

# Information for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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## Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Online Resource Transition Package

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Online Resource Transition Package is a joint project between the:

- **Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE)**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/>
- **AEIOU Foundation**  
<http://aeiou.org.au/>
- **Autism Queensland (AQ)**  
<http://www.autismqld.com.au/>

Consultation and collaboration has also occurred with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  
<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability?icn=homepage-links&ici=features-disability>

The online resource package has been developed to assist early intervention service providers (e.g. AQ and AEIOU), parents and teachers (Kindergarten and Prep) by providing information and resources to support children with ASD transition into Queensland schools.

The resource aims to provide a broad understanding of the support available for children and young people with ASD. The information is divided into sections relevant to families and educators, as well as information regarding further learning and support.

The Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Online Transition Resource Package is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/>.

If you require specific information regarding your individual circumstances, the following contacts/information may be a good starting point:

- **Further learning and support section of the website**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/index.html>
- **Education for children with a disability - a guide for parents**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/learning/disability/parentguide/index.html>
- **Education Queensland Regional Office** for questions about state schools  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/about/district.html>
- **Autism advisors** for information regarding support and services for families and carers <http://www.autismqld.com.au/page/98/Autism-Advisor-Program>
- **Autism Queensland information and helpline**  
<http://www.autismqld.com.au/page/47/Information-and-Helpline>

## An introduction to ASD

ASD is a lifelong developmental disability. People with ASD have:

- difficulties with reciprocal social interactions (they may have difficulties interacting with other people following the usual social customs)
- difficulties developing communication skills
- stereotyped and repetitive behaviour or interests (an intense interest in limited topics or patterns of behaviour, such as lining up objects).

Many people with ASD have different sensory processing patterns (such as finding some noises painful) and this can affect how they access and participate in school and the community.

Each person with ASD is a unique individual with their own interests, strengths and personality even though they share the characteristics listed above.

Educators need to be aware of the strengths and barriers for each student with ASD, as they need to with all students, so that they can provide the best educational outcomes.

### Further information

- **Education Queensland**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/general-info/asd/index.html>
- **AEIOU**  
<http://aeiou.org.au/>
- **Autism Queensland**  
<http://www.autismqld.com.au/>
- **Positive Partnerships** - Supporting school aged students on the Autism Spectrum  
<http://www.autismtraining.com.au/public/index.cfm?action=showPublicContent&assetCategoryId=686>
- **Raising Children Network**  
[http://raisingchildren.net.au/children\\_with\\_autism/children\\_with\\_autism\\_landing.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/children_with_autism/children_with_autism_landing.html)
- **Further Learning and Support webpage**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/index.html>
- **Early Childhood Support Services for Children with ASD**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/early-childhood-support.html>

## Information for families of children with ASD

The resources in this section are designed specifically for parents of young children with ASD as their child commences the transition to Prep in Queensland.

Resources have been grouped under four main headings:

- **School options for your child**  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/school\\_options.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/school_options.html)
- **Preparing your child**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/preparing-child.html>
- **School holidays**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/school-holidays.html>
- **Advocacy and support**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/advocacy.html>

Each section contains tip sheets and templates for you to use during the transition journey and links to other relevant areas of the website.

While these resources have been designed specifically to support the transition of children with ASD into Prep, they represent best practice in transition. Some resources and links may therefore be useful for all students and during other transition periods (e.g. transition from year to year or from primary to secondary schooling).

## Early childhood support services for children with ASD

Prior to your child commencing Prep, a range of early childhood therapy, intervention, and support services are available within Queensland. The following information regarding early intervention services has been provided for your information, however the programs and services listed below may have specific eligibility criteria or may not suit your family or child's individual needs.

### Department of Education, Training and Employment

The department provides early childhood development programs and services for young children with disability or suspected disability, including ASD, from birth to five years.

The programs and services may differ across regions and include playgroup, centre-based and outreach services to your home and other educational settings. Further information is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/students/smspr015/program.html>.

The Office for Early Childhood Education and Care supports kindergarten services to provide inclusive programs, including children with ASD. Kindergarten services can apply for supplementary funding under the Disability Support Funding Program to support children with disability to participate in their approved kindergarten programs. Further information is available at <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/service/access-kindy/disability-support-funding.html>.

### Inclusion and Professional Support Program

The Australian Government funds the Inclusion and Professional Support Program (IPSP). The IPSP supports eligible child care services (including those delivering a Queensland Government approved kindergarten program) to provide inclusive program for all children including children with a disability.

Eligible child care services may have access to professional development and workforce development, funding to access additional educators or carers when required, advice to develop flexible programs, and strategies for services to become more inclusive. Further information is available at <http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/service/access-kindy/disability-support-funding.html>.

### Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services provides funding for the Autism Early Intervention initiative for children with autism up to six years of age. The initiative aims to maximise the development of children with ASD through the provision of multidisciplinary therapy support and support families to develop strategies necessary to overcome the long-term challenges of caring for a child with autism.

These early intervention services are provided by the AEIOU Foundation and Autism Queensland. Further information is available at <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/support-and-services/our-services/family-and-early-childhood-services>.

Early intervention services are also available through the Family and Early Childhood Services (FECS), for families of children aged up to six years who have or are at risk of having a significant developmental delay.

## AEIOU Foundation

The AEIOU Foundation is a not for profit organisation which provides a full-time intervention program for children aged two and a half to six years who have been diagnosed with ASD. Further information is available on the AEIOU website at <http://aeiou.org.au/>.

## Autism Queensland

Autism Queensland (AQ) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services to children with ASD and their families. There are specific early intervention programs and services for children from birth to six years. Further information is available on the AQ website at <http://www.autismqld.com.au/page/1/Home>.

AQ is also responsible for delivering the Autism Advisor Program that is part of the Helping Children with Autism package. The role of the advisor is to provide a link between the clinical diagnosis and access to early intervention programs and support services. They also assist eligible families to access the Australian Government funding for early intervention services and grants to support families from rural and remote areas.

Further information about the program can be found at <http://www.autismqld.com.au/page/143/Autism-Advisor-Program>. Information about the package can be found at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/people/HelpingChildrenWithAutism/Pages/default.aspx>.

## School options for your child with ASD

Starting school is an important time for children and families. The transition to school may present challenges for your child, as well as for the rest of your family, and so good planning for the transition is critical.

As a parent, you play a vital role in your child's education. By getting involved in the school, you can help your child make a smooth and happy start to their education. Parents should consider all available school options for their child with ASD.

**The education system in Queensland has three main sectors:**

- **State school sector**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/state.html>
- **Independent Schools Queensland**  
<http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au/Home.aspx?element=1&category=1>
- **Queensland Catholic Education Commission**  
<http://www.qcec.catholic.edu.au/>.

All families are able to and encouraged to enrol at their local school. You will need to complete enrolment forms and may be asked to have an interview with a staff member.

The School Transport Assistance Scheme has been created to assist students in travelling to and from school. Students with disability attending state and non-state schools may be eligible to receive transport assistance to and from school. Information is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/students/transport/>.

Both the state sector and some independent schools provide distance education options. Further information about distance education opportunities within the state sector is available on the Distance Education website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/distance/index.html>.

Another option parents may consider is home education (child must be of compulsory school age). Information is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices/learning/disability/parentguide/tips/types-of-schooling/home-ed.html>.

### State school sector

State education is provided by Education Queensland (EQ), as a publicly funded service available to all children in Queensland. Further information is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices/learning/disability/parentguide/tips/types-of-schooling/state.html>.

EQ is proud to be the main provider of school education to Queensland with 70 percent of all Queensland school students attending state schools. Queensland state education operates as a partnership between schools and their communities. All state schools are co-educational. Within EQ, seven regions supervise and manage clusters of schools. Refer to the EQ maps for further information at <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/maps/>.

Inclusive education reflects the values, ethos and culture of a public education system committed to excellence by enhancing educational opportunities for all students, including students with ASD. To this end, schools create environments where:

- all students feel a strong sense of belonging

- all students learn to interact respectfully with others
- all students learn to understand and appreciate diversity
- all parents and carers in the community can take an active role in the life of the school.

Further information about inclusive education is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/learning/docs/includedstatement2005.pdf>.

### Prep

Prep is recognised as the first year of schooling in Queensland and is offered in all state schools as a full-time, five day per week program. With the introduction of the new Australian Curriculum in 2012, full-time attendance in Prep gives students important foundational learning that they will need for successful learning in Year 1.

Special schools do not provide a Prep program for Prep-eligible aged students who enrol for early entry but rather a highly individualised program tailored to the individual needs. *(To access special school, the student must be diagnosed with a disability or have a suspected disability that must include intellectual impairment.)*

Information about special schools can be found at <http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/learning/disability/parentguide/tips/types-of-schooling/state.html>.

To be eligible for Prep, your child must turn five by June 30 in the year they commence Prep. EQ provides an online calculator to assist you in determining when your child is eligible for prep. The calculator can be found at <http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/advice/earlychildhood/prep.html>.

Most children commence Prep in the year they become eligible, however should parents be concerned their child is not ready to start school at this time, they can commence Prep a year later when they are of compulsory school age (6 years and 6 months). They should discuss their concerns with the principal of the school in which they plan to enrol their child.

Parents of compulsory school age children have a legal obligation to ensure their children are enrolled in school and attend for every day of the educational program in which they are enrolled. Enrolment in, and full-time attendance at, Prep fulfils this obligation.

### Further information

- **Variation to school age entry enrolment**  
<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Variation-to-School-Age-Entry-Enrolment.aspx>
- **Prep as the first year of schooling**  
<http://deta.qld.gov.au/initiatives/flyingstart/prep.html>
- **Set for Prep**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/advice/earlychildhood/prepkit.html>

### *Support options*

EQ provides a variety of supports and services to all students, including those with ASD, so they can access support to maximise their learning outcomes. All students are supported through an education system that values, celebrates and responds positively to diversity among its students, families, staff and community members.

Regions and schools provide a continuum of support for students with ASD through allocated resources and specialist support personnel. This may include guidance officers, behaviour support staff, advisory visiting teachers (with disability specific skills and expertise), special provisions for assessment, assistive technology, alternate format materials, speech-language therapy services, learning support, occupational therapy and physiotherapy services.

The Education Adjustment Program (EAP) is part of the array of programs and services that are provided by the department to support students with ASD with significant education support needs. Information about EAP is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/students/disabilities/adjustment/>.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that all students are provided with the appropriate educational adjustments to enable them to access the curriculum. Collaboration with parents/carers is an important part of the process of identifying and responding to the individual needs of students.

### **Further information**

- **Enrolling your child**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/about/enrolling.html>
- **Education for children with a disability - a guide for parents - State education**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices/learning/disability/parentguide/index.html>
- **Learning and disability support**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/studentsservices/learning/index.html>

## Non-state school sector

Non-state schools provide a range of support options for students with ASD. There are two main types of non-state schools:

- independent schools
- Catholic schools.

For specific information regarding the support options available within the non-state sector, please contact the individual non-state school directly, Independent Schools Queensland or Queensland Catholic Education Commission.

### *Independent Schools Queensland information for parents*

An independent school is a non-government school that is governed, managed and accountable at the level of the individual school. Today, most independent schools employ specially trained teachers to assist students with special learning needs. Schools offer programs not only to students with disability, but to 'gifted and talented' students as well by way of 'extension and enrichment learning programs'.

For further information about specific support options for your child, it is recommended you contact the independent school directly or visit the Independent Schools Queensland website at <http://www.aisq.qld.edu.au/Page.aspx?category=1&element=280>.

### *Queensland Catholic Education Commission information for parents*

Queensland Catholic Education Commission (QCEC) is a peak strategic body with state-wide responsibilities in respect to Catholic schools in Queensland administered by five diocesan schooling authorities (Brisbane, Cairns, Rockhampton, Toowoomba and Townsville) and 18 religious institutes.

The QCEC website can help you locate your nearest Catholic school, provide links to the school website and other related information. Further information can be found at <http://www.qcec.catholic.edu.au/>.

## Choosing a school

When choosing a school, the department's Parent and Carer website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/> may be useful as it has information on:

- finding a school <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/find-school/index.html> which includes an online directory which lists all state and non-state schools in Queensland and provides links to school websites (<http://education.qld.gov.au/directory/>)
- life at school at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/school-life/index.html>
- parent resources at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/information/index.html>.

The *Queensland state schools app* available at <http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/apps/education/qld-schools.html> can help you locate your nearest school, give you directions, link to the school website URL and other related information.

Specific information regarding programs and services in Education Queensland for students with disability is available on the department's website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/student-services/learning/disability/programs.html>.

The following tip sheets and template can help you in the process of selecting a school:

- **Tips for selecting a school**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/selecting-school.doc>
  - **What do you want in a school?** (template)  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/what-you-want-in-school.doc>
- **Questions to ask schools**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/questions-to-ask.doc>
  - **Preparing a list of questions** (template)  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparing-questions.doc>
- **Tips for researching schools in the local area**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/researching-schools.doc>
- **Tips for visiting schools**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/visiting-school.doc>

## Managing the paper trail

When choosing a school, you may find that very quickly you end up with lots of information about different schools, information that you would like to share about your child, and information from schools. It may be useful to start a 'transition folder' where you can keep all of the important information in one central spot. A large A4 folder with tab dividers is probably the best option.

Relevant documents/templates such as those listed above and your child's transition booklet (available at: <http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/docs/transition-booklet.doc>) can all be contained in this folder alongside individual school contact details and documents including the school annual report, school prospectus and school enrolment form.

To ensure the original is stored safely and you have extra copies handy in case you need them, it is recommended to include several certified copies of the following documents in this folder, ready for the enrolment process:

- birth certificate
- vaccination records
- letter of diagnosis
- current family court orders.

## Preparing your child

Getting ready for school is a long term process. There are a range of strategies and activities that you can put in place with your child to support the successful transition to school.

As you read the strategies and activities, consider which ones you can put in place at home to support your child. You may also design a range of other strategies and activities with your child's transition team (see the Transition Planning section at [http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/transition\\_planning.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/transition_planning.html) for more information) which can be documented in your child's transition plan in the transition booklet at <http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/docs/transition-booklet.doc>.

Please note, the strategies and activities outlined in this section are general recommendations and may not be suitable for all children and families. Talk with your child's early childhood setting, proposed school or therapist about which strategies might work best in the home setting. A transition team, incorporating the key people involved with your child, is recommended to ensure that the strategies and activities chosen are implemented across all environments.

Strategies and activities may also be adjusted to suit your child's individual needs, strengths and special interests, for example, you might incorporate your child's favourite cartoon character into a story based intervention or use their favourite colour for the backing of a schedule.

The following tip sheets and templates can help you in the process of preparing your child for school:

- *Tips for creating a calendar countdown*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/creating\\_calendar-countdown.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/creating_calendar-countdown.doc)
  - *My calendar countdown to Prep template*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/calendar-countdown-template.doc>
- *Tips for developing routines and daily schedules at home*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/routines-schedule.doc>
  - *Tips for developing work systems at home*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/work-systems-home.doc>
  - *Tips for developing 'Now and Then' cards*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/now-and-then.doc>
  - *Tips for introducing vertical schedules*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/vertical-schedules.doc>
- *Tips for supporting communication at home*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/supporting-comm.doc>

- *Tips for preventing and responding to challenging behaviour*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/challenging-behaviour.doc>
- *An introduction to sensory processing for parents*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/sensory-processing.doc>
- *Tips for developing self care skills*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/self-care.doc>
- *Tips for generalising skills*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/generalising-skills.doc>
- *Tips for school uniforms*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/school-uniform.doc>
- *Tips for travelling to and from school*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/travel.doc>
- *Tips for outside school hours care*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/oshc.doc>
- *Tips for talking to other parents and children about ASD*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/other-parents.doc>
- *Tips for story-based interventions*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/preparingchild/story-based-intervention.doc>

#### Further information

- **Transition Section - Transition Timeline** for parents and educators planning transition activities  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/transition-timeline.html>
- **Educators Section - Day to Day Routines** - for educators working to establish clear routines for children  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/schools/day-to-day\\_routines/index.html](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/schools/day-to-day_routines/index.html)

## School holidays

The information contained in this section has been developed for parents of children who have transitioned to school and are approaching their first school holiday period (i.e. end of Term 1), however the information is applicable for any holiday period.

School holidays can be a big change in routine that need consideration and planning. School holidays are usually an opportunity for children and families to relax and have a break.

However, for the child with ASD who may thrive on the routine and structure of the school day, holidays may be stressful and challenging. For example, removing the predictability of the school routine could result in increased anxiety and challenging behaviours. Challenging behaviour can occur when children are not sure what to do with their time or when they do not know what is expected of them.

Of course, not every child with ASD will find the school holidays stressful. Time away from the demands of the classroom can be a positive experience for some children and the return to school after a period of 'down time' at home can be the greatest challenge. It is important that children be prepared for the move back to school as this usually provides some amount of stress to most children.

Parents may worry that they are required to plan fun-filled and entertainment packed events every day of the holidays. School holidays do not need to be filled with activities at every hour of the day or require parents to spend large amounts of money or resources. There are a range of strategies that you can put in place and resources you can access to assist in ensuring school holidays are relaxing and enjoyable for all. Most important is the need to consider, plan and prepare for activities, outings or routines that suit your child, your family and the time and resources you have available.

Some time also needs to be set aside to prepare for the new school term or year so that the family is prepared, equipment and uniforms are organised and when possible, routines have been practised.

The following tip sheets and templates can help you to plan the school holiday period and the return to school:

- *Tips for school holiday activities*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/school-holiday-activities.doc>
- *Tips for vacation care programs*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/vacation-care.doc>
- *Tips for accessing respite care*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/respite.doc>
- *Tips for planning for the holiday period*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/planning-for-holidays.doc>
  - *My School Holiday Planner* (template)  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/my-school-holiday-planner.doc>
- *Tips for getting ready to start the new school term*  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/new-term.doc>

## Advocacy and support

It is recognised that transitioning your child to school can be a time of increased stress and anxiety for a family of a child with ASD. The Department of Education, Training and Employment is committed to the successful transition to schooling for all children, including children with ASD.

During the course of the transition period, or your child's school years, you may have cause to make a complaint about an issue or concern you have with their education.

The department is committed to ensuring that all complaints are dealt with in a fair and equitable manner. There are processes and support networks in place to enable you and your child to work through any issues or concerns you may have. Further information is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/parents/making-a-complaint.html>.

If you have concerns or queries regarding any aspect of school life, it is recommended you first discuss your concerns with the school.

If you feel you may need support regarding advocating for your child, you may wish to access advocacy or support services to assist you in communicating effectively with school staff. Disability organisations and community support services can assist through providing formal support structures for both you and your family.

### What is advocacy?

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) provides the following definition of advocacy:

*"In broad terms, advocacy for people with disability can be defined as speaking, acting or writing with minimal conflict of interest on behalf of the interests of a person or group, in order to promote, protect and defend the welfare of and justice for either the person or group by:*

- *being on their side and no-one else's*
- *being primarily concerned with their fundamental needs*
- *remaining loyal and accountable to them in a way which is empathic and vigorous."*

Further information regarding definition and models of advocacy are available on the FaHCSIA website at <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about/overview/Pages/default.aspx>.

### How can advocacy groups and agencies assist me and my child?

Advocacy groups within the community aim to support individuals in having their voice heard and ensuring basic needs are met. If you are experiencing difficulty communicating with your child's school, enlisting the help of an advocacy group can assist you to establish a functional communication pathway. A range of advocacy options are available within the community including learning how to self advocate, individual, group, and systematic advocacy.

### Who provides advocacy and support services?

Advocacy and Support services exist within the community to provide families, parents, carers and siblings with resources to support them in their role. Within Queensland a range of agencies exist to provide supports to families of children with a disability. Contact with these groups can be face-to-face, by phone, accessing online resources, or via virtual networks (i.e. email, Skype).

Most agencies providing support to individuals with ASD, also provide advocacy and support to families on an informal basis such as attending meetings with you are providing guidance beforehand.

Family members and friends can also take on a support or advocacy role.

Non-government organisations that might be helpful to you are listed as links on the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website at <http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/support-and-services/useful-links>.

### **How can support groups and agencies assist me and my child?**

Support agencies aim to assist families in their role as carer of their child with a disability. Formal support networks can enhance support you may currently receive from family, friends, neighbours and other parents. Many agencies offer this service at little to no cost. Learning more about the types of support options that are available to you can help you to select a support agency that will meet the needs of you and your family.

Support can also be provided to your family through respite services. Tips on accessing respite services can be found in the school holidays section of the website at <http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/school-holidays.html>.

The following tip sheets answer the what, why, and who of family advocacy and support and can help you to locate services in your local area:

- *Tips for advocating for your child*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/advocacy\\_groups.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/advocacy_groups.doc)
- *Tips for advocacy and the Disability Standards for Education 2005*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/advocacy\\_disability\\_standards\\_2005.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/advocacy_disability_standards_2005.doc)
- *Tips for playing an active role in the school community*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/playing\\_active\\_role.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/playing_active_role.doc)
- *Tips for parent and carer support groups*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/parent\\_carer\\_support\\_groups.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/parent_carer_support_groups.doc)
- *Tips for sibling support groups*  
[http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/sibling\\_support.doc](http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/families/docs/sibling_support.doc)

### **Further information**

- **Further learning and support**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/index.html>
- **Supporting parents to access further support**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/transition/access-further-support.html>

## Further learning and support

This section provides information on resources and organisations that can assist families and schools further in supporting students with ASD.

The provision of ongoing support, information and resourcing for families and schools supporting a student with ASD is beyond the scope and capabilities of this online resource.

Consideration has however been given to providing links and contact details for organisations and services which may be useful for families and/or educators when searching for further information regarding learning, support and resources.

All organisations, service providers and resource providers have been listed alphabetically and are not specifically endorsed by the department, AEIOU or Autism Queensland.

Organisations and services have been grouped into five areas for ease of searching:

- **Queensland based ASD-specific organisations and services**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/qld-asd-specific-org.html>
- **Services and resources (disability and ASD-specific)**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/asd-specific-services.html>
- **Further learning and education**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/further-learning.html>
- **Allied health/therapy professional organisations**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/allied-health.html>
- **Links to other resource directories**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/other-resource.html>
- **Purchasing resources**  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/purchasing-resources.html>

To assist families and educators, a glossary has been developed defining terms used within this ASD Online Transition Resource package. This is available at <http://education.qld.gov.au/asd-online-resource-kit/support/glossary.html>.