



Autism SA's Language Position Statement

Language Use

Language is a powerful way to promote positivity and to influence perceptions, attitudes and beliefs. Language preferences are deeply individual.

As an organisation, Autism SA is continuously listening and reviewing the use of language relating to autism to ensure that current views are represented in our written and spoken language.

We strive to identify and reflect an individual's language preferences whenever possible.

To ensure we are reflecting the diverse language preferences of the Autistic community in our published works and other material, Autism SA as an organisation will ensure that processes are in place to include each individual client's preferences.

More generally, in our published material and other work, when referring to an autistic person or a number of people on the autism spectrum, these guidelines are endorsed.

**Bolded letters offer direction on whether to use uppercase or lowercase.*

Will use this:

autism
autistic
autistic person/individual/adult/child/citizen
autism spectrum
the autism spectrum
person on the autism spectrum
identifies as autistic/ on the autism spectrum
may be autistic
increased likelihood of being on the autism spectrum
Autistic community (refers collectively to autistic individuals)
autism community (refers collectively to autistic individuals, and their families and supporters)
Autism **SA** community (refers to individuals engaged with Autism SA)



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Will avoid:

Autism Spectrum Disorder (only in relation to diagnosis)

ASD

autism spectrum conditions

ASC

person with autism

lives with autism

person suffering with autism

at risk of autism

Our Language Position Statement has been developed through a comprehensive review of research, with a particular emphasis on Australian studies that explore autistic people's language preferences. It also draws on best practice guidelines, Autism SA community survey data, and feedback from individuals within the Autistic and autism communities.

Autism SA continues to seek feedback on the Autism SA Language Use Position Statement.

To provide feedback, please email feedback@autismsa.org.au, phone 1300 AUTISM (1300 288 476) or write to us at Autism SA Complaints and Feedback, PO Box 556, Melrose Park, DC SA, 5039.

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