

Suppliment tal-Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta, Nru. 19,576, 17 ta' Mejju, 2016

Taqsim A

MALTA

ATT Nru XXVI tal-2016

ATT maħruġ b'liġi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT biex jipprovdi dwar l-empowerment tal-persuni fi ħdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu billi jipprovdi għas-saħħa u t-tiġib tagħhom fis-soċjetà; it-titjib fil-kundizzjonijiet tal-ghajxien, il-partecipazzjoni u l-inkluzjoni tagħhom fis-soċjetà u biex jagħmel dispozizzjonijiet anċillari u konsegwenzjali għalih b'aderenza sħiħa mal-Konvenzjoni tal-Ġnus Magħquda dwar id-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità.

ACT No. XXVI of 2016

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to empower persons within the autism spectrum by providing for their health and well-being in society, the betterment of their living conditions, their participation and inclusion in society and to make ancillary and consequential provisions thereto in full adherence to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

17 ta' Mejju, 2016

ATT Nru XXVI tal-2016

ATT biex jipprovdi dwar l-empowerment tal-persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtizmu billi jipprovdi għas-saħħa u t-tishih tagħhom fis-soċjetà; it-titjib fil-kundizzjonijiet tal-ghajxien, il-partecipazzjoni u l-inklużjoni tagħhom fis-soċjetà u biex jagħmel dispożizzjonijiet anċillari u konsegwenzjali għalih b'aderenza shiħa mal-Konvenzjoni tal-Ġnus Magħquda dwar id-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità.

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, harget b'ligi dan li ġej:-

TAQSIMA I: Dispożizzjonijiet Preliminari

1. (1) It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att huwa l-Att tal-2016 dwar l-*Empowerment* tal-Persuni fuq il-Firxa Wiesgħa ta' Awtizmu.

Titolu fil-qosor
u bidu fis-seħh.

(2) Dan l-Att għandu jidhol fis-seħh f'dik id-data li l-Ministru responsabbli għal persuni b'diżabilità jista' b'avviż fil-Gazzetta jistabbilixxi, u jistgħu jiġu hekk stabbiliti dati differenti għal dispożizzjonijiet differenti u għanijiet differenti ta' dan l-Att.

(3) Avviż taht is-subartikolu (2) jista' jagħmel dawk id-dispożizzjonijiet tranzizzjonali, kif jidher lill-imsemmi Ministru li hu neċessarju u spedjenti, fir-rigward ta' dispożizzjonijiet hekk miġjubin fis-seħh.

2. F'dan l-Att, sakemm ir-rabta tal-kliem ma teħtieġx xort'oħra:

Tifsir.

"jippreskrivi" tfisser jippreskrivi permezz ta' regolamenti

A 950

magħmula taħt dan l-Att;

L.S. Kost.02.

"Kumitat" tfisser il-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Affarijiet Soċjali tal-Kamra tad-Deputati mwaqqaf permezz tal-Ordni Permanenti 120A(v) tal-Ordni dwar l-Ordnijiet Permanenti tal-Kamra tad-Deputati;

"Kunsill" tfisser il-Kunsill Konsultattiv dwar l-Awtiżmu mwaqqaf taħt dan l-Att; u

"Ministru" tfisser il-Ministru responsabbli għal persuni b'dizabilità.

TAQSIMA II: Kunsill Konsultattiv dwar l-Awtiżmu

Twaqqif tal-Kunsill Konsultattiv dwar l-Awtiżmu.

3. (1) Għandu jkun hemm organu magħruf bħala l-Kunsill Konsultattiv dwar l-Awtiżmu li jwettaq il-funzjonijiet mogħtija lilu jew imposti fuqu minn dan l-Att.

(2) Il-Kunsill għandu jkun appuntat mill-Ministru wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Affarijiet Soċjali għal dak iż-żmien u fuq dawk il-kundizzjonijiet li l-Ministru jista' jippreskrivi. Dan il-kunsill għandu jiġi maħtur għal perjodu ta' hames snin fl-ewwel haħra tiegħu u kull haħra sussegwenti għandha tkun għal perjodu ta' tliet snin kull darba.

Kompożizzjoni tal-Kunsill.

4. (1) Il-Kunsill għandu jkun kompost minn *Chairperson* u h̄dax-il membru.

(2) Iċ-*Chairperson* tal-Kunsill għandu jkun appuntat minn fost nies li għandhom għarfien dwar il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu.

(3) Il-membri tal-Kunsill għandhom ikunu maqsumin f'żewġ kategoriji:

(a) il-membri *ex officio*; u

(b) membri oħra.

(4) Il-membri *ex officio* tal-Kunsill għandhom ikunu dawn li ġejjin:

(a) is-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli mis-Saħħa jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(b) is-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli mill-Edukazzjoni u Xogħol jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(c) is-Segretarju Permanenti tal-Ministeru responsabbli

mill-Politika Soċjali u Persuni b'Dizabilità jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(d) id-Dekan tal-Fakultà għat-Tisħih Soċjali jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(e) id-Dekan tal-Fakultà tal-Mediċina u Kirurgija jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(f) id-Dekan tal-Fakultà tal-Edukazzjoni jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu;

(g) il-Kummissarju tad-Drittijiet tal-Persuni b'Dizabilità jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu; u

(h) il-Kap Eżekuttiv tal-Aġenzija SAPPORT jew ir-rappreżentant tiegħu.

(5) Il-membri l-oħra tal-Kunsill għandhom jikkonsistu fi tliet rappreżentanti ta' organizzazzjonijiet mhux governattivi li jappoġġaw individwi fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtizmu u l-familji tagħhom, li għall-inqas wiehed minnhom għandu jkun persuna adulta fil-firxa wiesgħa tal-awtizmu.

(6) Mingħajr hsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-artikolu, il-kariga ta' membru tal-Kunsill għandha ssir vakanti –

(a) mal-iskadenza ta' hames snin fl-ewwel hatrie tiegħu u tliet snin fil-hatrie sussegwenti; jew

(b) jekk ikun hemm ċirkostanzi li, li kieku ma kienx membru tal-Kunsill, kienu jwasslu għall-iskwalifika milli jinhatar bhala membru.

(7) Membru tal-Kunsill jista' jitneħħa mill-kariga mill-Ministru, iżda jista' jitneħħa biss minhabba f'inkapaċità li jaqdi l-funzjonijiet tal-kariga tiegħu (kemm jekk minhabba f'mard mentali jew korporali jew għal xi raġuni oħra) jew għal imġiba hażina.

(8) Jekk il-kariga ta' membru tal-Kunsill tkun vakanti jew jekk membru għal xi raġuni ma jistax jaqdi l-funzjonijiet tal-kariga tiegħu, il-Ministru għandu jahtar persuna li hija kwalifikata sabiex tinhatar membru bhala membru temporanju tal-Kunsill, u kull persuna hekk mahtura għandha, mingħajr hsara għad-dispożizzjonijiet tas-subartikoli (4) u (5), tieqaf milli tkun membru meta persuna tinhatar sabiex timla dik il-vakanza jew, skont il-każ, meta l-membru li ma setax jaqdi l-funzjonijiet tal-kariga tiegħu jerġa' jibda jaqdi dawn il-funzjonijiet.

A 952

Segretarju tal-Kunsill.

5. Il-Ministru għandu jappunta Segretarju tal-Kunsill fuq bażi *full-time*.

Laqgħat tal-Kunsill.

6. Il-Kunsill għandu jiltaqa' meta jgħajjat il-laqgħa *à-Chairperson* u skont kif ikun previst fil-proċeduri addottati mill-Kunsill.

Quorum,
votazzjoni u
proċedura.

7. (1) Maġġoranza sempliċi tal-membri tal-Kunsill jew ta' Grupp ta' Hidma Konsultattiv tikkostitwixxi *quorum*.

(2) Il-Kunsill għandu jaġixxi b'maġġoranza ta' voti tal-membri li qed iservu li huma preżenti u li jivvutaw. F'każ ta' parità ta' voti, *à-Chairperson* ikollu d-dritt li jeżerċita l-*casting vote*. Wara li jittiehed vot, *à-Chairperson* ikollu l-obbligu li jipprezenta lill-Ministru kull rapport relatat ma' dak il-vot inklużi rapporti minoritarji jekk ikun il-każ.

(3) Il-Kunsill għandu, soġġett għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, jirregola l-proċedura tiegħu.

Aġenda tal-Kunsill.

8. (1) *à-Chairperson* għandu jfassal l-aġenda tal-Kunsill.

(2) Is-Segretarju għandu jikkomunika l-aġenda mfasla kif imsemmi qabel lill-membri.

Onorarja.

9. (1) *à-Chairperson* u l-membri tal-Kunsill għandhom jirċievu dik l-onorarja li l-Ministru għandu jippreskrivi. Dan il-pagament għandu jithallas kull xahar f'każ ta' hatriet annwali u matlestija tal-kompitu f'każ ta' hatriet għal kompitu.

(2) *à-Chairpersons* tal-Gruppi ta' Hidma Konsultattivi u l-membri tal-Gruppi ta' Hidma Konsultattivi għandhom jirċievu dik l-onorarja li l-Ministru għandu jippreskrivi, iżda kemm-il darba l-Gruppi ta' Hidma Konsultattivi ma jkunux maħtura fuq bażi annwali iżda fuq bażi ta' kompitu, dawn għandhom jithallsu onorarja matlestija tal-kompitu.

Funzjonijiet tal-Kunsill.

10. (1) Il-Kunsill għandu jaġixxi f'kapaċità konsultattiva għall-Ministru u għandu jwettaq il-funzjonijiet li ġejjin:

(a) jipprepara u jissottometti lill-Ministru, għall-approvazzjoni tiegħu, Pjan Nazzjonali ta' Sapport għall-Awtiżmu, kif imsemmi fl-artikolu 11 fi żmien sena minn meta jitwaqqaf il-Kunsill;

(b) jirrevedi, jissorvelja u jaġġorna f'intervalli regolari jew f'dawk l-intervalli li l-Ministru jista' jippreskrivi, il-Pjan Nazzjonali ta' Sapport għall-Awtiżmu;

(ċ) jagħti pariri lill-Ministru dwar l-implimentazzjoni tal-Pjan Nazzjonali ta' Sapport għall-Awtiżmu;

(d) jassisti lill-Gvern biex jilhaq l-għanijiet ta' dan l-Att;

(e) jiġbor informazzjoni xierqa, anonima u aggregata dwar il-popolazzjoni kollettiva ta' persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu, inkluż statistika u *data* ta' riċerka;

(f) jagħti pariri dwar:

(i) il-promozzjoni ta' taħriġ vokazzjonali, meta meħtieġ, u programmi ta' żvilupp ta' ħiliet għal persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;

(ii) l-*empowerment* tal-persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu li jitgħallmu ħiliet għall-iżvilupp tal-ħajja u l-iżvilupp soċjali sabiex jiffacilita l-partecipazzjoni sħiħa u ugwali fl-edukazzjoni u bhala membri tal-komunità;

(iii) il-promozzjoni ta' awto-determinazzjoni tagħhom stess ta' persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;

(iv) it-titjib ta' aċċess għal servizzi ta' appoġġ xierqa u opportunitajiet indaqs għal inklużjoni u partecipazzjoni fis-soċjetà billi jipprovdi, kif xieraq, taħriġ lill-amministraturi pubbliċi, fornituri tas-servizzi, edukaturi, *carers*, *caregivers*, professjonisti u persuni mhux professjonisti dwar il-bżonnijiet u d-drittijiet tal-persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu; u

(v) il-formulazzjoni ta' programmi ta' intervent fattibbli, effettiv, u sostenibbli sabiex jindirizzaw il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;

(g) jipproponi taħriġ għall-ġenituri u persuni oħra li jaħdmu mal-persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;

(h) johloq inizjattivi li jzidu l-għarfien għall-pubbliku ingenerali bil-għan li persuni fil-firxa wiesgħa tal-awtiżmu jiġu aċċettati fis-soċjetà;

(i) jippromwovi riċerka kordinata dwar l-identifikazzjoni u l-kawża ta' zieda sinifikanti fit-tfal identifikati fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu permezz ta'

A 954

dijanjosi ffukata fuq il-persuna;

(j) jiffoka fuq il-htieġa biex jitjieb il-proċess ta' identifikazzjoni ta' adulti fil-firxa wiesgħa tal-awtiżmu permezz ta' dijanjosi ffukata fuq il-persuna filwaqt li jindirizza dan il-qasam ukoll mill-aspett ta' anzjanità; u

(k) jaqdi dawk il-funzjonijiet oħra li l-Ministru jista' jippreskrivi.

(2) Fit-twettiq tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu taħt id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, il-Kunsill għandu jimmira li jilhaq dawn l-oġettivi li ġejjin:

(a) li jagħti setgħat lil persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu billi jipprovdi għas-saħħa, għall-edukazzjoni, għat-tisħiħ u għall-partecipazzjoni tagħhom f'kull aspett tas-soċjetà u t-titjib tal-kundizzjonijiet ta' għajxien tagħhom;

(b) li jippromwovi d-determinazzjoni tagħhom stess fost persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;

(c) li jkabbar il-potenzjal ta' tfal u ta' adulti fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu permezz ta' awtonomija personali u ċittadinanza attiva;

(d) li jinkoraġġixxi identifikazzjoni bikrija ta' tfal fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu sabiex jiġu pprovduti servizzi xierqa ta' intervent bikri, sabiex it-tfal jilhqqu partecipazzjoni ottima fid-dar, fl-iskola u fil-lokalità tagħhom;

(e) li effettivament jikkordina riżorsi umani governattivi u mhux governattivi meħtieġa biex tiġi pprovduta identifikazzjoni bikrija u appoġġ ibbażat fuq evidenza xjentifika sabiex jiżgura li persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu jilhqqu l-potenzjal ottimu tagħhom; u

(f) li jidentifika l-bżonnijiet soċjo-ekonomiċi, psiko-educattivi u ta' saħħa fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu bil-ħsieb li l-Gvern jindirizza dawk il-bżonnijiet.

Pjan Nazzjonali
ta' Sapport
għall-Awtiżmu.

11. Il-Pjan Nazzjonali ta' Sapport għall-Awtiżmu għandu jindirizza materji relatati, iżda mhux esklussivament, għall-impenn u involviment tal-familja, identifikazzjoni bikrija u servizzi ta' intervent, appoġġ edukattiv u servizzi, aċċess għal sport u divertiment, appoġġ u servizzi għall-adulti, taħriġ professjonali u żvilupp personali.

12. Il-Ministru għandu jipprovdi lill-Kunsill dawk ir-riżorsi li jista' jkollu bżonn fil-qadi tal-funzjonijiet tiegħu skont dan l-Att. Riżorsi tal-Kunsill.
13. Il-Kunsill jista' johloq Gruppi ta' Ħidma Konsultattivi sabiex jassistu lill-Kunsill fir-rakkomandazzjonijiet fuq it-tfassil tal-politika. Sotto-Kumitati.
14. Sakemm xi liġi oħra ma tippreskrivix mod ieħor: Għoti ta' informazzjoni u assistenza.
- (a) l-amministrazzjoni pubblika għandha tipprovdi lill-Kunsill kull assistenza u informazzjoni neċessarja li tippermetti lill-Kunsill iwettaq id-dmirijiet tiegħu taħt dan l-Att; u
- (b) aċċess liberu għandu jingħata għal kotba, *records* u dokumenti kollha miżmuma mill-amministrazzjoni pubblika relatati ma' materji fi hdan l-iskop tal-funzjonijiet tal-Kunsill.

TAQSIMA III: Mixxellanji

15. Il-Ministru jista', wara konsultazzjoni mal-Kumitat Permanenti għall-Affarijiet Soċjali, minn żmien għal żmien, jagħmel regolamenti għal kull wiehed jew xi wiehed mill-għanijiet li ġejjin: Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regolamenti.
- (a) biex ifassal lista ta' dawk l-organizzazzjonijiet mhux governattivi li jappoġġaw persuni fi hdan il-firxa wiesgħa ta' awtiżmu;
- (b) biex jippreskrivi xi materja li għandha tkun indirizzata permezz ta' dan l-Att; u
- (ċ) biex jipprovdi dwar xi materji oħra kkontemplati b'dan l-Att jew neċessarji għall-amministrazzjoni tiegħu u, jew għall-implimentazzjoni tiegħu.
-

A 956

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru. 388 tal-11 ta' Mejju, 2016.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Skriivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

17 th May, 2016

ACT No. XXVI of 2016

AN ACT to empower persons within the autism spectrum by providing for their health and well-being in society, the betterment of their living conditions, their participation and inclusion in society and to make ancillary and consequential provisions thereto in full adherence to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

PART I: Preliminary Provisions

1. (1) The short title of this Act is the Persons within the Autism Spectrum (Empowerment) Act, 2016. Short title and commencement.

(2) This Act shall come into force on such date as the Minister responsible for persons with disability may by notice in the Gazette appoint, and different dates may be so appointed for different provisions and different purposes of this Act.

(3) A notice under sub-article (2) may make such transitional provisions as appear to the said Minister to be necessary or expedient in connection with the provisions thereby brought into force.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation.

"Committee" means the Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the House of Representatives set up by Standing Order 120A(v) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives; S.L.Const.02

A 958

"Council" means the Autism Advisory Council established under this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for persons with disability;

"prescribe" means to prescribe by regulations made under this Act.

PART II: Autism Advisory Council

Establishment
of the Autism
Advisory
Council.

3. (1) There shall be a body known as the Autism Advisory Council to perform the functions conferred or imposed on it by this Act.

(2) The Council shall be appointed by the Minister following consultation with the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for such time and on such conditions as the Minister may prescribe. The Council shall be initially appointed for a period of five years and any subsequent appointments shall be for a period of three years for each appointment.

Composition of
the Council.

4. (1) The Council shall be composed of a Chairperson and eleven members.

(2) The Chairperson of the Council shall be appointed from amongst persons knowledgeable in autism spectrum.

(3) The members of the Council shall be divided into two categories:

- (a) the *ex officio* members; and
- (b) other members.

(4) The *ex officio* members of the Council shall be the following:

- (a) the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Health or his representative;
- (b) the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Education and Employment or his representative;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Social Policy and Persons with Disability or his representative;
- (d) the Dean of the Faculty for Social Wellbeing or his representative;

(e) the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery or his representative;

(f) the Dean of the Faculty of Education or his representative;

(g) the Commissioner for the Rights of Persons with Disability or his representative; and

(h) the Chief Executive Officer Aġenzija SAPPORT or his representative.

(5) The other members of the Council shall consist of three representatives of non-governmental organisations supporting individuals within the autism spectrum and their families, of which at least one shall be an adult with autism spectrum.

(6) Subject to the provisions of this article, the office of a member of the Council shall become vacant –

(a) at the expiration of five years in the case of the initial appointment of the Council or three years in the case of subsequent appointments, from the date of his appointment; or

(b) if any circumstances arise that, if he were not a member of the Council, would cause him to be disqualified for appointment as such.

(7) A member of the Council may be removed from office by the Minister, but such member may be removed only for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or of body or any other cause) or for misbehaviour.

(8) If the office of a member of the Council is vacant or if a member is for any reason unable to perform the functions of his office, the Minister shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed to be a member to be a temporary member of the Council, and any person so appointed shall, subject to the provisions of sub-articles (4) and (5), cease to be such a member when a person has been appointed to fill the vacancy or, as the case may be, when the member who was unable to perform the functions of his office resumes those functions.

5. The Minister shall appoint a full-time Secretary to the Council. Secretary to the Council.

6. The Council shall meet at the call of the Chairperson and as may be provided in procedures adopted by the Council. Council meetings.

A 960

Quorum, voting and procedure.

7. (1) A simple majority of members of the Council or of the Advisory Working Groups shall constitute a quorum.

(2) The Council shall act by a majority vote of its serving members present and voting. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairperson shall have the right to exercise the casting vote. Following the vote, the Chairperson shall present to the Minister all reports related to the said vote including any minority reports if any.

(3) The Council shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, regulate its own procedure.

Council agenda.

8. (1) The Chairperson shall draw up the Council agenda.

(2) The Secretary shall communicate the agenda drawn up as aforesaid to members.

Honorarium.

9. (1) The Chairperson and members of the Council shall receive such honorarium as the Minister shall prescribe. Such payment shall be paid on monthly intervals in the case of annual appointments and on completion of task in the case of appointments by task.

(2) The Advisory Working Group Chairpersons and Advisory Working Group Members shall receive an honorarium as the Minister shall prescribe, but should Advisory Working Groups not be appointed on an annual basis but on a task basis, they shall be paid an honorarium on completion of their task.

Functions of the Council.

10. (1) The Council shall act in an advisory capacity to the Minister and shall perform the following functions:

(a) prepare and submit to the Minister for his approval an Autism Support State Plan, as referred to in article 11 within one year of the Council's appointment;

(b) review, monitor and update at regular intervals or at such intervals as the Minister may prescribe, the Autism Support State Plan;

(c) advise the Minister on the implementation of the Autism Support State Plan;

(d) assist the Government to achieve the purposes of this Act;

(e) collect appropriate, anonymous and aggregated information on the collective population of persons within the autism spectrum, including statistics and research data;

- (f) give advice on:
- (i) the promotion of vocational training, when required, and skills development programmes for persons within the autism spectrum;
 - (ii) the enabling of persons within the autism spectrum to learn life and social development skills to facilitate their full and equal participation in education and as members of the community;
 - (iii) the promotion of self-determination of persons within the autism spectrum;
 - (iv) the enhancement of access to appropriate support services and equal opportunities for inclusion and participation in society by providing, as appropriate, training to public administrators, service providers, educators, carers, caregivers, families, professionals and non-professionals on the needs and rights of persons within the autism spectrum; and
 - (v) the formulation of feasible, effective and sustainable intervention programmes for addressing the autism spectrum;
- (g) propose training for parents and other persons who work with persons within the autism spectrum;
- (h) create awareness raising initiatives for the general public *inter alia* to achieve autism acceptance within society;
- (i) promote coordinated research regarding the identification and cause for the significant increase in children identified within the autism spectrum through a person-centred diagnostic approach;
- (j) focus on the need to improve identification of undiagnosed adults within the autism spectrum through a person-centre diagnostic approach, addressing also the topic of autism and ageing; and
- (k) carry out such other functions as the Minister may prescribe.
- (2) In carrying out its functions under the provisions of this article, the Council shall aim to achieve the following objectives:

A 962

(a) to empower persons within the autism spectrum by providing for their health, education, well-being and participation in all aspects of society and the betterment of their living conditions;

(b) to promote self-determination amongst persons within the autism spectrum;

(c) to maximize the potential for children and adults within the autism spectrum through their personal autonomy and active citizenship;

(d) to encourage early identification of children within the autism spectrum in order to provide appropriate early intervention services for children to achieve optimal participation in their home, school and locality;

(e) to effectively coordinate governmental and non-governmental human resources needed to provide early identification and evidence-based support required to ensure that persons within the autism spectrum reach their optimum potential; and

(f) to identify the socio-economic, psycho-educational and health needs of persons within the autism spectrum with a view for Government to address these needs.

Autism Support State Plan.

11. The Autism Support State Plan shall address matters related, but not exclusively, to family engagement and involvement, early identification and intervention services, educational support and services, access to sports and leisure, adult support and services, training and professional and personal development.

Resources of the Council.

12. The Minister shall provide the Council with such resources as it may need to carry out its functions in terms of this Act.

Sub-Committees.

13. The Council may create Advisory Working Groups to assist the Council in policy-making recommendations.

Provision of information and assistance.

14. Unless otherwise prescribed by any other law:

(a) the public administration shall provide to the Council any necessary assistance or information to enable the Council to carry out its duties under this Act; and

(b) free access shall be given to any books, records, or documents held by the public administration relating to matters within the scope of the Council's functions.

PART III: Miscellaneous

15. The Minister may, following consultation with the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, from time to time, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

Minister may
make
regulations.

(a) drawing up a list of those non-governmental organisations supporting persons within the autism spectrum;

(b) prescribing any matter which has to be addressed by this Act; and

(c) providing for any other matters contemplated by this Act or necessary for its administration and, or its implementation.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 388 of the 11th May, 2016.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House of Representatives

