

Understanding autism without the disorder!

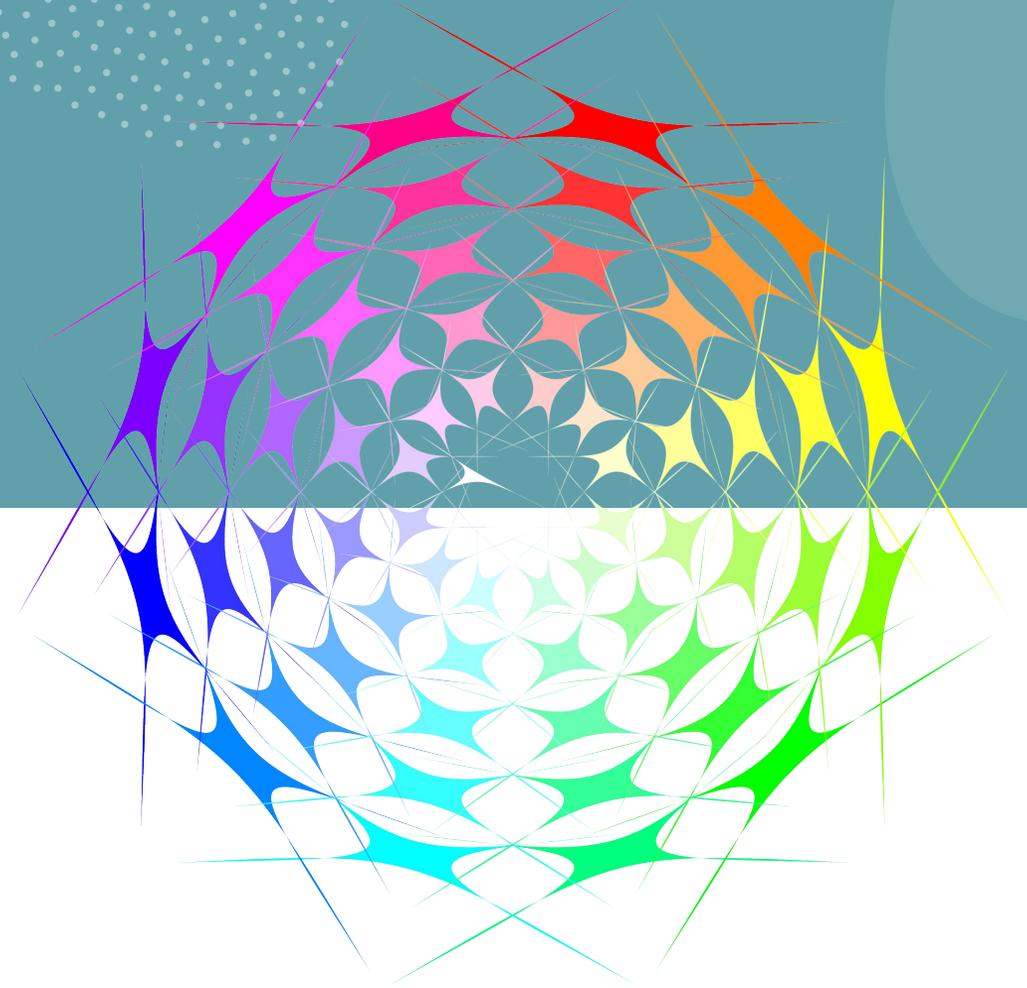
Prof Andrew Cashin – SCU

Dr Matthew Snow – JMS Allied Services

Dr Peter Silberberg - GP

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Prof. Andrew Cashin & Dr. Matthew Snow



Learning Outcomes

1. Increase your understanding of autism
2. Hear a lived experience from a parent of a child with autism
3. Improve your understanding about the NDIS application process
4. Learn some handy tips for your interactions with patients with autism

True or False

Autism is a condition that
mainly affects children

True or False

The ratio of male to female
people with autism is between
1:3 and 1:2
if including accompanying ID

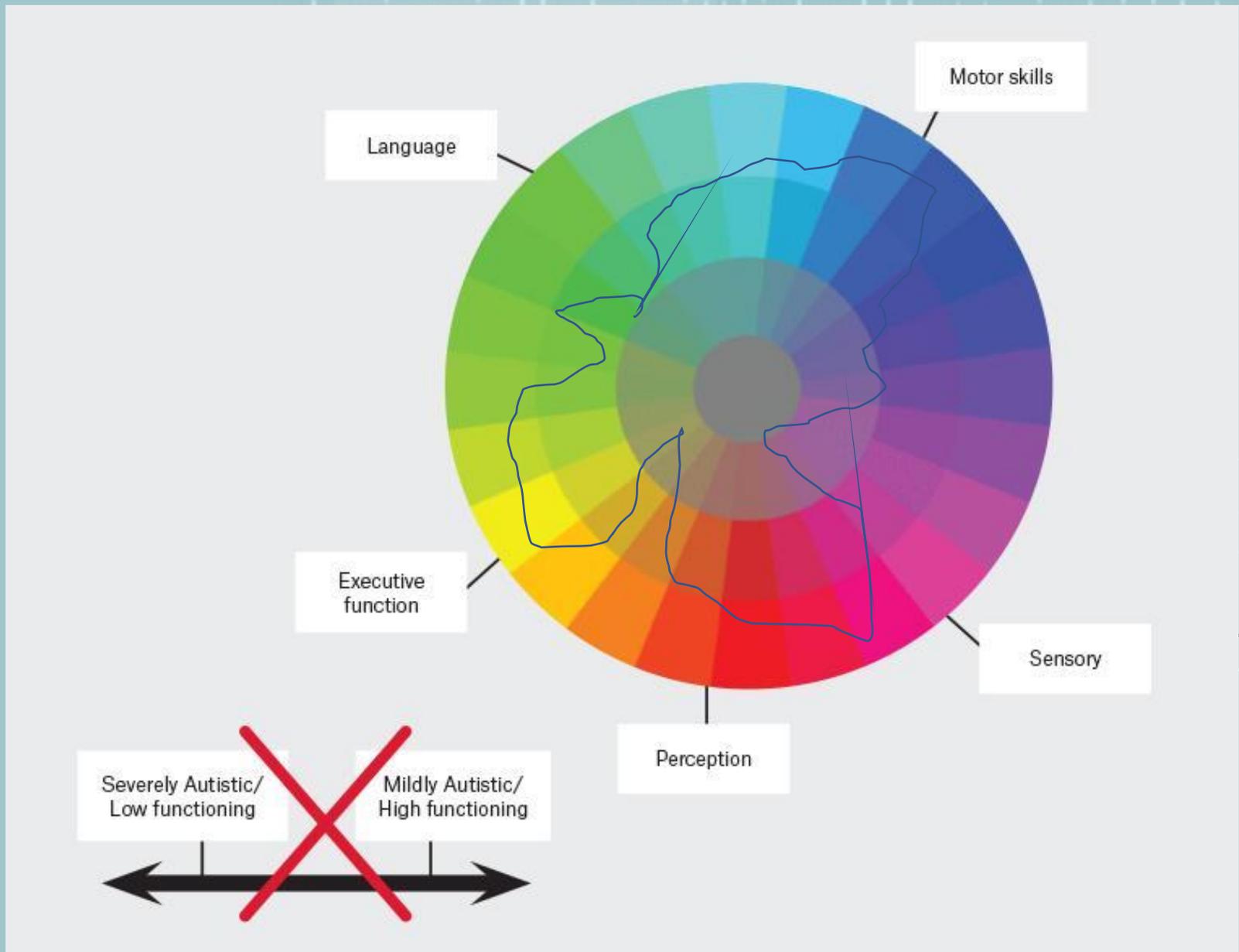
True or False

Autism is a disease or disorder
and should be eradicated,
prevented, treated or cured



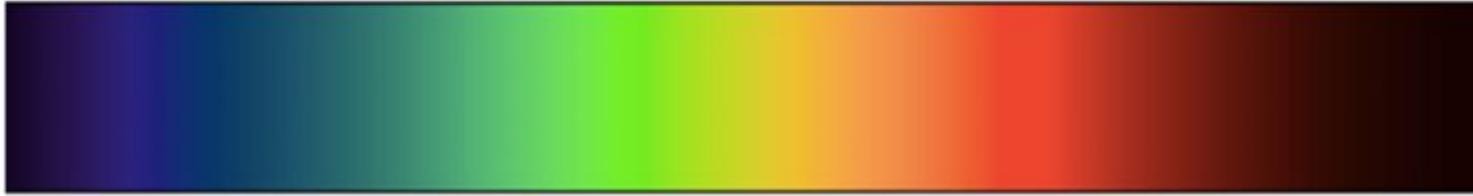
True or False

The Autism Spectrum is linear
with mild at one end and
severe at the other



AJGP Volume 50, Issue 3, March 2021 **'Autistic' or 'with autism'?**
Why the way general practitioners view and talk about autism matters [Pia Bradshaw](#) [Claire Pickett](#) [Mieke L van Driel](#) [Katie Brooker](#) [Anna Urbanowicz](#)

The autism spectrum looks more like this:



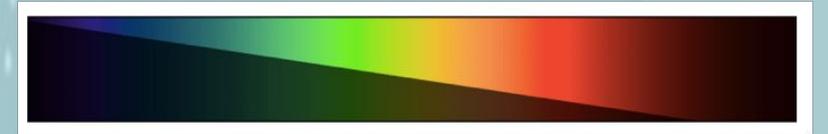
Pragmatic Language	Social Awareness	Monotropic Mindset	Information Processing	Sensory Processing	Repetitive Behaviors	Neuro-Motor Differences
Social communication including body language, eye contact, small talk, and turn-taking in conversation.	Ability to pick up on etiquette, social norms, taboos. Ability to form and maintain relationships.	Narrow but intense ability to focus, resulting in "obsessive" interests and difficulty task-switching.	Ability to assimilate and apply new information quickly or to adapt to new environments or situations.	Challenges interpreting sensory information, hypersensitivity or hyposensitivity to stimuli.	Tendency to "stim" in response to varying emotions. Can be beneficial or harmful in nature.	Ability to control body movements. Ranges from clumsiness to complete loss of ability to move with intention.

NeuroClastic.com

Pragmatic language, social awareness, monotropic Mindset, information processing, sensory processing, repetitive behaviors, neuromotor differences.

All autistic people are affected in one way or another in most or *all* of these boxes – a *rainbow* of traits.

If you only check one or two boxes, then they don't call it autism– they call it something else.



True or False

Continual use of words like mild or severe to describe an autistic person, is potentially damaging.

As Adam Walton, an Autistic self-advocate, says so eloquently:27

- *[So-called] mild autism doesn't mean one experiences autism mildly ... It means YOU experience their autism mildly.*

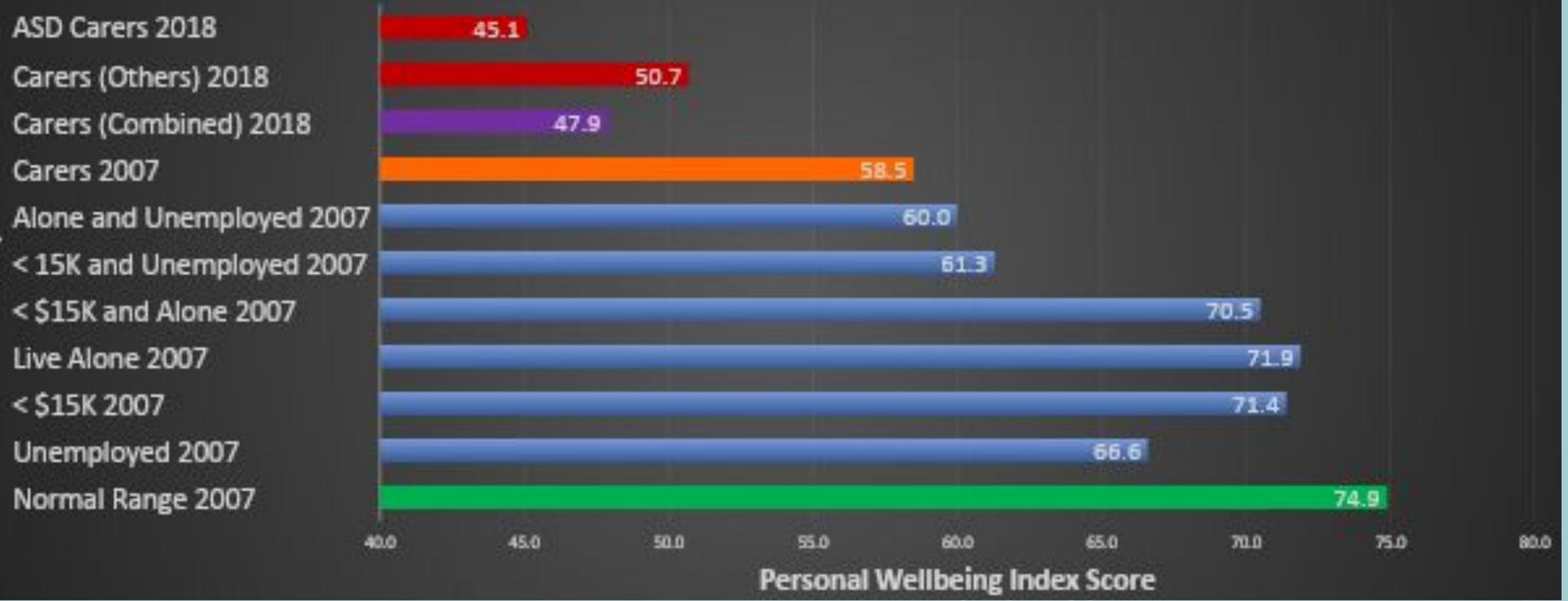
Lachlan

A.K.A

penguin, Gecko, Beluga
or axolotl



Personal Wellbeing by Group - Cummins et al 2007 V Snow 2018



NDIS

- Children under 6
 - Under 6 – referral – OT, clinical psychologist, paediatrician
- Disability advocacy service
- Example of form that GP is asked to complete
- Positive NDIS stories

NDIS Application

2. Details of the person's impairment/s

2.1 What is the person's primary impairment (i.e., the impairment with the most impact on daily life)?	
2.2 How long has the person had this impairment?	
2.3 Is the impairment likely to be lifelong? Note: an impairment may be considered likely to be lifelong even if the impact on the functional capacity fluctuates or varies in intensity over time.	
2.4 Please provide a brief description of any relevant treatment undertaken (current and/or past)	
2.5 Does the person have another impairment that has a significant impact? If yes, please list.	
2.6 How long has the person had this impairment?	
2.7 Is the impairment likely to be lifelong?	

Improving interactions in practice

- Appointments and waiting room
- Consultations
- Preventative health
- Immunisations
- Health Pathways page that has some more details
(<https://manc.communityhealthpathways.org/286873.htm>) login - manchealth
 - [pw - conn3ct3d](#)

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www.nordocs.org.au

There is a tab on the website directing you to the next webinar and a recording of the previous webinar.

Please also email us, if you would like to go on our email list for education events -
info@lists.nordocs.org.au

Join the **Northern Rivers Doctors Group** on Facebook – it is a private group

The Facebook group is a space for Medical Practitioners from the Northern Rivers to communicate, collaborate and advocate on medical issues affecting our community.

