

## Who can participate?

In order to be eligible to take part you need to:

- be aged between 14 to 40 years;
- have a diagnosis of “high-functioning” autism or Asperger’s disorder; and
- be available to attend The Alfred hospital.

Potential participants will be screened prior to their involvement in the study to ensure that they are able to take part. You will not be able to take part if you have a history of seizures, serious head injury, or metal implants in the head.

This research has been funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). It has also been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committees of Monash University and The Alfred (Bayside Health).

## Where to get more information

If you would like to participate or receive further information, please contact:

### Dr Peter Enticott

Telephone: (03) 9076 6594

Fax: (03) 9076 6588

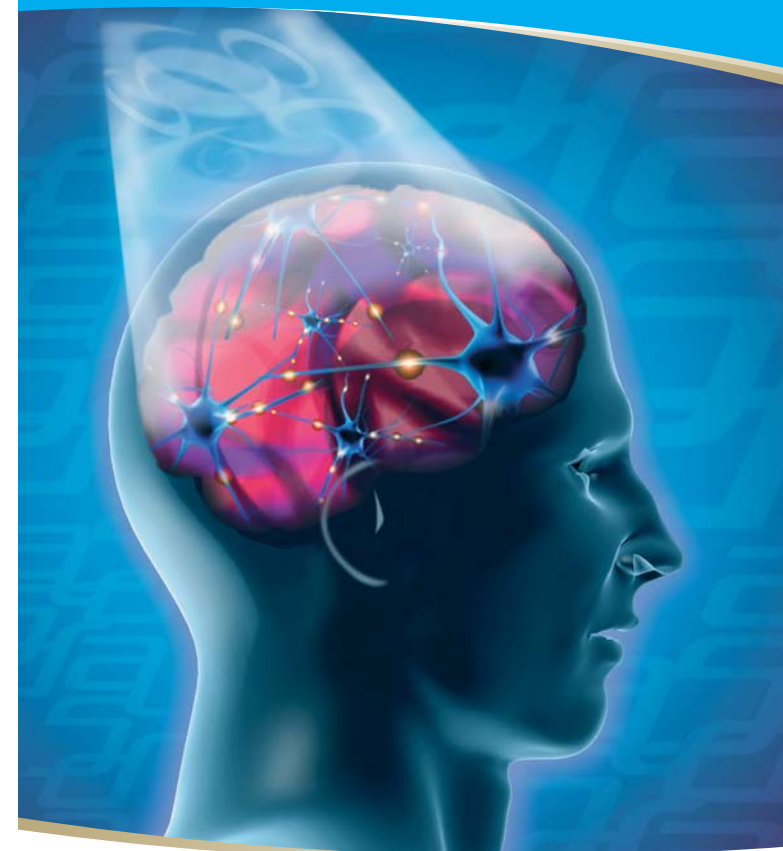
Email: [peter.enticott@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:peter.enticott@med.monash.edu.au)

Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre  
Level 1, Old Baker Building  
The Alfred  
Commercial Road  
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[www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/research/aprc](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/spppm/research/aprc)



# Autism and Asperger's Disorder Research



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Monash University and The Alfred are currently conducting new research into autism and Asperger's disorder, investigating both how the brain works and potential new treatments. We are looking for people aged between 14 to 40 years old with high-functioning autism or Asperger's disorder to take part. This research involves the use of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS).

## Why is the research being conducted?

Although the number of people diagnosed with autism and Asperger's disorder appears to be increasing, there is still much that we do not know about the workings of the brain in these conditions.

This research will improve our understanding of how the brain works in autism and Asperger's disorder. This is expected to lead to advancements in both the assessment and treatment of these conditions.

An additional part of this research involves the use of TMS as an experimental treatment for improving social difficulties in autism and Asperger's disorder.

## What is TMS?

TMS is a safe and non-invasive technique that uses a focused magnetic field to stimulate specific areas of the brain.

TMS is a very useful technique for investigating how the brain works. When applied in a certain way, it can also be used as a treatment. It is currently used in the treatment of depression and schizophrenia, and may also have benefits for autism and Asperger's disorder.

During TMS, participants remain fully awake and aware of what is happening at all times. A TMS coil is held over the participant's head and a clicking noise is heard as the magnetic field is generated. The participant may also feel a mild tapping sensation as the magnetic pulse is applied, and experience a small "twitch" in their thumb muscle. After the session, the participant is able to go about their normal daily activities.

## What does participation involve?

Participants will attend The Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre (Alfred Hospital, Prahran). In addition to receiving TMS, they will answer a series of questions related to autism and Asperger's disorder, watch two brief videos, and complete some short tasks on a computer.

Participants will be reimbursed for travel expenses. Participation is voluntary and confidential.

Parent or guardian consent is required for participants under 18 years of age.

