

# Manoeuvring the Movement Maze

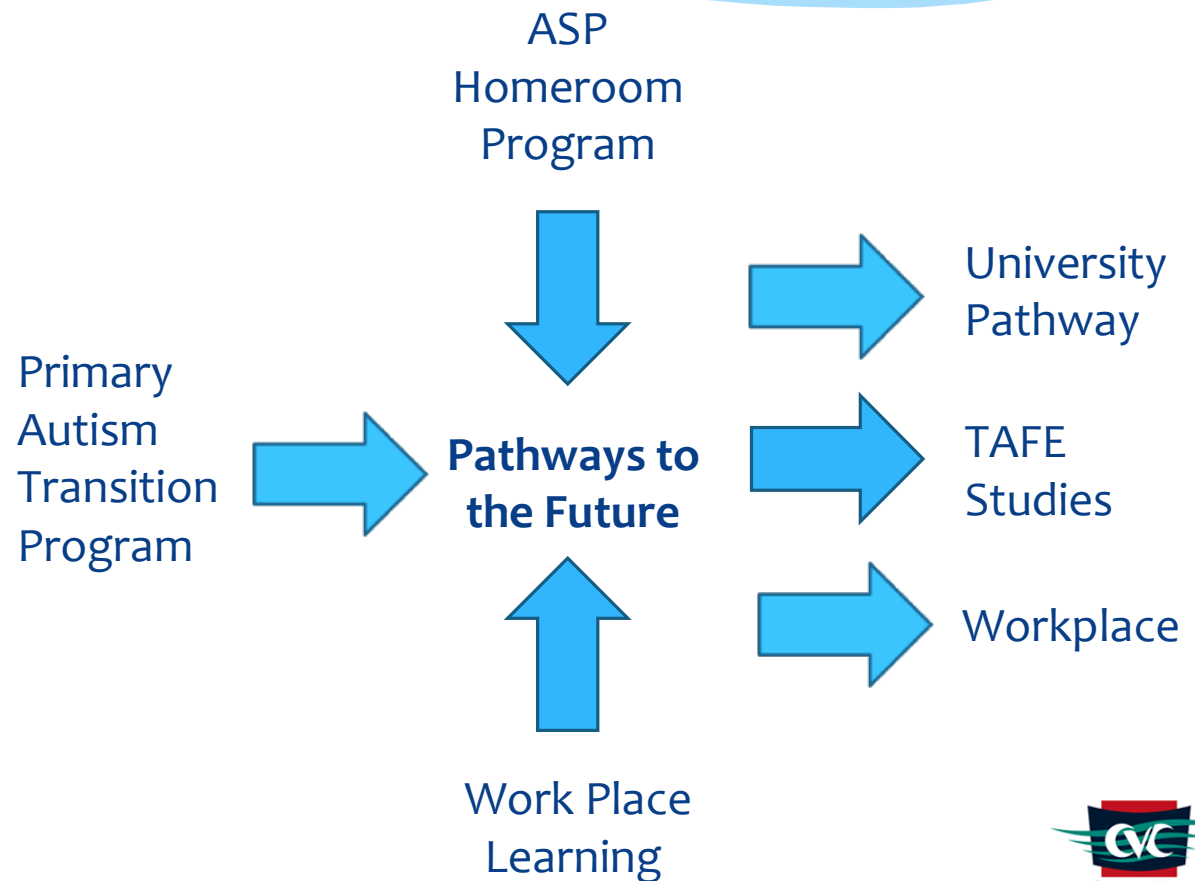
Providing smooth transitions into and out of secondary education for students with Autism Spectrum Disorders.



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## Autism Support Program

The Autism Support Program (ASP) at Canning Vale College offers a supportive *Primary to Post School Option* program designed to meet the needs of individual students

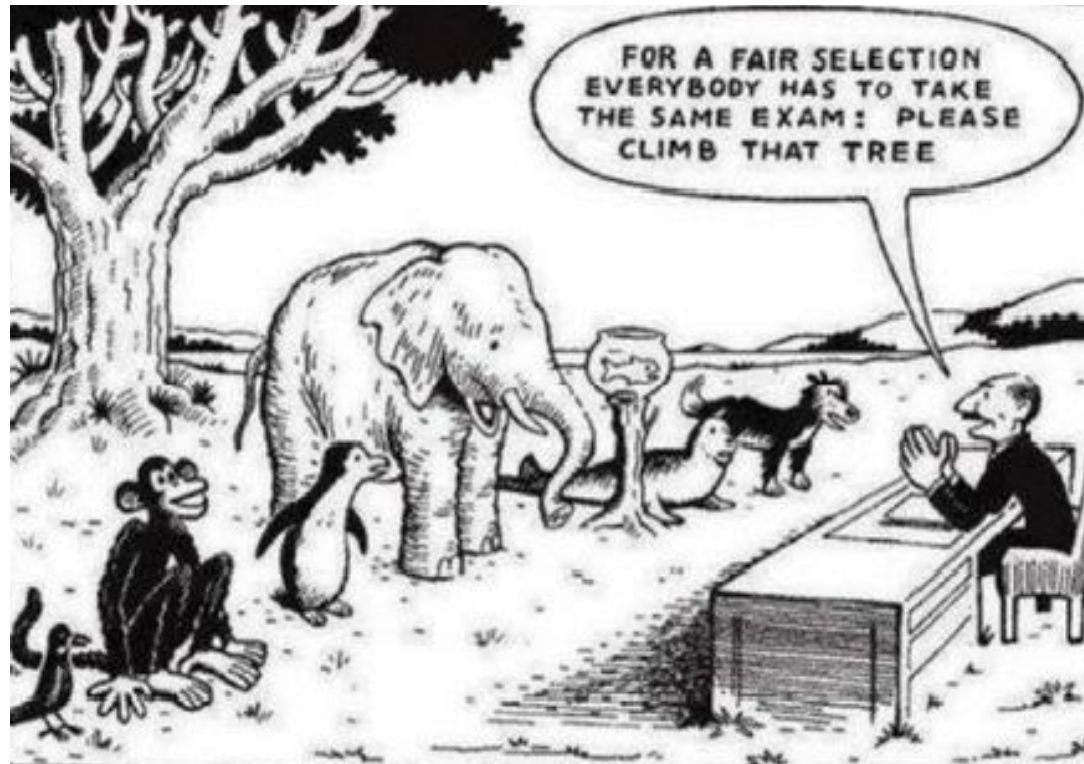


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**For students with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) transitions of any kind can be frustrating and frightening, and care must be taken to ensure that they are supported through these changes with a process which is tailored to their individual special needs**



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## Meltdowns and Overloads

What does a sensory overload feel like? Concentrate on everything you can hear right now, everything you can smell, everything you can see. Then imagine all of that magnified by 10, by 100, by 1000 – and in the middle of it all you have to do a complex maths equation in your head and you must get the right answer or it will result in a zombie apocalypse of proportions that will make *The Walking Dead* look like a nursery rhyme.

### [Sensory Overload](#)



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## Primary Autism Transition Program (PAT)

### Step 1 - Understanding the needs of the student

**Liaison with Primary school staff, parents, support agencies**

#### Year 5

CVC school tours

Liaison with primary schools

#### Year 6

CVC staff working in primary classrooms

Primary Staff visiting CVC

Parent meetings at primary schools with teachers

Intensive 1 week transition term 3

Formal parent meetings CVC with tours

Meetings with support services

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## Step 2 - Understanding the needs of the parents

**Liaison with Primary school staff, parents, support agencies**

- Meetings with parents
- meetings with external providers
  - Private and Government agencies
- liaison with primary school staff



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## Step 3 - Intensive Transition Program

**Planning with primary school staff, parents, mainstream CVC staff**

- Year 6, term 3
- Transition team – CVC ASP staff
- Liaise with primary school staff
- Current EAs attend
- 5 days over 5 weeks
- Staggered start and end times
- Whole school program
  - Passport
  - Staff treasure hunt
  - Tasters
  - Where is... (toilets, nurse, safe zone)
  - How to... (order and buy lunch, ask for help)
- Parent FAQs (parking, special requirements)



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## Step 4 - Year 7 support

### First two weeks of year 7 intensive support

- Colour coded timetables
- EAs in every class and during transitions
- Reassure parents – phone calls, meet at drop off/pick up
- ASP staff out in yard during all breaks
- Melt down box / quiet room on hand
- On call (phone) during Christmas holidays

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## Autism Support Program Homeroom

ASP classes are timetabled into the whole school grid as an optional subject

- Year 7 & 8 - resiliency, self regulation and social skills
- Year 9 - as above and work readiness program
- Year 10 - work readiness and workplace learning
- Year 11 & 12 - work experience, study skills, University/TAFE links

In addition ASP students in year 7 - 10 have 3 homeroom sessions a week where students engage in programs such as 'Virtues' and 'Rock and Water'.

The ASP homeroom is also open for students during recess and lunch breaks, monitored by staff, where they can engage with other students in a safe and friendly environment designed to assist the development of social skills.

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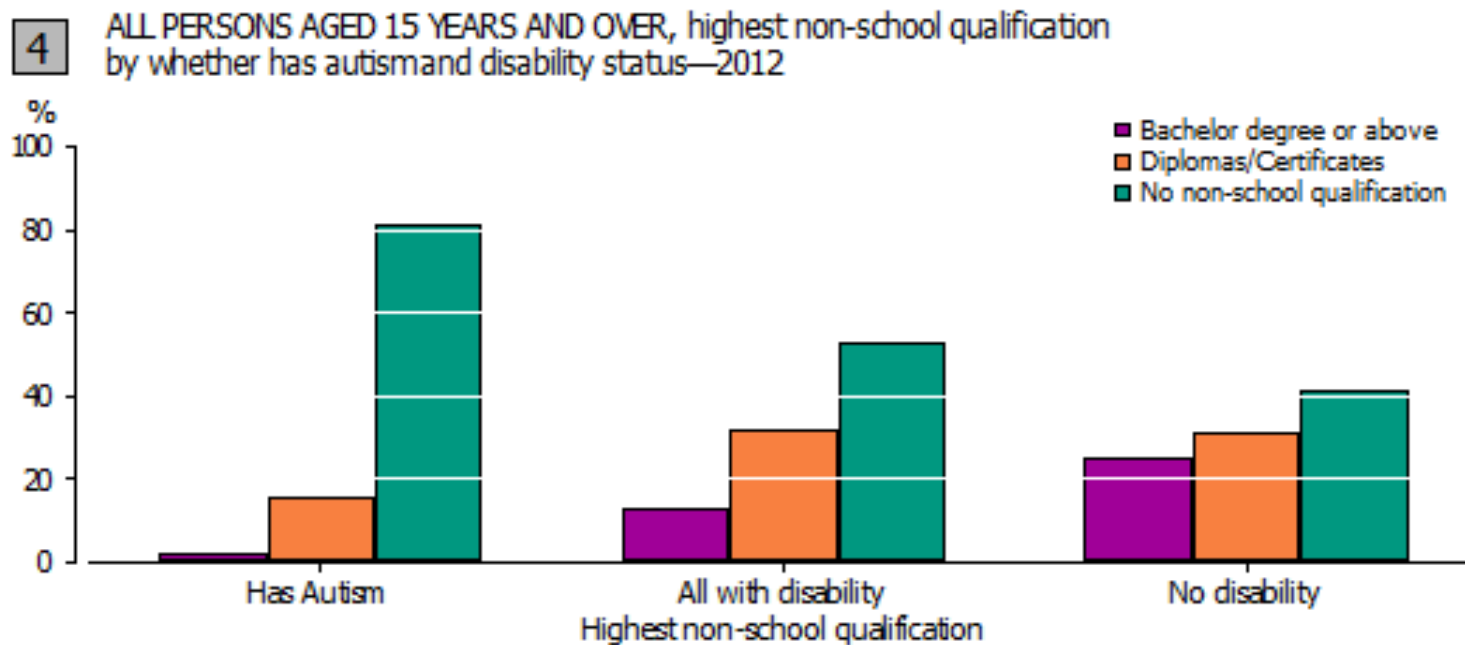
## Pathways to the Future

The ASP program offers several options for students to follow as they prepare to move through secondary school towards post school options



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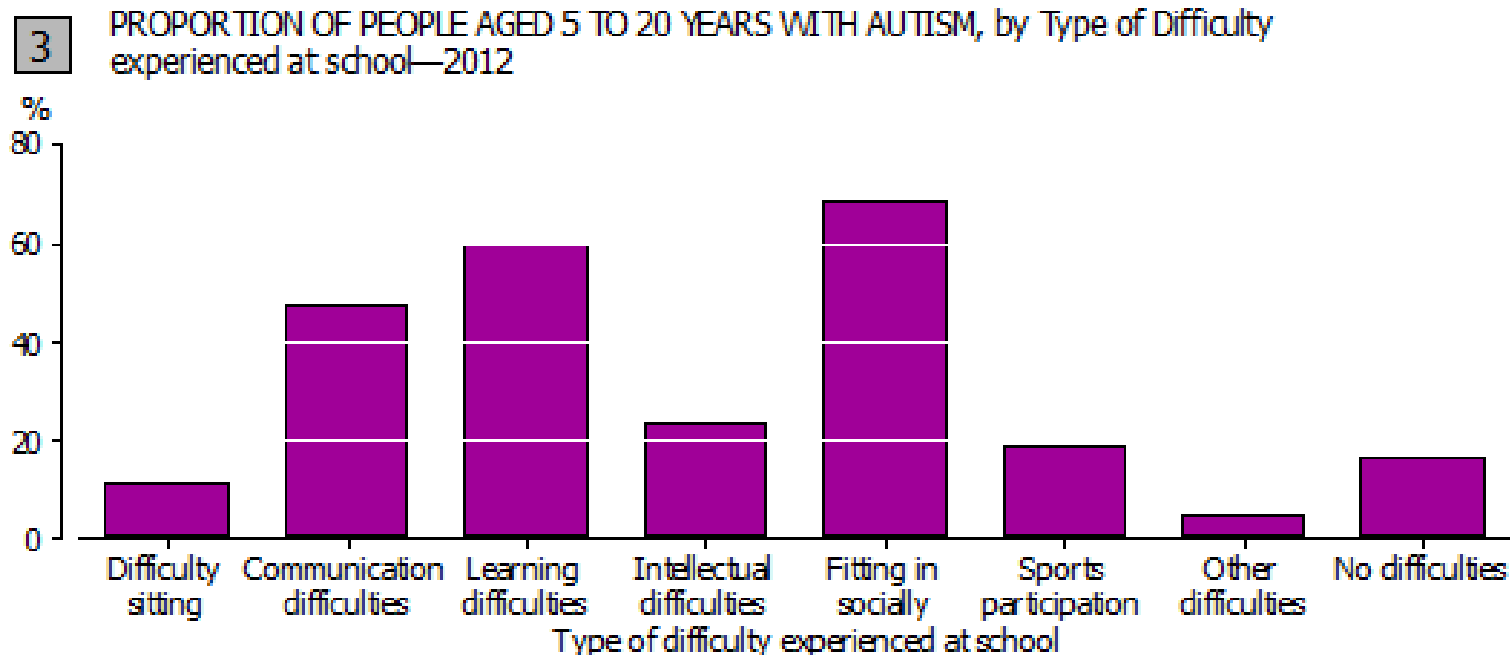
## Why provide opportunities for tertiary assistance?



Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers, 2012

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## Difficulties faced in schools and tertiary studies for students with an ASD



Source: ABS Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers

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## Workplace Learning

- Work readiness program year 10
- Structured work experience years 10, 11, 12
- Employers vetted and matched to student interest and skills
- EAs attend work placement - gradual release
- School based traineeships from year 10
- Certificate courses in the workplace
- Links to external employment agencies - 17 years of age+
- Industry Expos at CVC

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## Tertiary Studies

### TAFE

Year 11 and 12 students are supported in their choices of certificate courses, leading towards further tertiary studies.

Support can be provided in a number of ways dependent on each student's identified individual needs. This may include 1:1 study sessions, liaison with TAFE, and support for college staff when differentiating program curriculum.

### ATAR

Students studying the ATAR pathway may be offered support in the following ways:

- Liaison with teachers / SCSA
- Supported study sessions
- Exam preparation skills
- 1:1 study sessions
- University liaison and mentoring
- Subject selection



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## University Liaison

### **Curtin University Autism Academy for Software Quality Assurance (AASQA)**

CVC ASP is proud to be a part of the Curtin University AASQA.

Curtin University formed the AASQA as an Australian social innovation initiative with the vision of harnessing the special talents of people with Autism for the collective benefit of these individuals, the industry and the wider community. The mission of the AASQA is to enable individuals with Autism to leverage their unique talents through outreach, training and educating, and graduate programs, so as to create pathways from schools to valued, long-term employment.



**CoderDojo**





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**The Canning Vale College Autism Support Program offers students and their families the opportunity to continue their learning journey in a safe environment where their skills are recognised, valued and developed; and all students are given opportunities to reach their full potential.**

