

As a Psychologists working in the niche area of Autism, a request for a developmental assessment is made from families and medical specialists to assist them to determine whether their child, teen or family member may have an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or be 'on the Spectrum'. As per the National Guidelines for the Assessment and Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorders in Australia, psychologists frequently work in multidisciplinary assessment teams to complete these assessments. This summarises what will be completed and the associated costs for the Psychologist components of the assessment.

Sessions & Input from the Psychologist

1. Developmental History-2-3 hours is spent gathering developmental history of the child from the child's parents, guardians or care givers. This is done using a semi-structured interview tool called the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised.
2. Developmental Play/Observation Session-1 hour session using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-2nd Edition (the 'gold standard' assessment tool for Autism & Developmental disorder assessments) with the child/young person/teen/adult being assessed.
3. Completion of formal questionnaires for parents and caregivers. Parents and caregivers will also be asked to complete the Parent/Caregiver questionnaires and other diagnostic and behavioural questionnaires that assist with understanding the child.
4. Completion of the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scale-3 which can be delivered online via a link sent via email. This assessment asks parents/carers to detail individual's daily living skills and abilities across home, school and accessing the community. This information will be vital if future applications to NDIS are likely to be made as it details strengths and areas for future intervention.
5. If the child is enrolled in childcare, kindergarten or school, with consent, a questionnaire will also be forwarded to the child's educators to complete. Phone

conversations and/or visits to centres/school's ect for observational sessions will also be completed as required, but this will be for an additional fee and discussed prior.

6. Multidisciplinary consultation meeting-Professionals part of the assessment team will meet to draw conclusions directly addressing the referral question around diagnosis and develop therapeutic recommendations. This may be with your speech pathologist and/or occupational therapist.
7. The Assessment Report-This will encompass the person's history, the formal assessment results, recommendations around diagnosis and future therapy or intervention suggestions.
8. A post-assessment feedback session in the clinic is held with parents/caregivers to provide in person feedback about the recommendations and pathways forward.
9. A copy of the report is also forwarded to the referring specialist/Paediatrician in electronic or hard copy format.

A formal cognitive assessment of the child or young person's learning abilities is an additional cost and can be completed by a psychologist if this information is felt to be essential to answering the referral question.

How the Payment Process Works?

Cost of the Assessment and Report: \$1700 (no cognitive)

Cost of the Assessment and Report \$2,200 (including cognitive)

The face to face sessions are to be paid for on the day at the psychologists usual sessional rate (as they may be entitled to a rebate under Helping Children with Autism Medicare scheme). Then the balance of the Assessment Fee is paid when the report is released.

Alternatively a payment plan can be arranged with Side by Side Psychology over an agreed period of time-for example direct debits beginning at the commencement of the assessments. Again, once the full cost of the assessment has been paid the Assessment Report will be released.

If you require any further information or have queries about the sessions required or costs, please contact Reception at the Side by Side Psychology reception on 50215616 or on email at reception@sidebysidepsychology.com.au

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