

25 August 2025

Autism Queensland (AQ) response to Thriving Kids program announcement

Autism Queensland (AQ) acknowledges the Federal Government's announcement of the Thriving Kids program and its commitment to strengthening early supports for children with developmental concerns, including autism. We are encouraged by the principle of delivering services where children live, learn and play. We share the vision of thriving children and families and recognise the importance of getting foundational supports right.

AQ wants to ensure Queensland families have certainty and confidence. We look forward to working with governments to ensure clear safeguards are in place, so families are not left navigating fragmented systems. It is important any new scheme recognises autism as a lifelong neurodevelopmental disability, and that children and families may need different supports at different points in their journey.

Our priority is to ensure quality, evidence-informed supports are delivered equitably, including for children in regional and remote communities, and tailored to their unique needs. These supports must be adequately resourced and include access to trained professionals. Equally important is a seamless transition, so no child loses access to existing supports before new services are in place.

In recent months, Queenslanders with disability, families, service providers, government, and the broader sector have commenced work to shape what foundational supports could look like in our state. Queensland is unique, and it is vital any new program reflects what children with disability, and their families and communities need. This work must directly inform the design of the Thriving Kids program, and it is critical people with disabilities, families, and the sector have a strong voice and a seat at the table.

As Queensland's peak autism organisation, AQ will continue to advocate that families and autistic people have a strong voice in shaping the Thriving Kids program, so every child has a life of participation, opportunity and choice.

-ENDS-

Media enquiries: marketing@autismqld.com.au