



**Certified Autism Spectrum Disorder Clinical Specialist (ASDCS) Certification Standards**  
Application Standards for Practicing Professionals in Australia and New Zealand

**1.0 Professional Standards**

1.1 Nationally registered, credentialed, or member of the association noted:

- Registered Psychologist
  - Hold a general designation with AHPRA
  - Hold a registration with New Zealand Psychologists Board AND hold a practising certification
- Registered Counsellor
  - Be a Level 2, 3 or 4 member of the Australian Counselling Association (ACA)
  - Be a full member of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors or Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa New Zealand
  - Be a clinical member of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA)
- Social Worker
  - Be a member of the Australian Association of Social Workers
  - Hold a practicing certificate with the Social Workers Registration Board
- Psychiatrist
  - Be accredited by the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- Credentialed mental health nurse
- Registered nurse practitioner
- Advanced practice nurse
- Doctor of Medicine
  - Hold a General or Specialist registration with the Medical Board of Australia
  - Hold a practising certificate and be registered with the Medical Council of New Zealand
- Occupational Therapist
  - Hold a registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
  - Hold a registration with the Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand
- Certified Practising Speech Pathologist
  - Hold full registration with Speech Pathology Australia
- Speech Language Therapist
  - Registered member of the New Zealand Speech-Language Therapists' Association (NZSTA)

For all professions: Provisional or student registration does not meet the standards for certification.

1.2 By applying for certification, the applicant agrees to adhere to [Evergreen Certifications' Professional Code of Ethics](#)

**2.0 Educational Standards**

2.1 The applicant must meet the following education criteria (total minimum of 18 CPD hours):

Core Autism Spectrum Disorder Educational Competency Areas:

**Assessment** – identify level of autism functioning, developmental level, co-morbidities

**Neurodevelopmental** – understand brain development, cognition

**Behavior** – identify and understand both function and context of behavior; strategies to regulate meltdowns

**Communication** – develop social/emotional communication skills

**Social Skills** – interventions to improve executive functioning, emotional intelligence, theory of mind, self-regulation

**Sensory Processing** – explore sensory systems and sensory diet, distinguish between sensory vs. behavior issues

**Environment** –psychoeducation for families/caregivers/educators; strategies to adapt physical environment

**Motor Skills** – strategies for both fine and gross motor skill improvement

**Pharmacological and Nutritional Interventions** – basic knowledge

2.2 Suitable education sources are approved professional development trainings as documented by certificates of completion from the accredited training organization.

Evergreen Certifications will accept courses that have been completed within 3 years of initial application for Certification.

### **3.0 Clinical Experience Attestation**

The applicant must attest that over the course of their career, they have a minimum of 100 clinical contact hours with clients with Autism Spectrum Disorder traits and/or diagnosis.

### **4.0 Certification Application Process**

1. Submit the following documents:
  - a. A copy of the applicant’s professional registration, credential, or membership
  - b. Copies of completion of training as outlined in the Educational Standards
  - c. A signed and completed application form with attestation that the candidate has met all the requirements detailed herein
2. Payment of certification application fee

Evergreen Certifications will certify candidates who meet the above requirements.

*Please note: Certification does not imply endorsement of clinical competency. As a professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond the boundaries of practice in accordance with and in compliance with your profession’s standards.*

### **5.0 Renewal of Certification**

To maintain certification, a renewal is required after your initial 2-year certification. The steps to apply for a 2-year renewal are as follows:

1. Submit the following documents:
  - a. A copy of your professional registration, credential, or membership
  - b. Completion certificate for twelve (12) CPD hours of training related to Autism Spectrum Disorder
2. Payment of renewal application fee

Renewal training hours need to have been taken in the time since you were certified or last renewed. Renewals are calculated from the date that your certification was issued.

*If you allow your certification to lapse for more than 2 years, you are no longer eligible to renew your certification and instead can reapply for certification.*