



29 August 2022

Autism CRC
The University of Queensland,
Long Pocket Precinct, Lvl 3, Foxtail Building
80 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly Qld 4068
Via email: supportingchildren@autismcrc.com.au

Dear Autism CRC,

Re: National guideline for supporting autistic children and their families

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the draft National guideline for supporting autistic children and their families.

The guidelines represent a positive shift in thinking and priorities in the approach to children with autism and their families. They are patient-centred and focus on the placing the child and their family at the centre of informed decision making. Whilst general practitioners (GPs) are not a target user of these guidelines, and they would have limited clinical utility for GPs, an awareness of these guidelines will help GPs support autistic children and their families.

In terms of feedback, we believe the guidelines would benefit from including information on co-morbidities, as this will impact patient care. For example, around 50% of children with autism will have co-existing ADHD¹.

Similarly, including information on the role of medications for children with autism is important. While there are no medications to cure autism, many children may require medication to reduce some of the extreme behaviours or treat a co-morbidity.

Finally, we believe separating the "principles for good care" and specific clinical management recommendations would enhance readability as there is currently significant overlap.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft National guideline for supporting autistic children and their families. For any enquiries regarding this letter, please contact Stephan Groombridge, National Manager, eHealth and Quality Care on 03 8699 0544 or stephan.groombridge@racgp.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Karen Price
President

Reference

1. Autism Spectrum Australia. Autism and ADHD. NSW: Autism Spectrum Australia; 2017.