

# ADHD Assessments



We are an independent private psychology practice in Preston.

## Why assess for ADHD?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that affects a child's behaviour and learning. ADHD is a behavioural disorder, not an illness or a sign of low intelligence. Children with ADHD have three main areas of difficulty, being:

- **Inattention:** having difficulty concentrating, forgetting instructions, moving from one task to another without completing much.
- **Impulsivity:** talking over the top of others, having a 'short fuse', being accident prone.
- **Overactivity:** constant restlessness and fidgeting.

The number of behavioural and developmental disorders that cause symptoms of ADHD in young children is growing. This means it is important to properly assess the causes of their symptoms and provide appropriate interventions. ADHD can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or maths. According to evidence-based research, ADHD also has the potential to lead to problematic be-

haviours and impact upon a child's self-esteem. The benefits of such an assessment assists with identify strengths and weakness within a wide range of cognitive skills. Once weakness are identified, targeted interventions are provided to assist with offsetting these difficulties, by using a combination of cognitive and behavioural strategies.

## How is it done?

Assessment of ADHD is conducted by our in-house neuropsychologist, Mathew Staios, who has extensive experience in the administration of a wide range of psychometric measures, including: general cognitive functioning, memory, attention and concentration, problem solving, and mental flexibility. Furthermore, parents and teachers are also interviewed to provide a deeper understanding of the types of challenges that a child is facing and how this condition is impacting on their day to day functioning. This process offers a wealth of knowledge related to a child's cognitive profile and attentional difficulties, and allows the NCCD team to provide a holistic and comprehensive treatment plan targeted specifically to the child's needs.

**Usually an ADHD assessment costs between \$1100 and \$1600, depending on case complexity. This includes the administration of assessments, liaison time with all other professionals involved, and a comprehensive report with recommendations.**

#### **What role does NCCD play?**

Once difficulties are identified and diagnosed, the child, parents and teaching staff are provided with tailored interventions to assist the child's learning needs. A diagnosis will also assist with the applying for intervention services, eligibility for Medicare rebates for certain health services and allowances for special consideration at academic institutions.

#### **What measures do we use?**

Assessments are usually conducted over one or two sessions, and typically take three hours to complete. We use 'gold standard' measures of cognitive functioning when assessing the child, including:

- Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – Fourth Edition
- The Test of Everyday Attention for Children

- Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System
- Children's Memory Scale
- Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Task
- Conner's ADHD Scale

#### **Why should we trust the NCCD Assessment Team?**

Between us, we have over 25 years' experience working with children. We are a small team and are highly trained and experienced with administering and interpreting all assessments required in the ADHD assessment process. However, we also ensure every family who undertakes an ADHD diagnosis with us is given a full feedback session to go through the assessment report sensitively, and to discuss options following the outcomes of assessment. We believe in providing a transparent, ethical, professional and friendly service to families.

#### **Contact us**

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