

Title: Perseveration in Higher-Functioning Autistic Spectrum Disorders	
Institution	Deakin University
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Outline of Research	The purpose of the research is to determine the duration of time persons will persist with incorrect response patterns when informed their strategy is incorrect. This will be completed using the Wisconsin Card Sorting Task, where participant will be asked to sort a set of stimulus cards that vary along several dimensions into groups, with feedback from the experimenter. It is hypothesised that autistic individuals will persist longer with incorrect WCST strategies in the face of negative reinforcement, than a normally developing individual. Forty individuals diagnosed with High-functioning Autism or Asperger's Syndrome, with an age an above 14, and an IQ in the normal to above normal range are required. There is no time limit and time required ranges from 15 minutes to one hour. Researcher will come to a location of the participants convenience.
Findings to date	Trends in the data suggest Autistic individuals are persisting longer with incorrect WCST strategies in the face of negative reinforcement, than normally developing individuals. Desperately seeking participants to finish data collection.
Expected start and finish dates	Ongoing - 2010