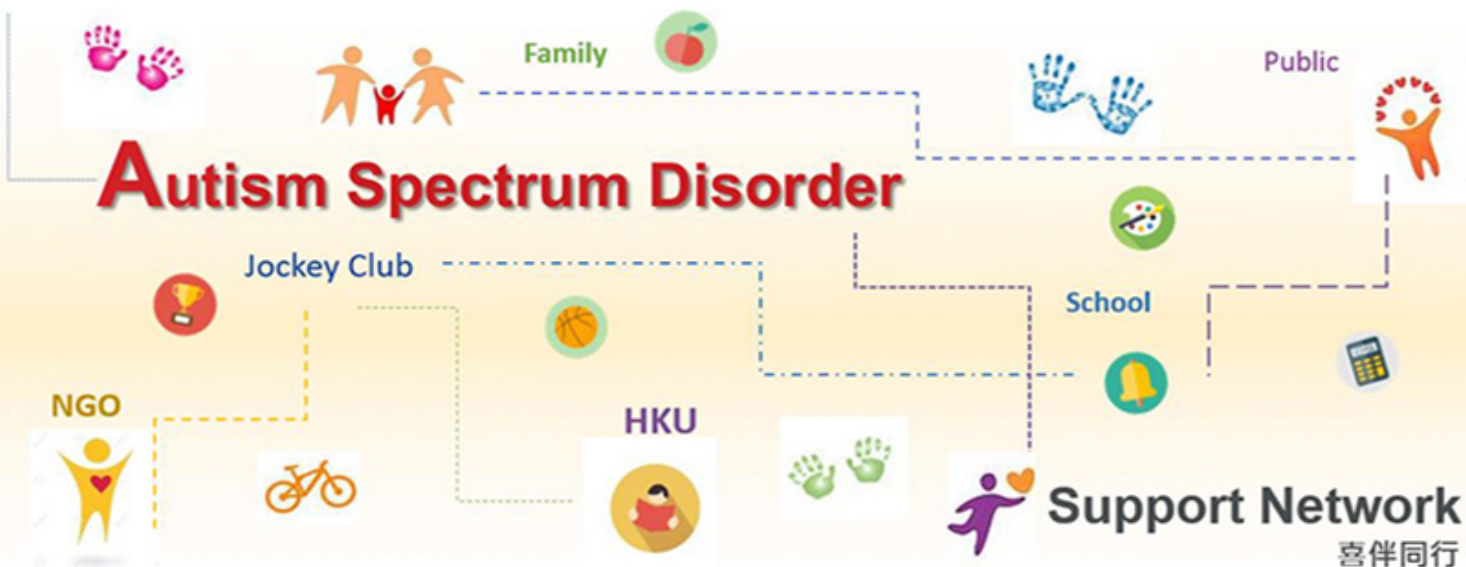


合作夥伴 Partners



E-NEWSLETTER



INAUGURAL ISSUE 2015

The Jockey Club Charities Trust has earmarked HK\$167 million to pioneer a three-year programme entitled "JC A-Connect: Jockey Club Autism Support Network" in response to the increasing number of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Hong Kong's primary and secondary schools. This project seeks to provide better support for these students, their families and schools in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Sciences of The University of Hong Kong, the Education Bureau, six non-governmental organisations (NGOs), namely [Caritas – Hong Kong](#), [Heep Hong Society](#), [New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association](#), [SAHK](#), [The Salvation Army](#), [Tung Wah Group of Hospitals](#), and public sector primary and secondary schools. The project comprises three major components: School Support, Family Support and Public Education.



## School Support

The school support component aims at strengthening specialized support for students with ASD in mainstream schools in Hong Kong. Currently, 302 schools (197 primary and 105 secondary schools) have joined this project, and 321 group training programmes for students have commenced by the end of October. Over 2,600 training programmes will be delivered in 3 years, covering 50% of the estimated population of students with ASD in mainstream schools. Collaboration among professionals from HKU, EDB, NGOs and schools helps strengthen platforms for the sharing of good practices and mutual support through:

- ongoing consultations on school-based programme planning
- on-site observations of training and discussions on implementation skills
- regular NGO seminars for the sharing of good practices
- regular quality assurance meetings on programme merits and improvement

### Activities

#### Seminars for NGOs

Date: August 6, 2015 (First session)  
September 7, 2015 (Second session)

Seminars were held for sharing on project goals, programme features, discussion on the setting up of school programmes, and individualizing training goals and strategies based on thorough assessments of student needs. Programme evaluation parameters and tools were developed, and templates to guide systematic programme planning and monitoring of student progress were delineated as well.



#### Seminar for teachers and other professionals

Date: December 7, 2015

This seminar gave an overview of the needs of primary school students with ASD as well as ways to enhance support strategies.



## Family Support

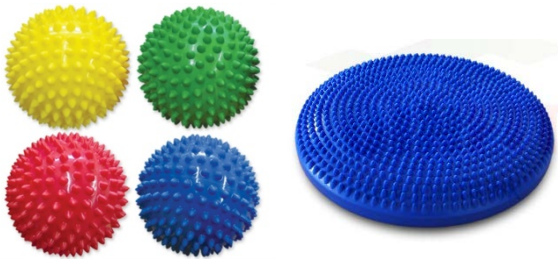
The family support component aims to investigate the existing social service support for the families with members with ASD.

### Family Support Programme Evaluation

In collaboration with three designated NGOs, namely Caritas-Hong Kong, Heep Hong Society, and SAHK, their selected family support programmes are evaluated by a standardized questionnaire and semi-structured focus group interview. The questionnaire reflects the effectiveness of programmes regarding changes in the target child's symptom severity, parental stress, social support, marital satisfaction, parental sense of competence and parents' general health conditions. The focus group interview, on the other hand, provides in-depth feedback on the programme as well as reflects the parents' actual needs for support. By November 2015, the team has been evaluating 13 programmes and conducted 4 focus groups.

### Family Support Service Framework

Colleagues have been working on the formulation of a family support service framework for such families. To achieve this, the team has been interviewing and visiting community stakeholders, such as leading clinicians, parents, a local company that designs and produces training materials etc. Together with a comprehensive literature review and the data from local survey and parent interviews, the team aims to propose a parent intervention framework as a model for good practices that can be disseminated and facilitated in the future.



Examples of useful tools in helping children with ASD

Left 1: fine motor skills training tools

Left 2: balance cushion

Left 3: some toys for training and parent-child interaction at library of Parents Resource Centre

Left 4: visual cue board

## Public Education

To achieve better understanding of ASD in the community and to empower capacity of professionals, peers and caregivers, with evidence-based knowledge and skills, the activities of public education include international conferences, on-line learning platform, media coverage and publications such as information booklets and tools.

### Activities

#### Inauguration Ceremony and Press Conference

Date: June 2, 2015

Video: [click here](#)

[Read More](#)



## Art Exhibition

Date: July 7-30, 2015

The exhibition showed the winning entries of drawing competition organised by Hong Kong Autism Awareness Alliance in 2015. With creative imagination, the individuals with autism express their feeling and share their daily life with us in an interesting way. The art pieces demonstrate the talent, passion and abilities of autistic persons and cultivate a channel to promote awareness and understanding of public towards Autism Spectrum Disorder.

[Read More](#)



## “Integrated as One” Creative Drawing Workshop

Date: July 24, 2015

Through a series of public education activities, the Jockey Club Autism Support Network aims to promote better understanding of autism in the community and to empower capacity of professionals, peers and caregivers, with evidence-based knowledge and skills. The workshop - "Integrated as One" is participated by Shau Kei Wan Community Day Rehabilitation Service and SKY Family and Child Development Centre of The Salvation Army.

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## Column in Hong Kong Economic Journal

Date: June 1, 2015  
Subject: 從自閉到共融

[Read More](#)



## FORTHCOMING

### January 2016

#### Seminar for secondary school teachers and other professionals

Date: January 15, 2016  
Time: 2 – 5pm  
Venue: Library Extension 1, Main Campus, HKU

This will be followed by a series of workshops in the coming two years, providing more advanced training on specific strategies and skills for managing challenges related to students with ASD.

[Events organized by NGOs](#)

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