tertiary institutes, TICHR). Encourage them to contact WAADF for participant recruitment in studies. Link to PhD, Masters projects and universities and bigger studies through external bodies
	Keep members informed of upcoming research based conferences/forums (eg. SPA, Autism Vic, National, International) Maintain list on web, update at forums Encourage feedback from conferences (WAADF financial grant for attendance at conference by application process?)



Strategic Plan – Key Focus Area: Families 2011 - 2014

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
FAMILIES	1. To provide information to individuals and families on the assessment process
	2. To support professionals to communicate assessment results to individuals and families in an understandable and timely manner
	3. To support individuals and families with a recent diagnosis with adjustment and coping

KEY FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
FAMILIES	Create an information source showing assessment options and procedures with both public and private options, in clear language. Resource to be available on website and in hard copy
	Provide report templates to professionals via the web forum (members only)
	Provide professional development on report writing and comprehension by readers
	Provide information on evidence based publications on ASD information (diagnosis and intervention) on the website and through professional development
	Provide means for families to connect with each other and with professionals through contact lists and public forum
	Develop a document of 'first step' general suggestions post diagnosis (connecting with agencies, web links, parent support agencies, links to research)



Strategic Plan – Key Focus Area: Education 2011 - 2014

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
EDUCATION	1. To educate families and community members on the diagnostic process for ASD
	2. To develop position papers on a range of topics
	3. To formalise the training and accreditation of autism assessors
	4. To provide professional development reflecting the needs of members

KEY FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
EDUCATION	<p>Educate relevant stakeholders on best-practice diagnostic processes (allied health, paediatricians, teachers, child care etc) through distribution of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resources for sharing information, e.g., Assessment Process Flyer, Booklet - Website forums - Forum Meetings & PD presentations
	Review previously published WAADF documents (eg. assessment guidelines) and ensure currency and relevance
	<p>Develop position papers on 5 topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Report Templates b. DSM Criteria (with particular attention to DSM V transition) c. Severity Ratings d. Collaborative Assessment Processes e. Review Assessments Processes
	Collaborate with tertiary institution to develop formal autism assessor training
	Survey professional development needs of members and develop a calendar of events with relevant and educational case presentations and speakers. Link to other professional bodies providing education pertaining to the autism spectrum (e.g. APS, SPA, TICHR)



Strategic Plan – Key Focus Area: Membership 2011 - 2014

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
MEMBERSHIP	1. To motivate current members to remain as financial members
	2. To encourage members to become more involved at an individual level
	3. To increase the membership base including broadening the scope of professionals included in both diagnosis and intervention

KEY FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
MEMBERSHIP	Liaise with professional bodies to advocate for CPD points for financial membership and promote this to membership
	Streamline the process of becoming a member (review incorporation/constitution and membership nomination process)
	Develop guidelines for presenting at forums to encourage involvement from a broader base of members
	Explore options for inclusion of regional assessors
	Continue to review meeting accessibility with regards to venues, parking, location and room size
	Facilitate networking amongst members, particularly at a multidisciplinary level



Strategic Plan – Key Focus Area: Advocacy 2011 - 2014

KEY FOCUS AREA	OBJECTIVES
ADVOCACY	1. To increase psychiatric contribution to WAADF and the diagnostic process
	2. To increase consistency of diagnostic process among WA clinicians
	3. Establish links with key agencies to ensure WAADF is consulted in decisions affecting diagnostic process

KEY FOCUS AREA	ACTIONS
ADVOCACY	Initiate relationships with psychiatrists in the public and private sector. Make contact at an individual or organisational level and encourage participation at a board or membership level
	Improve marketing as the 'peak body for ASD diagnosis in WA'
	Liaise with external agencies (SPA, APS, FaHCSIA via Autism Advisor, DSC) to ensure WAADF representation or voice in decisions regarding the diagnostic process.
	Distribute updated report writing guidelines to encourage consistency among WA clinicians