



Media Release

19 August 2013

## New Western Australia and East Java Autism Initiative

WELCOME RECEPTION AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA - EAST JAVA AUTISM PROJECT

August 20<sup>th</sup> 2013, 5 pm – 6.30 pm.

A ceremony will be held at Parliament House on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August to mark a major initiative between Western Australia and East Java, Indonesia, to establish Autism Services in 5 regional areas of East Java (population 40 million).

This initiative, to train five multi-disciplinary teams (early childhood nurses, teachers and psychologists), will be hosted by the Autism Association of Western Australia. The teams will also include staff from two universities and the main Teaching Hospital in East Java, Dr. Soetomo Hospital

The first group of interns will arrive for a 6 week intensive course with the Autism Association of Western Australia, commencing the week of the official ceremony at Parliament House.

The Minister for Disability Services, the Hon. Helen Morton will officiate at the Ceremony as well as the Consul General of Indonesia, *Mr. Syarief Syamsuri*,

This initiative was made possible by the West Australian Government through the Disability Services Commission working in partnership with the Autism Association of Western Australia.

***Attendees at the Parliament House Ceremony will include:***

The Minister for Mental Health, Disability Services and Child Protection, the Hon. Helen Morton MLA; representatives of the East Java Government, Dr. Ron Chalmers, Director General, Disability Services Commission; Mrs. Joan McKenna Kerr, Chief Executive Officer, Autism Association of Western Australia; the first group of interns to train at the Autism Association; and other representatives of government and non-government agencies

## PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The province of East Java, Indonesia, has a population of 40 million people. East Java is divided into several Regencies (regional governments). A number of the Regencies have made a strong commitment to the support and inclusive education of children with disabilities. These Regencies are in the process of establishing “Resource Centres” for early detection and intervention with children with disabilities. They have looked to Western Australia for support in this regard.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA/EAST JAVA SISTER STATE AGREEMENT 2012

The re-signing of the Sister-State Agreement between the Western Australian Government and the East Java Government took place in Surabaya in November 2012. Following the signing ceremony, representatives of the East Java Government expressed the desire to work with the Autism Association of Western Australia as part of the Sister State relationship, to establish services for children with Autism in East Java.

### TRAINING PROGRAM IN PERTH:

The intensive training program will address:

- Identifying children at risk
- Child Assessment and individual program development
- Key areas for intervention and education
- Strategies to develop communication skills
- Strategies to promote social skill development
- Strategies to promote learning and independence
- How to structure a classroom for success
- Positive behaviour support
- Working with families and/or other significant caregivers
- Individual program evaluation

### AUTISM ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Autism is a complex, life-long disability which is neurobiological in origin. Approximately one in every 160 children in Australia is diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum disorder (ASD).

The Autism Association of Western Australia is the largest lifespan organisation for people with Autism in Australia, providing services from early diagnosis, through the school years and into adulthood.

Find out more at [www.autism.org.au](http://www.autism.org.au)

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Autism Association of Western Australia      08 9489 8900

All media enquiries to Joan McKenna Kerr, CEO, Autism Association of Western Australia