



Diagnostic Assessment Information & FAQs

V.4 updated 19/05/25

Process

Our full neurodevelopmental assessment is typically conducted over 4 appointments, and assesses for ASD, ADHD, and specific learning disorders. Each appointment is broken down below.

Please note each assessment process is subject to vary, depending on the individual psychologist's recommendations. The psychologist may recommend less assessment sessions if they determine they have gathered enough information in the first session. On the other hand, more assessment sessions may be required if the psychologist needs more time to collect additional information

Structure Overview

* **Intake – 1.5hr online** | The intake will be between 60-90mins; however, the cost will remain the same. This is to allow the psychologist time to complete all the non-face-to-face tasks that follow an intake appointment. During this session your psychologist will generally ask you a bunch of questions regarding your presenting issues of concern, your history, and any other information they deem relevant for your assessment. If you have any questions for your psychologist, this appointment is a good time to ask them. For minors, the intake session is held with only the caregiver/s.

* **First Assessment – 2hrs face-to-face in our Burleigh clinic** | You will complete a variety of activities online using an iPad with a small paper component. Each assessment session will contain different activities.

* **Second Assessment – 2hrs face-to-face in our Burleigh clinic** | You will complete more activities online using an iPad with another small paper component. Each assessment session has different activities as they are assessing different cognitive components.

* **Feedback – 1hr online** | This is where the psychologist will walk through their findings and provide you with a copy of the diagnostic report. The diagnostic report is your formal diagnosis and is billed separately as a non-face-to-face charge. The feedback session is held 4-6 weeks after your last assessment.

If you are wanting to request access to the NDIS, an additional 1hr session is required, where the psychologist will ask questions about how your diagnosis impacts your daily life. Another report is then written to accompany your diagnostic report. Additional fees apply

Fees

The total cost of the diagnostic assessment is quite variable depending on the psychologist, the number of assessment sessions required, and the rebate you are eligible for. Please refer to the psychologist's individual fee structure and our FAQ for more information.



Assessments FAQs:

Q. What's involved in a diagnostic assessment?

A. Our comprehensive neurodevelopmental assessments are generally completed over 4 sessions. This includes a 1.5hr intake which is usually held online, followed by two, 2hr face-to-face assessments, followed by a 1hr online feedback session. The entire process takes around 8-10 weeks. Please refer your psychologist's fee structure for a detailed breakdown of the costs.

Q. What are you testing for in the assessment?

A. Our full neurodevelopmental assessments are assessing for any disorder that affects the way you process information. This includes ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), ADHD, and the six specific learning disorders, such as Dyslexia.

Q. Do I have to be tested for all neurodevelopmental disorders, or can I just be tested for the ones I have concerns about?

A. You do not need to be assessed for all neurodevelopmental disorders, however, we recommend completing the full assessment as neurodiversity rarely comes alone. Completing the comprehensive assessment means you will gain a full understanding of your brain without having to complete, and pay, for the entire diagnostic process again.

Q. How do you test for the neurodevelopmental disorders?

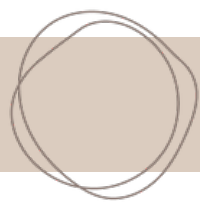
A. Most of the assessment activities are conducted on an iPad, with a small paper component. The first assessment session usually focuses on the various aspects of your cognitive ability, which includes verbal comprehension, perceptual reasoning, working memory, and processing speed. The second assessment session generally focuses on your academic skills through reading, mathematics, written expression, and oral language. Your psychologist may also request you to complete some online questionnaires at home.

Q. When do I receive my diagnosis?

A. Your feedback session is held approximately 4 weeks after your last assessment session. During this appointment, your psychologist will walk through their findings with you, and you are provided a copy of the diagnostic report.

Q. Can I use my diagnostic report to request access to NDIS?

A. The short answer is no. The diagnostic report will provide you with a formal diagnosis, which is the first step, however not all diagnoses are eligible for NDIS funding. If you are eligible to request access based on your diagnosis, you will need a NDIS report as well, which is essentially your NDIS application. Please contact our administration team, or your individual psychologist for more information.



Preparing for your Child's Assessment:

Q. Should my child attend the initial appointment?

A. We request that children are not present during the intake appointment. This is to allow the caregiver and psychologist to talk openly about the child's difficulties or challenges without the child overhearing.

Q. What should I tell my child?

A. Before the first assessment session, we recommend having a conversation with your child about the purpose of the appointment. Let them know they'll be meeting with someone to do some fun activities to better understand their brain. You may wish to explain the activities will be on an iPad with some using a pencil and paper. It may also be useful to show your child a picture of the psychologist they will be seeing, which you can find on our website. Try to focus on the positive aspects of the activities they will be doing, and refrain from labelling it a "test" or "assessment", as this may be anxiety inducing for some.

Q. Can I stay with my child during their assessment?

A. Caregiver/s are generally not present for the assessment sessions. You will have a chance to speak with the psychologist at the beginning of the session and will be encouraged to leave the clinic room when the child feels comfortable. We kindly ask that only one primary caregiver accompanies the child to their assessment appointments, and if possible, with no other siblings or relatives. This is to reduce any distractions for the child.

Q. What should I bring to the assessment sessions?

A. The assessments can be quite exhausting, so we recommend dressing in comfortable clothing, and bringing some snacks and water. You may bring along any documentation you think may be relevant such as school reports, or other reports, however these will be requested if required.

Q. Should I medicate my child for their assessment?

A. Usually yes, however, this depends. We recommend discussing this with your psychologist during the intake session.

Q. Should I share the diagnostic outcome with my child?

A. Again, this depends. Please discuss this with your individual psychologist during the feedback session, who can guide you on the suggested terminology and content.

Disclaimer: This information is of general nature only and may change per assessment. Each individual assessment process is tailored to the individual and is determined by the clinical judgement of the treating professional.