



NEUROPSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION FOR CLIENTS

What is a neuropsychology assessment?

A neuropsychology assessment collects a broad spectrum of evidence in order to understand why an individual might be struggling in certain areas of their life. This includes taking a dive deep into an individual's cognition or thinking skills, going beyond basic IQ testing, examining abilities like memory, attention, problem-solving, planning and organisation abilities. However, it doesn't stop there. It also explores other possible factors such as the impact of mood (anxiety, depression, stress), medical and developmental history, difficulties with social functioning, and more. By developing this comprehensive picture we can identify specific disorders, such as ADHD, autism spectrum disorder, learning disorder, dementia, etc., as well as understand the contribution of other factors, such as mood, and from there recommend personalised treatment strategies.

How does it work? What is the process of having an assessment?

Pre-booking

- If required, an initial phone call/email with your neuropsychologist to discuss the assessment and any questions you might have.

STEP 1

- Having booked the assessment, come to AwareHub for your clinical interview, assessment and testing. How long this takes on the day will depend on what you are being assessed for.

STEP 2

- The neuropsychologist will compile your results and write your medical report.

STEP 3

- You'll have a feedback session to discuss the report's findings and recommendations. You'll also be provided a copy of your report.

What is the cost of an assessment?

Fees vary depending on the aim of the assessment. The evidence gathering, testing and assessment process is determined by the disorder/s being investigated. This then determines the number of hours required for face-to-face interviewing, testing, scoring results and finally, the writing of your assessment report. *Assessment fees range from \$375 to \$3,500.*

Some of the more common assessments and their fee include:

ADHD screening assessment

An initial assessment of ADHD behavioural traits using multiple sources of evidence and testing to identify if a more comprehensive ADHD diagnostic assessment is warranted.

Memory screening assessment

An initial assessment of verbal and non-verbal memory performance relative to age peers to identify if a more comprehensive memory and cognitive assessment is warranted.

Academic & Cognition Profile

Identifies an individual's cognitive profile (strengths and weaknesses) and academic functioning relative to age peers, to help further guide paediatrician, psychiatry or psychology therapy/investigations.

Memory & Cognition Profile

Identifies an individual's cognitive and memory profile (strengths and weaknesses) relative to age peers, to help further guide geriatrician, psychiatry or psychology therapy/investigations.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) Profile

Uses the primary gold-standard ASD assessment protocols to help guide your psychologist's/psychiatrist's clinical judgement as to the likelihood of an ASD diagnosis.

Neuropsychology Assessment - General

A comprehensive assessment examining an individual's medical, developmental and social functioning history, along with cognition and mood, in order to identify if, and to what degree these factors contribute to the functional difficulties they are experiencing, and if more targeted investigations are warranted.

ADHD Comprehensive

A comprehensive assessment focused on diagnosing ADHD, while also examining an individual's medical, developmental and social functioning history, along with cognition and mood, in order to identify other contributing factors or possible alternate explanations for the functional difficulties an individual is experiencing.

Older Adult – Memory & Cognition Comprehensive

A comprehensive assessment examining an individual's medical, developmental, social and occupational history, along with cognition, memory and mood, in order to identify if the functional difficulties an individual is experiencing go beyond what could be explained by normal aging.

ASD Comprehensive

A comprehensive assessment focused on diagnosing ASD, while also examining an individual's medical, developmental and social functioning history, along with cognition and mood, in order to identify other contributing factors or possible alternate explanations for the functional difficulties an individual is experiencing.

ASD & ADHD Comprehensive

A combined ASD & ADHD comprehensive assessment.

The fee for your assessment will be clarified and set during the pre-booking process. 10% of the fee will be payable at the time of booking your assessment with the remainder payable on the day of the assessment. A separate \$150 fee is charged for the feedback session, on the day of that session.

Unfortunately, at this point in time, Medicare and private health insurance offer minimal coverage of these fees, and only in particular instances. A Medicare rebate of \$96.65 applies to all feedback sessions (if you have a referral from your doctor), while clients under 25 years of age undertaking an ASD assessment are also eligible for a Medicare rebate of \$386.60 on their assessment fee.

I've seen other more affordable assessments. Why would I have a neuropsychology assessment?

There are other forms of testing – often called Cognitive Assessments, Psychology Assessments or Academic Assessments. The reason these are priced differently is because they tend to be a basic battery of standard tests and therefore not as comprehensive or individually tailored as a neuropsychology assessment. These kinds of assessments are performed by non-neuropsychologists, such as psychologists, clinical psychologists or psychometric technicians. Seeing a non-neuropsychologist versus a neuropsychologist for your assessment might be likened to seeing a GP for any given health issue, versus seeing a specialist in that particular area of medicine (i.e., a psychiatrist, orthopaedic surgeon, etc.): while both can provide meaningful input, it is the expertise of the specialist that will likely offer a higher level of diagnostic insight.

What's the value of having such a comprehensive assessment process?

Twofold. Firstly, a neuropsychology assessment reduces the chance of a misdiagnosis by excluding other factors which might explain the difficulties an individual is experiencing. And secondly, often functional difficulties are not just the consequence of one single factor (such as the presence of a disorder, i.e., ADHD, ASD, etc.) but the interaction of multiple factors (the presence of a disorder in combination with low mood, cognitive weaknesses, family or social dynamic, etc.). A neuropsychology assessment facilitates better understanding of this complex interaction and consequently better targeted treatment.

Still have questions? Talk to or email our reception and we can organise our clinical neuropsychologist to call or email you back: reception@awarehub.com.au or 1300 029 273.