## MEDIA RELEASE



### Midland gains local Autism services

# The Autism Association of Western Australia opens new Service Hub In Midland

The Hon. Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Disability Services, today officially opened an Autism Association of Western Australia local Centre at Mellar Court in Midland. The new Centre "will play a key role in supporting people with Autism of all ages and their families in the Midland and surrounding areas", said the Hon. Minister Morton.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Autism Association, Joan McKenna Kerr said "the new Centre provides a range of services, including early intervention for newly diagnosed children; as well as school support and after-school programs. In addition, the Centre also links adults with Autism to a wide range of services that include community living, post-school-options and employment support" she said. "This is a place where anyone can come to find out more about Autism or about services; and where local families can come to meet our staff and each other."

The renovation and fit-out of the Centre has been financially supported by the Bendigo Community Bank's Forrestfield and High Wycombe branches.

The Hon. Helen Morton said that "Bendigo bank's community spirit aligns with the State Government's Count Me In vision of a welcoming community that facilitates mutual support, friendship and a fair go for everyone" she said.

"The Autism Association of Western Australia has a long history of delivering services to both children and adults with Autism in the Midland area. We recognised, however, that it would make a considerable difference to families if we opened a local service-hub where they can come to find out more about services or take advantage of the range of services being delivered at the Centre."

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#### **FACT FILE**

### ABOUT THE AUTISM ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Inc)

The Autism Association of Western Australia is the largest specialist lifespan organisation providing services to people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder in Australia. The Autism Association services are based on the most up to date research in the field of Autism. The Autism Association has well established links both nationally and internationally.

### Services include:

- Autism Advisor Program
- Early Intervention
- Childcare
- Family and Clinical Services
- School Aged Intervention
- Family Support
- Shared and Individual Accommodation
- Short Breaks for Children (Respite Service)
- Post School Options (alternatives to employment)
- Employment Support Services
- Professional Development and Training Services
- State-wide Consultancy Service.

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