



Child-Adolescent  
Assessment &  
Training Sydney



## Guide to Assessment & Diagnosis

Dear Parent,

I am a registered Clinical Psychologist with more than 20 years experience in child diagnosis and assessment.

A comprehensive assessment aids in the understanding of your child's difficulties, highlights areas where your child may need more support and enables access to vital early intervention and therapy services.

I have prepared this brochure to help you understand the different types of assessment and the steps taken to ensure that your child is provided with a true and accurate diagnosis.

I am the founder of Child-Adolescent Assessment & Training Sydney (CAATS). I also work at Westmead Hospital where I provide assessment and diagnosis for infants and children who have been admitted to Neonatal Intensive Care. I am a consultant for Pearson Clinical and an Honorary Associate at the University of Sydney. I have completed a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology during which I investigated Attention & State regulation in Children with Intellectual Disability with & without ADHD.

I am available to answer your questions and can be contacted directly on 0402 699 239 or [drmelissa.ross@outlook.com](mailto:drmelissa.ross@outlook.com). To book an assessment please phone PAW on 02 9635 6696.

I look forward to meeting you and your child.  
Warm regards,

Melissa

Dr Melissa Ross, Clinical Psychologist (DPsy)

## Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessment

This is to assess for the possibility of an Autism Spectrum Disorder (formerly known as Aspergers Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS). It is also useful for individuals who have previously been diagnosed with Autism but are wanting an updated assessment to assist with funding applications or support planning. It involves parental consultation, individual assessment using 'gold standard' tools, and educational observations or consultation as required. A developmental or cognitive assessment may also be needed.

A Gold Standard Autism Assessment involves:

- Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - 2nd Edition (ADOS-2)
- Autism Diagnostic Interview - Revised (ADI-R) or alternative interview with parent or caregiver.
- Behavioural questionnaires.
- Comprehensive report included.

Two Sessions : Approximately 3 hours.

Cost: \$1900 (partial subsidy available) *Partial subsidy is available via Helping Children With Autism (HCWA) and Medicare. Referrals are accepted from your GP with a Mental Health Treatment Plan/Shared Care plan or your Paediatrician.*

*NDIS self-managed and plan managed may be eligible for subsidy, please discuss this with your case manager.*



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## Developmental Assessment

This is to assess young children's early intellectual development, or developmental trends. This can give useful information about specific areas of delay or whether your child is experiencing global delay across more than one area (including cognition and learning, language and communication, fine and gross motor, and personal-social-emotional development). This is helpful when planning early intervention or placement in educational settings.

The standardised assessment involves the use of well recognised tools in the area of developmental assessment including:

- Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-4th Edition- For Children up to 3 years, 7 months.
- Bayley-4 Social-Emotional and Adaptive behaviour.
- Griffiths-III for children up to 6 years.
- Comprehensive report included.

Two Sessions : Approximately 2 ½ hours.

Cost: \$1200\* (partial subsidy available)

*\*Partial subsidy is available via Medicare. Referrals are accepted from your GP with a Mental Health Treatment Plan/Shared Care plan or your Paediatrician.*

*NDIS self-managed and plan managed may be eligible for subsidy, please discuss this with your case manager.*

## Cognitive (Intellectual) Assessment

This is to provide information about your child's cognitive functioning, and their strengths and weaknesses. It can help determine intellectual disability/impairment or high intellectual potential. Recommendations are made to assist with development, learning and/or classroom behaviour.

The standardised assessment involves the use of well recognised tools in psychometric assessment including:

- Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scales of Intelligence (WPPSI-IV)- For children up to 7 years, 7 months.
- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V) for children up to 16 years, 7 months.
- Adaptive Behaviour assessment (Vineland or ABAS-III) is included where clinically appropriate.
- Comprehensive report included.

Two Sessions : Approximately 2 ½ hours.

Cost: \$1200\* (partial subsidy available)

## ADHD and Behavioural Assessment

This involves understanding your child's presentation and their functioning across various settings. Information is collected through interview, observation, and questionnaires. A cognitive assessment and measures of sustained attention and executive function are included for an ADHD diagnosis.

One-Two Sessions : 1 ½ to 3 ½ hours.

Cost: \$550 to \$1500\* (partial subsidy available)

## Educational Assessment

This is to identify your child's academic strengths and weaknesses, inform diagnosis of specific learning difficulties (in the areas of reading, listening comprehension, written expression, spelling, and maths), and highlight areas in school where your child may need more support.

The standardised assessment involves a combination of tests and is suitable for children up to 16 years, 7 months:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC-V).
- Wechsler Individual Achievement Test-III.
- Comprehensive report included.

Two Sessions : Approximately 3 hours.

Cost: \$1500\* (partial subsidy available)

*All prices effective throughout 2022*

**A comprehensive report and score sheet are included in the cost of all assessments.**

PAEDIATRICIANS AT  
WESTMEAD

Unit 2-3, 148 Great

Western Hwy, Westmead

Phone: 02 9635 6696

email: [reception@paediatriciansatwestmead.com](mailto:reception@paediatriciansatwestmead.com)

