

BACKGROUND

In January 2025, Australia's first [National Autism Strategy 2025–31](#) (the Strategy) and [First Action Plan 2025–26](#) (the Action Plan) were released. The goal of the Strategy is 'to improve the quality of life for all Autistic people in a way that is meaningful to them'. The Strategy is underpinned by guiding principles such as in partnership with Autistic people, universal design and accessibility, self-determination, inclusivity, safety, and neurodiversity-affirming practice. The Action Plan provides further details on the actions related to the commitments outlined in the Strategy.

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (the Department) has engaged Healthcare Management Advisors and Amaze to support the delivery of key actions under the Action Plan, specifically:

'to deliver Actions 11.1, 12.1 and 12.2 as outlined in the First Action Plan.'

PROJECT SCOPE

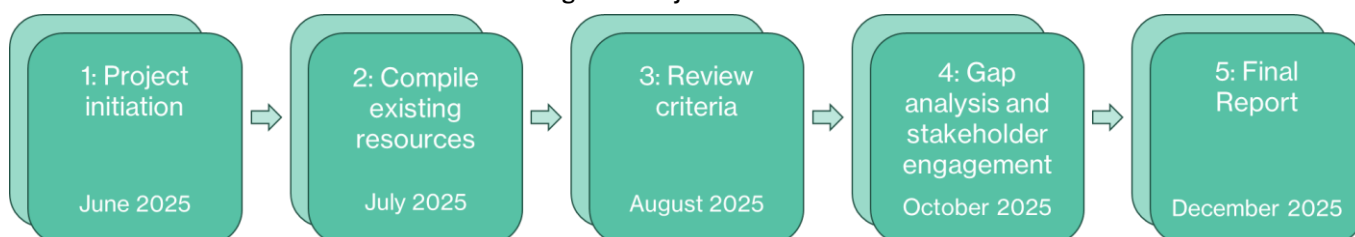
This project aims to support the Department's implementation of diagnosis, services, and supports focused actions 11.1, 12.1 and 12.2 as outlined in the Action Plan. These actions have a common policy direction to:

- Improve awareness of, and access to, respectful assessment and diagnosis, including identification and early diagnosis. This includes a review of professional training and development programs.
- Improve information and support to navigate the assessment and diagnosis process. This includes a review of Australian and international resources available to medical and other allied health professionals and educators, researchers and individuals, families and carers to navigate the identification, assessment and diagnosis process.
- Increase quality, timely, neurodiversity-affirming and equitable access to services and supports for Autistic people and their families and carers. This includes evaluating resources and scoping the development of pre- and post-diagnosis information packages for individuals and their families and carers.

PROJECT METHOD

The review commenced in June 2025 and is scheduled for completion in December 2025. Figure 1 presents a high-level overview of the review methodology and timing.

Figure 1: Project method



- **Stage 1 – Project initiation:** Confirm the review approach in consultation with the Department, including communication protocols, stakeholder lists and data collection techniques
- **Stage 2 – Compile existing resources:** Develop a comprehensive portfolio for each action. Key tasks include:
 - Commence creating portfolios of existing materials
 - Screen results using inclusion/exclusion criteria
 - Conduct preliminary consultations with organisations that either produce training programs and resources or represent a key audience
- **Stage 3 – Review framework:** Develop, finalise and apply review criteria to assess the quality and completeness of resources. Key tasks include:
 - Draft review criteria and seek feedback from Amaze’s panel of experts and the Strategy Reference Group
 - Finalise and apply the amended review criteria to the training programs, navigational resources, and resource packages identified within the portfolios of existing materials
- **Stage 4 – Gap analysis and stakeholder engagement:** Synthesise review findings to identify gaps and strengths. Key tasks include:
 - Consultations with over 60 stakeholders, including health professionals (including Autistic professionals), subject matter experts, Autistic-led and advisory organisations, organisations performing autism assessments (public and private), government departments, disability representative organisations, parents, families, and LGBTIQ+ support organisations
 - Engage with the Autistic community through focus groups and a lived experience survey
 - Prepare a progress report and present findings to the Strategy Reference Group
- **Stage 5 – Final report:** Prepare the Final Report and deliver capability training to the Department

KEY CONTACTS

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