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## Health and human services in Victoria

Please find below the announcement by the Department of Health that State Government have determined that the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services should be separated into two distinct and stand alone Departments rather than the current model in which the Department of Human Services has been part of the larger Health Department.

This is an interesting development by State Government and may be driven by the recent talk by the Commonwealth that they should take control of Health at a National level rather than leaving Health in the hands of each State.

Although the decision to create two independent bodies may be driven by decisions being made at the Commonwealth level the reality is that this could provide opportunities for better services to be developed and delivered to address concerns and needs for people with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

In particular Autism Victoria is keen to see whether this announcement may create opportunities for the development of new initiatives that will meet the needs of school age and older people with Autism Spectrum Disorders. It may be time for the accommodation needs of people to be looked at with the view to developing alternative accommodation options for people.

Autism Victoria will continue to follow this new development with interest and is keen to pursue opportunities to engage Government on a range of issues including education, employment, social and accommodation options.

### [News from Minister Neville](#)

## Jack Croydon

A young boy with Autism Spectrum Disorder shows that he can compete with the best of students in the latest GE Junior Green awards competition.

Young Jack Croydon is a budding environmental hero and has been selected as a finalist in the latest news.com.au greens awards competition.

He is looking for your support and online vote in the competition with the winner receiving a trip to Sydney as part of the prize.

Jack has been very active in his school and detailed below is his effort to meet the challenge of global warming.

If you would like to support Jack become the winner of the award please go to <http://www.news.com.au/poll/1,,5019059-5041082,00.html> and register your vote.

## Autism Research Fellowships

The Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre at La Trobe University has two research opportunities:

- Post Doctoral Research Fellowship (Level B) (3 Years)
- Senior Research Fellow (Level C) (5 years)

[Please click here for more information](#)

or go to:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/pc/vacancies/all-vacancies.htm>



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