

Subject: RE: ABS will release an article on Autism in Australia later this year [SEC=OFFICIAL]

From: Linda Fardell <Linda.Fardell@abs.gov.au>

Date: 23/05/2024, 3:43 pm

To: "Bob Buckley (A4)" <convenor@a4.org.au>

CC: Suraksha Maharaj <Suraksha.Maharaj@abs.gov.au>, "Jenny Karavolos (Australian Autism Alliance, co-chair)" <jenkaravolos@outlook.com>, "Lauren Henley" <lauren.henley@afdo.org.au>, Ross Joyce <ross.joyce@afdo.org.au>, Autism Health Roadmap <AutismHealthRoadmap@Health.gov.au>, "National Autism Strategy Secretariat" <NationalAutismStrategySecretariat@dss.gov.au>

Sounds great, thanks Bob! We'll be in touch as we move forward.

Regards
Linda

Linda Fardell (she/her)

Program Manager, Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

People and Place Division | **Australian Bureau of Statistics**

(P) (02) 6252 6336 (M) 0404 330 840

Protected email: linda.fardell@protected.abs.gov.au

The ABS acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders past, present and emerging.

From: Bob Buckley (A4) <convenor@a4.org.au>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 3:14 PM

To: Linda Fardell <Linda.Fardell@abs.gov.au>

Cc: Suraksha Maharaj <Suraksha.Maharaj@abs.gov.au>; Jenny Karavolos (Australian Autism Alliance, co-chair) <jenkaravolos@outlook.com>; Lauren Henley <lauren.henley@afdo.org.au>; Ross Joyce <ross.joyce@afdo.org.au>; Autism Health Roadmap <AutismHealthRoadmap@Health.gov.au>; National Autism Strategy Secretariat <NationalAutismStrategySecretariat@dss.gov.au>

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Hi Linda

All good; I appreciate your intent. I think a meeting would be good when you have enough (sharable) information to move forward with.

Please understand that my intention was to flag the types of issues we routinely experience in these processes hoping to head them off at the pass as it were in this instance.

Bob Buckley

Co-convenor, *Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia* (A4)

website: <http://a4.org.au/>

A4, a recognised disability representative organisation (DRO), advocates for autistic people, their families, carers and associates. A4 is internet based so that Australians anywhere can participate in

and contribute to A4's advocacy for autistic people, their carers and allies.

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Recipients of correspondence from A4, especially politicians and government officials, are all subject to A4's policy on unanswered questions: see <http://a4.org.au/node/1419>.

"Great things can happen when you don't care who gets the credit." — Mark Twain

On 23/05/2024 2:28 pm, Linda Fardell wrote:

Hi Bob

We've only just finalised the funding arrangements (and by 'finalised' I mean we've discussed the funding but we haven't sorted out the MoU or anything) so we haven't got as far as being able to answer any of the questions you've raised yet.

I was conscious that a month had passed since you first flagged the issue so I wanted to give you advice as early as possible that the article would go ahead rather than waiting for all the details to be locked down.

We'll keep you posted as we firm up the conversations with DSS and Health. We're keen to hear any views you have on the content of the article so if you have views you're ready to share please let us know. We're happy to set up a meeting to discuss these.

Regards
Linda

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From: Bob Buckley (A4) <convenor@a4.org.au>

Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 1:56 PM

To: Linda Fardell <Linda.Fardell@abs.gov.au>

Cc: Suraksha Maharaj <Suraksha.Maharaj@abs.gov.au>; Jenny Karavolos (Australian Autism Alliance, co-chair) <jenkaravolos@outlook.com>; Lauren Henley <lauren.henley@afdo.org.au>; Ross Joyce <ross.joyce@afdo.org.au>; Autism Health Roadmap <AutismHealthRoadmap@Health.gov.au>; National Autism Strategy Secretariat <NationalAutismStrategySecretariat@dss.gov.au>

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Hi Linda

Thank you for this information. We look forward to seeing "the first results from the 2022 cycle of the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers on 4 July".

In relation to the autism article that the ABS expects to publish in October 2024, are you able to say whether it will be an update of the autism analysis that has been published previously? Is that what DSS and Health are funding? I ask because neither of them has discussed this issue with the disability or autism sectors.

If DSS and Health are requesting that different information be reported, are there any plans to discuss it with the sector, to design and agree changing the form and content of the report with the autism sector?

Bob Buckley

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On 22/05/2024 5:00 pm, Linda Fardell wrote:

Dear Mr Buckley

Last month I promised to keep you informed about what was happening with the Autism in Australia article.

I'm happy to confirm that the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health and Aged Care plan to provide funding for the ABS to produce this article. At this stage we expect to publish the article in October. We don't have an exact date yet.

As previously mentioned, we'll publish the first results from the 2022 cycle of the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers on 4 July.

Regards
Linda

Linda Fardell (she/her)

Program Manager, Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Statistics

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