



Nicola Albrecht
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INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY ASSESSMENTS

Cognitive Assessment

The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children–Fifth Edition (WISC-V)

Cognitive assessments are available for children aged 6 years to 16 years without significant speech/language impairments. Unfortunately, non-verbal cognitive assessments or assessments for children under 6 years of age are not currently offered.

Cognitive assessments are commonly referred to as IQ tests, as they provide a standardised assessment of a child's general intellectual ability. However, it is important to note that scores should always be carefully interpreted in the context of the child's current situation and life experiences.

Assessment helps to provide a snapshot of the child's current learning ability through understanding their individual area's of cognitive strength and weakness. This data can assist in informing intervention and learning support, for example.

Depending upon the referral question, the WISC-V can be informative on its own; however is also often used alongside other assessment tools to contribute to diagnoses of intellectual delays, learning disorders, and attention and memory problems (or ADHD) for example.

Referral & Acceptance

Referrals are accepted from medical or allied health professionals. Self-referrals are also welcomed and will be assessed for suitability prior to acceptance, as per the referral process below.

Under the APS Code of Ethics, the psychologist will assess each referral received to determine if this would be considered as a valid and appropriate reason for assessment. The psychologist determines this by considering whether the assessment will be suitable and beneficial for the child and is ethical under APS guidelines. The final decision regarding suitability rests with the psychologist. If it is determined that the assessment, psychologist, or referral reason is not suitable, this will be conveyed to the parent/s and/or contracting party and the psychologist reserves the right not to engage with the client in this service.

Assessment Process

Following a comprehensive parent only interview session, your child will attend an assessment session with the psychologist. The assessment involves administration of The Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children–Fifth Edition (WISC-V); which is the latest version of a highly trusted and evidence-based measure of intelligence. During the assessment, children will be asked to engage in a number of brief tasks including using blocks, looking at pictures and some verbal questions etc. There will be opportunity for short breaks between subtests. It is best to allow approximately 2 hours for the assessment.

Although not common, assessment may need to be completed over two sessions due to various circumstances. Additionally, there are times where children are not able to complete assessment. Assessment behaviour forms part of the process and is used in interpretation of the results. As such, in cases where full



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assessment is unable to be completed, this will still be a chargeable service (no refund/discount). A report will still be provided with any obtainable results and assessment behaviour reported.

Following the appointment, results are carefully scored, interpreted and reported. Parents receive a comprehensive report, including recommendations tailored to the child's specific areas of strength and weakness.

Engagement of Services

Upon agreement between parent/caregivers and the psychologist, suitable dates and times for each stage of the assessment process will be arranged. Included in the packaged cost for the combined assessment is:

- A parent interview appointment – allowing approx. 1 hour – 90 minutes
- Observation and assessment of the child including administration of the WISC-V assessment – allowing between 1-2 hours (up to 2 hours)
- Preparation, administration, scoring and interpretation of formalised assessment measures, including assessment of adaptive behaviour (Vineland-3 or ABAS-3)
- Psychologist review of supplementary data including school reports, medical/allied health professional reports, liaison with teachers/daycare/other health professionals, as required.
- Preparation of a comprehensive assessment report
- Emailed feedback and PDF of report. If more comprehensive feedback is requested, a face to face or phone/ZOOM feedback session can be arranged at a discounted rate of \$90 per 30-minute session.

Costs of Assessment and Payment

The current rate for an intellectual disability assessment including components above is \$1,350.00**

***Additional costs may be incurred if site visits (home/school/daycare) are required. All additional charges would be discussed and agreed upon PRIOR to service delivery, if applicable. If not all components listed above are required, total cost will be reduced accordingly (adjustment on final invoice).*

On occasion, the need for further/additional assessments may be required and will incur additional costs. Time taken to conduct additional assessment/s or gather further data outside of the above will be charged at the current clinician hourly rate of \$245.00, but will only be carried out in consultation with parent/caregiver.

Payment can either be made in full upfront, or in instalments over the course of assessment, provided that payment is made in full prior to the final feedback session and release of report.

Please note that report **will not** be released until payment of assessment has been received **IN FULL**.

The report will be provided to the parent/legal guardian only. A copy of report and/or letter of result will be provided to the referrer as a matter of professional courtesy. Copies of the report will only be shared with outside parties with consent of the parent/legal guardian.

Payments for completed parts of the assessment process are chargeable and non-refundable in the event that the client (or our service) chooses to disengage or terminate the assessment process for *any* reason, including child behaviour or legal/ethical reasons.



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No Medicare rebates apply to assessments. Some private health funds may cover the child assessment portion of assessment, but clients are encouraged to check eligibility with their own funds.

Payments can be made via:

DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Child & Adolescent Psychological Assessment Services – Nicola Albrecht

BSB: 062-692

ACCOUNT: 46905127

Reference: ASD first name & surname of child (eg: ASD Andy Smith)

Please email payment confirmation to Nicola at psychassessments@outlook.com

CREDIT CARD (Visa or Mastercard Only) via SQUARE – please note that all credit card payments will attract a 2.2% surcharge.

CASH

Receipts/invoices are sent automatically to main contact email address on file and are formatted to provide clients with an estimated breakdown of fees, as they may wish to check eligibility for claiming part of the assessment via private health insurance, if applicable.

Cancellation of assessments

Appointments are precious! Not only are there families who would like to the opportunity of earlier assessment dates, as a small business, late cancellations and no-shows impact us significantly. There is a lot of administrative and preparation work involved outside of clinic-based appointments.

As such, cancellation of any booked appointments or assessments must be done by providing a **minimum of 48 hours' notice**. In the case where insufficient notice (less than 48 hours) or a missed appointment occurs, a cancellation fee of **\$250.00** is payable to cover costs associated with preparation, administration and room rental fees. This includes circumstances where appointments need to be cancelled due to medical reasons, however please discuss your specific situation with Nicola.

The cancellation fee can be waived at the services' discretion, if a medical certificate can be provided, if requested.

It is extremely important that, if you or your child are unwell, you do not attend face to face appointments. Instead, you are encouraged to contact us as soon as symptoms are noticed, to try and arrange a telehealth session (where appropriate) or discuss rescheduling (cancellation fees as above may apply - please discuss this with Nicola).

Please note that cancellation or reschedule of appointments on more than two occasions may mean that your child is placed back on to the waitlist for service.

Confidentiality and Reporting

Our service upholds client confidentiality in line with the Australian Psychological Society charter.



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As per the APS Code of Ethics A.5.2:

The psychologist will disclose confidential information obtained in the course of their provision of psychological services **only** under any one or more of the following circumstances:

- (a) with the consent of the relevant client or a person with legal authority to act on behalf of the client;
- (b) where there is a legal obligation to do so;
- (c) if there is an immediate and specified risk of harm to an identifiable person or persons that can be averted only by disclosing information; or
- (d) when consulting colleagues, or in the course of supervision or professional training, provided the psychologist:

- (i) conceals the identity of clients and associated parties involved; or
- (ii) obtains the client's consent and gives prior notice to the recipients of the information that they are required to preserve the client's privacy, and obtains an undertaking from the recipients of the information that they will preserve the client's privacy.

All client records and information will be stored securely and in accordance with APS guidelines.

Following the assessment process and once payment is made in full, a written report is produced, including reporting of relevant history and background information (based on information obtained through interview, assessment, observation and collateral data). The final written report becomes the property of the client (and client's parent/legal guardian), and may be shared by the parent/legal guardian with other health professionals and or relevant services at their discretion.

RECORDING OF SESSIONS FOR CLINICAL NOTE TAKING

This service uses an audio-text app called Patient Notes for the purposes of our commitment to improving clinical documentation and enhancing patient care, aiming to provide more accurate and detailed documentation, as well as enabling greater focus on interpersonal communication during sessions.

The Patient Notes app is a secure and encrypted platform, which converts the audio from consultations into tailored clinical notes. It adheres to global encryption standards. Importantly, **the recordings are not stored**; instead, they are transformed into text using AI and stored in our current Patient management system (Halaxy).

PatientNotes.app is fully compliant with AHPRA and HIPAA standards.

More Information can be found on the Patient Notes site:

Privacy Policy: <https://www.patientnotes.app/privacy>

Security Information: <https://www.patientnotes.app/security>

This format of note-taking is used at the discretion of the psychologist with consent of the client. By completing the consent form via link below, you (client) are acknowledging use of Patient Notes in this practice for the purpose of transcribing medical notes, however the assessor will always request verbal consent prior to recording of sessions regardless - No sessions will be recorded without your consent and your consent can be withdrawn at any time.



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IMPORTANT

Please note, your psychologist **will not** provide any court reports or any medico-legal reports under any circumstances.

The psychologist reserves the right to restrict or terminate services if Growing Minds Clinical Psychology/Child & Adolescent Psychological Services: become aware at any time that you are using our services to support any legal or court proceedings or applications; if your psychologist receives any legal subpoena or summons initiated by you and/or your legal representatives; or if you or your legal representatives attempt to involve your psychologist and/or the Practice in any court or legal proceedings/applications or in any formal notification or dispute process without our express written consent.

The psychologist also reserves the right to terminate services if there are any concerns relating to personal safety, including threats or verbal abuse from clients or their families.

The psychologist practices under the APS Code of Ethics.

Our service values its clients and welcomes any queries or feedback (positive and negative).

Please direct any such communication directly to Nicola via email at psychassessments@outlook.com or feel free to discuss this during your scheduled appointments.

[In preparation for your child's assessment](#)

Before the parent interview session:

Please complete and return all required documents via email, **prior** to appointment. Please note that a consent form will need to be completed and returned before bookings are secured.

Part one: Parent session (allow approx. 1 hour)

It is useful to start gathering any relevant and recent correspondence, reports or other information that is relevant to the referral, to provide to the psychologist. This includes (but not limited to):

- School reports and any school documents that may be relevant to referral, such as IEP's or CAP's etc
- Copies of any previous cognitive assessment reports/results
- Copies of results/reports of any other assessments (including academic performance assessments etc)
- Letters/reports from any medical or allied health professionals involved in the child's care

The psychologist may also send through links to any supplementary online questionnaires etc at any point during the assessment process. It is helpful if these are completed as quickly as possible to ensure timely production of final report.

Part two: Child assessment session (allowing up to 2 hours)

Please ensure that your child has had a healthy and substantial breakfast on the day of assessment. Please limit intake of sugary foods or drinks prior to assessment. If your child usually takes medication, please ensure that they have taken this as usual on the day of assessment and please advise the clinician of medication and dosage taken on arrival at the clinic.



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Parents are strictly not allowed in the assessment room during testing. It is requested that parents wait in the waiting area or are within a 5-minute walking distance of the clinic at all times (please ensure you take your mobile phone with you if you leave the premises).

To bring to the assessment:

- A water bottle
- Glasses or hearing aides that the child usually wears
- A non-sugary snack

Following the assessment appointment, a report will be prepared as quickly as possible, provided no further information or assessment is required. Parents are invited to book a 30-minute ZOOM feedback session to discuss the results and recommendations, or may opt for email feedback option (included in packaged cost).

CONSENT TO SERVICE

****Consent Form MUST be signed prior to commencement of services****

Online consent documents are accessible by clicking on the link below, or scanning the QR Code

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9WJDT8L>

