

INFORMATION SHEET 5

COST OF ASD

Results from Australian Research

“The median family cost of ASD was estimated to be AUD \$34,900 per annum with almost 90% of the sum (\$29,200) due to loss of income from employment. For each additional symptom reported, approximately \$1,400 cost for the family per annum was added. While there was little direct influence on costs associated with a delay in the diagnosis, the delay was associated with a modest increase in the number of ASD symptoms, indirectly impacting the cost of ASD.

Conclusion of the study

A delay in diagnosis was associated with an indirect increased financial burden to families. Early and appropriate access to early intervention is known to improve a child’s long-term outcomes and reduce lifetime costs to the individual, family and society. Consequently, a per symptom dollar value may assist in allocation of individualised funding amounts for interventions rather than a nominal amount allocated to all children below a certain age, regardless of symptom presentation, as is the case in Western Australia.”¹

REFERENCES:

¹ Results from Australian research. Published online 2014 Sep 5 . doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0106552 Cost of Autism Spectrum Disorders Chiara Horlin, 1 Marita Falkmer, 1 , 2 Richard Parsons, 1 Matthew A. Albrecht, 3 and Torbjorn Falkmer 1 , 4 , 5 ,* Jennifer Gladys Mulle, Editor

LINK TO NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD: 6.2

THE UN RIGHTS OF A CHILD ARTICLE 4

KEY | LO = LEARNING OUTCOME | ASD = AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER