

**Minister for Disability Services and Community Development**  
**Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**  
**Minister for Sport and Recreation**  
**Minister for Women**

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Cassie Xintavelonis  
Chair, Autism Advisory Panel  
Bellerive Health Hub  
3/33 Cambridge Rd  
Bellerive TAS 7018

Dear Ms Xintavelonis

As Minister for Disability Services and Community Development, I would like to thank you for your contribution as Chair of the Autism Advisory Panel (the Panel) over its four year term.

The Tasmanian Government welcomes the Autism Advisory Panel Final Report (the Report), and thanks all Panel members, past and present, who volunteered their time and energy to help develop the Report.

I am delighted to release the Report publicly on the Department of Communities Tasmania website and to share the Panel's work across Government and with the wider community.

The findings and recommendations of the Report will help guide the development of future Government policy and actions to meet the needs of the autism community and to support people with autism, their families and carers to achieve positive outcomes.

The Government understands the importance of continuing to consider and learn from the lived experiences of people on the autism spectrum and their families and carers. We are committed to ongoing consultation with the Tasmanian autism community to inform further policy development. In addition, we provide in-principle support for recommendations that will increase public awareness, training and professional development and will work towards developing these in consultation with the sector.

The Panel was established as part of the Government's commitment to a long-term strategy to meet the needs of Tasmanians on the autism spectrum. The Government is now investing an additional \$300 000 over three years to reduce the wait times for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnostic services. This will help to ensure children with ASD, together with their parents and carers, will be able to access earlier diagnosis, assessment and support.

The Tasmanian Government is also investing \$150 000 over three years to extend a research partnership with the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Living with Autism. In addition, we support the establishment of a consultation group to review Autism CRC research opportunities and projects, in order to seek advice and steer future development of policies, services and supports.

Thank you once again for your commitment to strengthening autism services in Tasmania and your chairing of the Panel over the past four years.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JP', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hon. Jacquie Petrusma MP  
**Minister for Disability Services and Community Development**