



## ASPECT AND AUTISM INITIATIVES FORM AN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

Autism Initiatives in the UK & Ireland and Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) in Australia are delighted to announce the formation of a new international alliance.

As national autism-specific service providers, both organisations have decided to form this alliance to share each other's areas of specific knowledge and experience, and further strengthen the capabilities of the two organisations.

Some examples of the cooperation already in place include Autism Initiatives licensing Aspect to use its Five Point Star, an autism-specific person centred approach which focuses on the strengths and interests of people on the spectrum.

In return Aspect is supporting Autism Initiatives to develop "Walk for Autism" in the UK and Ireland, a successful fundraising initiative developed by Aspect in Australia. Aspect has also agreed to apply its research capacity to further support developments of the Five Point Star in both organisations.

Andrew Grainger, Autism Initiatives' Chief Executive Officer said: **"Our formal partnership with Aspect, building on three years of knowledge exchange, represents the very best of organisational co-operation with both organisations focussed on the single goal of improving services to our beneficiaries. The journey to date has been exciting and rewarding, and I look forward to our shared future."**

Adrian Ford, CEO for Aspect said: **"This is an extraordinary opportunity for both organisations. We have been working together for three years and found a wonderful symmetry between our two organisations with complementary strengths and capabilities, yet bound together by our passion to provide the best possible services to people on the spectrum. Formalising the relationship further strengthens our work together."**

It is worthwhile noting that while being part of this alliance, each organisation will continue to operate independently.

The Alliance between these two internationally likeminded organisations brings many exciting possibilities to improving practice and work with people on the autism spectrum. Both organisations are greatly encouraged by this important formal step they have taken together.

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