

Title: Autism: A cross-cultural investigation of parent stress and coping	
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Outline of Research	This study will investigate whether a child's autistic symptomatology, their parent's coping style, and their parent's perceived effectiveness of their child's program/school, are predictors of stress in biological parents living with their child with autism. Furthermore, the study will compare whether these variables (autistic symptomatology, coping style, and program/school effectiveness) differ in predicting level of parental stress depending on the type of intervention/school program parents are accessing for their child. It will also explore whether the country of residence impacts on parental stress. Parents from Melbourne, Perth and Singapore will be asked to complete a series of short questionnaires in phase one of the study and a small number of parents will be invited to participate in qualitative interviews as part of phase two of the study. These interviews will help to further clarify the factors that parents find most stressful about parenting a child with autism. When these factors are identified it is hoped that service providers will be better able to develop more effective program's that target the areas that parent's find most difficult to cope with.
Findings to date	N/A
Expected start and finish dates	Commenced June 2008-Expected completion December 2009