

**Subject:** peak body for autism

**Date:** Sat, 06 Nov 2010 07:40:06 +1100

**From:** Bob Buckley (A4 Convenor)  
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**Organisation:** Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia - A4

**To:** JMacklin.MP@aph.gov.au

**CC:** senator.mclucas@aph.gov.au

Dear Minister Macklin MP

My organisation is getting an increasing number of requests for information and comment from Government. We are volunteers and most of us provide round the clock care and support for a person with autism. We do not have the capacity to meet Government's expectations, but if we don't the Government will not be aware of the needs of people with ASD. Most of us are also inundated with similar requests from state/territory level governments. We are not resourced to meet Governments' expectations. Before the last election, I met with The Hon. Bill Shorten MP. Among of the issues we discussed were the lack of

- representation for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), their families and carers among the Government's list of "national disability peak organisations that contribute to government policies about disability issues affecting Australian families and communities" (see <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/sa/disability/progserv/providers/AustralianDisabilityEnterprises/Pages/DisabilityPeakBodies.aspx>); and
- funding and support for a peak body, or even a national level secretariat, for autism spectrum disorders.

At the time, Mr Shorten asked the FaHCSIA representative to report on the representation issue and to find some initial funding for a national level secretariat for autism spectrum disorders. To my knowledge, this has not happened and I am not aware of any progress on these matters.

I am concerned that Mr Shorten's request may have been only verbal: there may be no written record with the Government. With the changes of people involved, the action could easily be forgotten.

Please could you tell me whether these matters are being progressed, and if so, where they are up to. If they are not being progressed, can we meet to discuss these and other crucial matters affecting people with autism spectrum disorders. I can be contacted via email or phone: 0418677288 to organise a meeting time.

Your sincerely

Bob Buckley

Convenor, Autism Aspergers Advocacy Australia

regards

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