



Autism Research Centre
Aotearoa New Zealand



Autistic Partnership FAQ

What will my role as a member of the AP-NZ be?

Members of the AP-NZ may have different roles across different research projects. These roles can differ depending on the nature of the project and which project you would like to be involved in and how.

These are some examples of how members of the AP-NZ might contribute to research in the ARC:

- Identifying research topics that align with the priorities of Autistic communities
- Providing advice and feedback to researchers about new project ideas
- Being part of an advisory group that provides input across various stages of the project
- Working alongside researchers to co-design research projects, including the methods used
- Helping to write or providing feedback on grant proposals
- Helping to produce and review project materials, such as advertising and recruitment flyers, information for participants, consent forms, surveys, and interview guides
- Providing advice to ensure the study methods and materials are accessible
- Sharing recruitment materials with the Autistic and autism communities
- Being a research assistant that helps carry out the research methods
- Helping to interpret results and providing feedback on the researcher's interpretations
- Helping to produce and review reports for the community
- Sharing the findings with the community
- Helping to write or review manuscripts to publish the findings in academic journals
- Being involved in community events, such as presenting findings or sharing experiences
- Providing feedback about the process of working together with ARC researchers



Do you want to learn more about Autistic inclusion in research? The Autism Cooperative Research Centre of Australia have shared practice guides here: [Participatory and Inclusive Autism Research](#)

What will I be responsible for as a member of the AP-NZ?

You will be responsible for following the AP-NZ principles both within the AP-NZ and during interactions with ARC researchers. You will also be responsible for:

- Keeping personal information and project details and findings confidential
- Determining if you will have the time and capacity to commit to a particular task or project
- Promptly informing the AP-NZ chair or researcher if you can no longer be involved in a project
- Informing the AP-NZ chair or researcher of your support or accommodations need and preferences

What can I expect if I become a member of the AP-NZ?

When you become a member of the AP-NZ, you will be added to the confidential list of members of the AP-NZ. Only the chair of the AP-NZ has access to the names and contact details of the members of the AP-NZ.

The chair of the AP-NZ is responsible for organising and communicating with members of the AP-NZ.

- Communication with the AP-NZ network is primarily via email
- Your name and email address will be hidden (bcc'd) in emails to the AP-NZ network
- Updates about the AP-NZ and ARC will be communicated by the chair through email
- Alternative communication options are available to those without access to email

The chair will email the AP-NZ network when there are opportunities available for members of the AP-NZ to contribute to research projects. These may include providing feedback to ARC researchers, being part of an advisory group, or participating in hui with AP-NZ members or ARC researchers.

Members of the AP-NZ who are interested in these opportunities may choose to:

- Communicate with the chair of the AP-NZ, who will communicate with the ARC researchers
- Communicate directly with the ARC researchers
- Communicate with both the chair of the AP-NZ and the ARC researchers

Compensation or koha will be offered to members of the AP-NZ by ARC researchers in recognition of their contributions to research (such as attending hui or providing feedback on study materials).

You will also have the choice for your contributions to research projects to be publicly recognised.

Who are the ARC researchers?

The ARC researchers are academics and research students who conduct or wish to conduct participatory autism research that aligns with the priorities of Autistic communities and the core values of the ARC.

The ARC has researchers from throughout New Zealand, including the University of Canterbury, the University of Otago, and Victoria University of Wellington.



Are you interested in learning more about research conducted within the ARC? Read about some of the current and past ARC research projects here: [ARC Research Projects](#)

Many of the ARC researchers also have additional connections to autism, including:

- Identifying as Autistic themselves
- Having Autistic family or whānau
- Being a healthcare professional who works with Autistic people

Do you have a question we have not answered?



For questions about the AP-NZ, contact Ruth Monk: ruth.monk@canterbury.ac.nz

For questions about the ARC, contact Professor Laurie McLay: laurie.mclay@canterbury.ac.nz