

## Irish Society for Autism - Autism Survey 2020-2022

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### Questionnaire for Professionals

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**Introduction:** Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. This is an important survey, aimed at capturing the views of People with Autism, their Parents / Families and professionals in Ireland today.

Your name is not required, as we wish for this survey to be anonymous.

Only complete this questionnaire if you are currently providing supports or working with People with Autism.

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**Terms:** The terms People with Autism and Person with Autism are used throughout this survey. There are many different views at present with regard to terms. Some people prefer to be referred to as People with Autism, whereas others prefer to be referred to as Autistic. We do not wish to offend anyone in using the terms People with Autism and Person with Autism, but have chosen these for the purpose of this survey.

**What is your preferred term?**

- A) Person with Autism
- B) Autistic Person
- C) Other (Specify):
- D) Don't Mind

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### Section 1 Demographic Details and Support

#### **1.1 Profession**

Please tick the appropriate box below that best describes your principle profession:

Consultant Psychiatrist

Medical Doctor

Psychologist

Occupational Therapist

Social Worker

Physiotherapist

Speech and Language Therapist

Nurse

School Principal

Educator / teacher – primary or secondary level

Educator – Third Level

Other (specify)

**1.2 What county do you currently work in?**

(Please specify):

**1.3 Do you provide supports / services to people with Autism on (please tick all that apply):**

A private basis

A Pro-Bono basis

A public basis

Comment:

**1.4 Do you provide supports / services to (please tick all that apply):**

Children with Autism

Adults with Autism

Family members of people with autism

Other (specify)

Comment:

**1.5 Which (if any) of the following supports do you currently provide to people with autism? (please tick all that apply)**

Diagnosis

Assessment

Interventions/therapeutic support services

Education

Other (specify)

## **Section 2    Assessment and Diagnosis**

**2.1    In your view, is it currently difficult to access a diagnosis for autism?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Comment:

**2.2    Is access to diagnosis for autism... (tick the box that most applies)**

**Very  
Difficult**

**Reasonably  
Difficult**

**Neither  
Difficult  
or Easy**

**Reasonably  
Easy**

**Very  
Easy**

**Not  
Applicable**

Comment:

**2.3    If you have said that it is difficult to access a diagnosis for autism, what in your view are the main reasons for this?**

**2.4    In your experience, what is the average waiting time in your area for families accessing a Diagnosis for autism (please specify in years / months)?**

Years/Months

**2.5    Do you currently carry out diagnostic assessments for autism?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Comment:

**2.6 If yes, are you part of a wider team carrying out these assessments?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Comment:

**2.7 Which diagnostic tool(s) do you use?**

ADOS

DSM(IV/V)

ICD 10

DISCO

Other

Specify

Comment:

**2.8 If you provide diagnoses on autism, do you also provide information on Autism at the point of providing a diagnosis?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Comment:

**2.9 If yes, do you provide this information...**

Verbally

In writing

Verbally and in writing

Comment:

### **Section 3 Early Intervention**

**Note:** For the purpose of this questionnaire, Early Intervention refers to young children with Autism receiving early supports prior to reaching primary school age (typically from 2.5 to 3 years of age), to assist with their development.

**3.1 Do children with autism in your area have access to early intervention?**

Yes

No

Not Applicable

Comment:

**3.2 If yes, approximately how long does it take for children to gain access to early intervention?**

0-6 months

7-12 months

13-18 months

19-24 months

25 months +

Comment:

**3.3 Please rate your satisfaction with access to Early Intervention in your area (for people with autism)**

**Totally  
Satisfied**

**Reasonably  
Satisfied**

**Neither Satisfied  
or Dissatisfied**

**Reasonably  
Dissatisfied**

**Totally  
Dissatisfied**

**Not  
Applicable**

Comment:

**3.4 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Early Intervention in your area (for people with Autism)**

**Totally  
Satisfied**

**Reasonably  
Satisfied**

**Neither Satisfied  
or Dissatisfied**

**Reasonably  
Dissatisfied**

**Totally  
Dissatisfied**

**Not  
Applicable**

Comment:

**3.5 What would you change, if anything, to improve Early Intervention in Autism?**

## **Section 4 Primary and Secondary School Experience**

**4.1 In your view, do primary schools in your area adequately meet the needs of children with autism?**

Yes

No

Don't Know

Not Applicable

Comment:

**4.2 If No, what is required?**

**4.3 In your view do secondary schools in your area adequately meet the needs of adults with autism?**

Yes

No

Don't Know

Not Applicable

Comment:

**4.4 If No, what is required?**

## **Section 5 Post School Experience**

This section deals with the following areas: -

### **5.1 Day Services**

### **5.2 Supported Employment Services**

### **5.3 Post Leaving Certificate Courses (other than University or Institute of Technology Programmes)**

### **5.4 Third Level (University or Institute of Technology Programmes)**

### **5.5 Employment**

### **5.6 Residential Services**

### **5.7 Respite Services**

*Please complete any of the following sub-sections if they are relevant to you*

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## **5.1 Day Services for people with Autism**

### **5.1.1 Please rate your satisfaction with access to Day Services in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**5.1.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Day Services in your area**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**5.2 Supported Employment Services for people with Autism**

**5.2.1 Please rate your satisfaction with access to Supported Employment Services in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**5.2.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Supported Employment Services in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:



### **5.3 Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) Courses for People with Autism**

**5.3.1** Please rate your satisfaction with access to Post Leaving Certificate Courses in your area (for people with autism)

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**5.3.2** Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Post Leaving Certificate Courses in your area (for people with autism)

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

### **5.4 Third Level (Institute of Technology or University) Education for people with Autism**

**5.4.1** Please rate your satisfaction with access to Third Level Education in general (for people with autism)

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**5.4.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Third Level Education in general (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

## **5.5 Employment**

**5.5.1 In your view, is it difficult, in general, for adults with autism to secure employment?**

Yes	No	Not Applicable
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Comment

**5.5.2 If you have answered yes to 5.5.1, what are the main barriers to adults with autism securing employment?**

**5.5.3 If you have answered yes to 5.5.1, what would help adults with autism to secure employment?**

**5.5.4 In your view, what is most useful to adults with autism who are employed, in supporting them in their employment?**

## 5.6 Residential Services

5.6.1 Please rate your satisfaction with access to Residential Services in your area (for people with autism)

Totally Satisfied	Reasonably Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Reasonably Dissatisfied	Totally Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
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Comment:

5.6.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Residential Services in your area (for people with autism)

Totally Satisfied	Reasonably Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Reasonably Dissatisfied	Totally Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
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Comment:

## 5.7 Respite Services

5.7.1 Please rate your satisfaction with access to Respite Services in your area (for people with autism)

Totally Satisfied	Reasonably Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied	Reasonably Dissatisfied	Totally Dissatisfied	Not Applicable
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Comment:

**5.7.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Respite Services in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

## **Section 6 Multidisciplinary Supports** *(e.g. Psychology, Speech & Language Therapy, Physiotherapy, other)*

**6.1 In your view, can people with autism access Multi-Disciplinary Supports when needed?**

Yes	No	Not Applicable
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Comment:

**6.2 If yes, do people with autism generally access these Multi-Disciplinary Supports...**

Privately	or	Publicly
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Comment:

**6.3 In your experience, what is the main reason for people's choice in accessing multidisciplinary supports privately or publicly...**

Finance	Availability of Service
Other	(please specify)

**6.4 Please rate your satisfaction with access to required Multi-Disciplinary Supports in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**6.5 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of Multi-Disciplinary Supports in your area (for people with autism)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

## **Section 7 Quality of Information available about Autism**

**7.1 Please rate your satisfaction with the Information available about Autism from the statutory sector (e.g. government bodies)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**7.2 Please rate your satisfaction with the Information available about Autism from the voluntary sector (e.g. Community and Voluntary organisations, Autism Services)**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**7.3 Please rate your satisfaction with the Information available about Autism in general**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**Section 8 Advocacy**

**8.1 Is individual advocacy available for people with autism in your area?**

Yes	No	Not Applicable
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Comment:

**8.2 Please rate your satisfaction with access to individual advocacy for people with autism in your area**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**8.3 Please rate your satisfaction with the quality of individual advocacy for people with autism in your area**

<b>Totally Satisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Satisfied</b>	<b>Neither Satisfied or Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Reasonably Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Totally Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
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Comment:

**Thank you for completing this questionnaire.**

**How to return the questionnaire:**

Please return the completed questionnaire:

**By post to:**

Irish Society for Autism  
Unity Building  
16/17 Lower O'Connell Street  
**FREEPOST**  
Dublin 1,  
D01 E9W0

OR

**By email to:**

survey@autism.ie (please attach the survey to the email)