**Transcript**

***Dr Cheryl Dissanayake – Director of the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre***

I’m representing the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre and within the Centre in very broad terms our hypothesis is that in really understanding the nature and causes of autism spectrum disorders we can make real changes in the outcomes for these people.

The key outcome is that with our research we can foster a more typical developmental trajectory for children affected by autism spectrum disorders thereby leading them to develop more typically and lead a normal life.

The impact on society and the community is huge. Firstly by altering developmental outcomes not just for the children but for their parents who are affected by having a child with an autism spectrum disorder which means that they can live more normal lives as well as their child. And the knock on effects for society and the community at large is huge both in economic terms as well as social justice terms.