

**Our qualified speech pathologists and psychologists provide the gold standard in autism assessments. This fact sheet aims to answer common questions about the autism assessment process.**

### Can you assess my child?

Yes, if you have a referral from a paediatrician or psychiatrist, and your child is under 18 years of age. You will also need to be able to attend a face-to-face assessment.

### I only require a partial assessment, can you help?

Therapy Focus can provide partial assessment by a speech pathologist, inclusive of language assessment, play-based assessment via the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, liaison with other health professionals involved and a report of findings. The cost for this service is \$2,310.

### Do you know of any paediatricians I can link in with?

We are unable to recommend specific paediatricians. You can go to the Western Australian Autism Diagnosticians' Forum (WAADF) website at [www.waadf.org.au](http://www.waadf.org.au) to find information about paediatricians who can refer your child for an assessment.

### How much is an autism assessment?

The cost for an autism assessment is \$4,000 inclusive of a speech pathologist assessment, psychologist assessment, clinical interview, comprehensive report and feedback session.

### Am I eligible for any rebates from my private health fund?

If your child is referred by a private paediatrician you will be eligible for Medicare rebates. Please note that we are unable to provide codes for your private health fund. It is up to your provider as to the rebate you may receive.

Unfortunately, Government paediatrician referrals are not eligible for Medicare rebates and GP referrals are subject to eligibility by Medicare.

### Do you provide payment plans?

We understand the assessment cost can be a strain on families. Please contact our Accounts Department on 1300 135 373 or email [accounts@therapyfocus.org.au](mailto:accounts@therapyfocus.org.au) if you would like to organise a payment plan. Please note we are unable to provide the outcome of the assessment until your account is paid in full.

### My child has been diagnosed as autistic, what next?

If the multidisciplinary team assessment conducted at Therapy Focus determines your child meets the criteria for a diagnosis of autism, you must have the diagnosis confirmed by your paediatrician within two years.

A diagnosis of autism may mean your child is eligible for government funding via the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). It's now time to contact the National Disability Insurance Agency to apply. In order to apply, you will need your child's formal assessment reports.

For children younger than 9, early childhood partners deliver a nationally consistent early childhood approach. To find an early childhood partner in your area, call the NDIS on 1800 800 110 and they will support you through the application process. For individuals over the age of 9, you can call that same number, or visit the NDIS website at [www.ndis.gov.au](http://www.ndis.gov.au) to download and complete their Access Request Form.

Once you are connected with the NDIS you will be asked to attend a planning meeting. This is where you can advocate for the type of supports you require for your child, such as speech pathology, occupational therapy, continence, dietetics, support workers etc. Your child's autism assessment report will include an Assessment of Functioning and a Statement of Support Needs to help guide this conversation.

Once you receive your NDIS plan you are able to access services. The NDIS is all about giving you choice and control over where and how you wish to access services.

To access services from Therapy Focus please complete the application form on our website and attach your NDIS plan. You will then be placed on a waitlist for services.

### My child has been assessed in our home country but I need them reassessed, can you help?

Yes, we are able to assess your child to Australian standards without a referral from a paediatrician. You will need to book an appointment with a paediatrician for confirmation of the Australian diagnosis within two years of the assessment. During this time funding can be accessed through the NDIS.

### Do you contact my child's school or childcare?

As part of the assessment process, we send the classroom teacher or childcare educator our comprehensive pre-assessment questionnaire. This helps the assessors plan and individualise the assessment.