



ACTION FOR TASMANIAN AUTISTIC CHILDREN Celebrate the difference!

February- 2014 Special Election Edition 2

THIS IS THE SECOND OF A NUMBER OF SPECIAL NEWSLETTERS ATAC WILL PUBLISH IN THE LEAD UP TO THE 2014 MARCH STATE ELECTIONS. IN THESE SPECIAL NEWSLETTERS WE WILL ANALYSE AND COMMENT UPON THE POLICIES OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THE ONLY PARTY TO HAVE RELEASED SUCH A POLICY REMAINS THE TASMANIAN LIBERAL PARTY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE RELEASE OF THE AUTISM POLICIES OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES .

DEVELOPMENTS ON THE POLITICAL FRONT

STATE WIDE MEETINGS:

Following the announcement of the election and the proroguing of the Tasmanian parliament, senior officers of ATAC and *Autism Tasmanian* met to discuss plans to bring the care of people with autism to the forefront of this election campaign.

It was decided that we would run election forums in the North, South and North-West of the state. It was also decided to invite Tasmanian Disability Education Reform Lobby to join with us in conducting these meetings. As a result, the following venues and times have been determined.

Glenorchy

Date: **Wednesday 5 March 2014**

Time: **6.45pm for 7.00pm- 8.30pm**

Venue:

Tattersalls Park Function Centre
6 Goodwood Road

Launceston

Date: **Sunday 23 February 2014**

Time: **2.15pm for 2.30pm- 3.45pm**

Venue:

The Boathouse on Northbank
55A Lindsay Street (Invermay)

Burnie

Date: **Monday 24 February 2014**

Time: **6.45pm for 7.00pm - 8.30pm**

Venue:

Town Hall
Wilmot Street

WE URGE ALL THOSE WHO ARE TOUCHED BY AUTISM AND WISH TO SEE POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE WAY IN WHICH PEOPLE WITH AUTISM ARE TREATED IN THIS STATE TO ATTEND THE MEETING IN THEIR AREA. THE THREE MAJOR PARTIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THESE MEETINGS TO OUTLINE THEIR AUTISM POLICIES. THERE WILL BE TIME FOR QUESTIONS TO BE DIRECTED FROM THE FLOOR TO THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVES.

POLITICAL LEADERS CONTACT ATAC

Following the publication of our first Special Election Newsletter last week, we were contacted by the Office of the Premier who promised that Labor Policy on autism would be forwarded to us hopefully prior to this edition of the Newsletter. (We will attach it to this newsletter should it arrive prior to this Newsletter being sent).

We were also contacted by the Office of Bryan Green, Deputy Premier to advise us the Premier's Office would be in touch with us on this matter.

We have also been contacted by a number of Labor candidates who have indicated that they would like their party to make autism policy a bi-partisan policy.

ATAC offers congratulations to those mothers who have been approaching local candidates and indicating that they will be voting in the approaching election for what is in the best interests of their autistic children! It's people like you who make the difference.

LET'S MAKE THE PLANNED MEETINGS SOME OF THE LARGEST MEETINGS HELD IN THIS STATE PRIOR TO AN ELECTION TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGE THAT AUTISM IS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THIS STATE.

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE LIBERAL PARTY POLICY ON AUTISM

The major plank of the Liberal Party Policy on autism is the use of the *Rethink (Autism)* computerised programme. See below for links to an overview of the *Rethink* curriculum and to their home page.

[Click here](#) [An Overview of Rethink's Curriculum and Features](#)

[Click here](#) [Rethink \(Autism\) Home Page](#)

When ATAC first become aware of this programme, and had completed due diligence on it by having leading world experts evaluate it, we approached the then new Minister for Education, Nick McKim, and requested an initial trial of the programme in one or a number of public schools. Minister McKim was arrogant in his dismissal of our request, preferring to be dictated to by those education bureaucrats who are responsible for the ineffective programmes already in existence in our schools.

Following this ATAC approached the Liberal Shadow Ministers for Education and Disabilities and requested they evaluate to see if it was appropriate for use in Tasmania.

The Liberal Party, following their evaluation, have come to the same conclusions as ATAC. We congratulate them for adopting a policy that will lead not only to effective, *and* cost effective, programmes for autistic children in Tasmania, but will also allow the training of nurses, teachers, teacher's aides, child-care workers and parents in the proper, EFFECTIVE education of autistic children.

The fact that all programmes developed by *Rethink* have to be approved a board of autism experts, including Bridget A. Taylor, Psy.D., BCBA-D, from the Alpine Centre, recognised as the world's best practice centre. Other Board members include leading Autism experts, Peter F. Gerhardt, Ed.D., Catherine E. Lord, Ph.D, Louis A. Vismara, M.D., Patricia Wright, Ph.D. MPH, Maurice Feldman, Ph.D., C.Psych., BCBA-D, Nicolette Bainbridge Brigham, Ph.D., William R. Jenson, Ph.D., and Jamie Pagliaro.

We provide a link to the Advisory Board of *Rethink*.

It is well worth reading the impressive qualifications and history of these outstanding autism experts.

[Click here](#) [Rethink, Our Scientific Advisory Board](#)

All the people who are involved in delivering the programmes are university qualified, Board Certified Behavioural Analysts (BCBAs).

Many families spend a great deal of money making materials to assist their children who struggle to learn with the conventional teaching programmes offered in our schools. All materials needed for their children will be downloadable, thus reducing both expenditure and time involved in developing materials to suit their child.

Each child in a *Rethink* programme has their own Individual Education Programme (IEP) both developed and rigorously monitored and adjusted where necessary, reflecting each child's needs and progress.

Each child's individual programme and progress can be accessed by the child's teachers, and parents. Parents can utilise the programme at home to reinforce the strategies appropriate for their child.

For those who are home-educating their children, *Rethink* is an ideal tool for their children, as it is for families living in remote areas with little or no access to specialised assistance.

Without the *Rethink* programme, it would take at least 5 years to train the staff needed to even set up the quality universal intensive intervention system that is needed for our children.

It is for all the above reasons we congratulate the Liberal Party of Tasmania for their far-sighted policies that they have researched and adopted.

OUTLINE OF RETHINK PROGRAMME

We have set out below the argument that *Rethink* presents on the reasons for the effectiveness of its programme.

[Why Rethink Autism](#)

[Our Program is Simple, Effective and Affordable](#)

Rethink Autism places at your fingertips teaching

tools that have never before been available at a price you can afford, on a schedule you can manage, and at a quality that you can trust. For a minimal monthly fee, you will have access to comprehensive assessment tools, web-based teaching tutorials, hundreds of video images of teaching interactions, and teaching objectives, all of which will allow you to start working with your child right now. Our support program and data-tracking system will guide you as you and your child progress through the program.

Our Program is Grounded in the Most Effective Interventions

Rethink Autism's curriculum is based on the educational intervention that time and continual research have proven most effective in the treatment of autism: applied behavior analysis (ABA). ABA-based interventions are so effective that they have been endorsed by leading federal and state agencies, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the New York State Department of Health, and the United States Surgeon General.

But ABA can be costly, and finding qualified therapists can be difficult. Rethink Autism makes ABA-based interventions available to everyone, everywhere by providing a comprehensive video curriculum that can be easily accessed and implemented by parents and teachers alike.

Our Program Provides the Most Current and Up-to-Date Teaching Interventions

Rethink's innovative web-platform allows for continual additions and updates to our library of videos and teaching tutorials. As research points us toward new and exciting treatments for autism, Rethink's clinical team will bring that innovation to you in new tutorials that keep your child's treatment on the cutting edge.

Our Program Puts Intervention in Your Hands Today

Our teaching curriculum and instructional videos are developed by a team of caring clinicians with years of experience in ABA-based teaching interventions for children with autism. The video library will demonstrate how to teach hundreds of skills, both fundamental and advanced as well as help troubleshoot common challenges in the learning process. Never before has such a comprehensive set of tools been within the reach of each and every parent and practitioner - anytime, anywhere.

Imagine what's possible. Then think again.

Rethink Autism. We don't just offer hope, we give you help.

Rethink Autism empowers you to teach today!

[Click here](#) [Why Rethink?, Rethink , The First Choice for Inclusive Education](#)

LINKS TO SOME OF THE RESOURCES USED IN THE RETHINK PROGRAMME

For your interest we provide a selection of links to aspects of the Rethink programme

RETHINK LINK TO PEER SUPPORT AND TEACHING RESOURCES

[Click here](#) [Peer Support and Teaching Resources](#)

SELECTION OF VIDEOS FOR TEACHING YOUR CHILD

Rethink provides free access to a number of short videos aimed at helping you prepare your child for various occasions. These in turn are linked to lesson plans that form part of their curriculum, and which are readily available for those participating in the Rethink programme.

[Click here](#) [Videos \(Tip of the Week\)](#)

WEBINARS FROM RETHINK

An extremely useful aspect of the Rethink programme is the broadcasting of Webinars held by experts in various aspects of autism. We provide a link to one of these below.

[Click here](#) ['Dr. Patricia Wright on Inclusion: Promoting Success for Students with Disabilities](#)



Roger Law - Secretary ATAC
16 February 2014

04 0027 1500
atactas@gmail.com