

Neuropsychology Factsheet for Medicolegal Assessments

What is PsyAx?

PsyAx is a counselling centre, private memory clinic, and diagnostic neuropsychology service. We work with people who may be experiencing psychological distress or difficulties with their memory, concentration, or other types of thinking skills.

What is a neuropsychological assessment?

A neuropsychological assessment is a way of measuring a person's thinking skills, such as their memory or ability to concentrate. It is carried out by a clinical neuropsychologist which is a psychologist with extra training in brain functions, thinking skills, emotions, and behaviour.

Why see a neuropsychologist?

A neuropsychologist works with people who may have difficulties with their memory, concentration or other thinking skills. You have been referred to PsyAx as part of a legal matter. The person who made the referral is a "referrer". They may be a lawyer, insurer, or agency representative. We must write a report after finishing the assessment.

How can a neuropsychological assessment help?

A neuropsychological assessment can highlight a person's unique pattern of strengths and weaknesses for different thinking skills including memory, concentration, and decision-making. The results can give your referrer more information to consider in your case.

What happens at a neuropsychological assessment?

At an assessment, your neuropsychologist will ask you questions. You will then do some puzzles, tests, and surveys. The neuropsychologist may ask for your permission to speak with a friend or family member for background information.

What kind of tests would I do?

You would do a range of tests from visual puzzles, to pen and paper tasks, to tests where you answer questions read out to you. The tests are designed for people with a wide range of abilities, from people with intellectual disabilities all the way up to geniuses. What this means is that many of us can do some tasks but not others. This is normal.

I'm worried I won't do well

Many people may be nervous before the assessment but end up finding it an interesting experience. What we're interested in your unique profile of strengths and weaknesses. All we ask of you is that you put in your best effort. It's okay to guess if you're not sure about an answer. You don't have to get everything right to do well on a neuropsychological assessment.

How long does a neuropsychological assessment take?

A neuropsychological assessment for medicolegal purposes is comprehensive and can take up to four to six hours. Don't worry though. We will have lots of rest breaks throughout.

How do I prepare beforehand?

Try to get a good night's sleep the night before. Avoid using alcohol or other substances. If you wear glasses or use a hearing aid, please bring these to the assessment. Please also bring

a list of all your medications and a copy of your medical history from your doctor. Please arrive 10 minutes early so we can start on time. If English isn't your first language, please let us know so we can arrange for an interpreter. See psyax.com.au/faq for more information.

Is there anything in particular I need to know?

Anything you tell us or that we observe may go into the report we write after the assessment. Even if you tell us not to write something, we cannot do this. Nothing is "off the record".

What happens after the assessment?

After the assessment, your neuropsychologist will score up the tests and interpret the results in light of your personal history and circumstances. Your neuropsychologist will write a report and send it to the referrer (such as your lawyer, insurer, or agency representative). Other people who become involved in your case may also get access to the report and the information inside it. It may get talked about in court or during other formal discussions. If this worries you, please discuss how the report will be used with your referrer.

How much will it cost me?

Most assessments are funded by the referrer but you please check with them if unsure.

Do I have to do this?

No, you don't. You are free to choose. A neuropsychological assessment can be helpful to give you and your referrers extra information. However, you don't have to do it. If you're not sure about the assessment, please speak to your referrer. It's better you feel comfortable about the assessment and have your questions answered before we get started.

Business hours on weekdays

If your appointment is on a weekday between 8:30am and 5:30pm, come to PsyAx head office on level 27 at 101 Collins St, Melbourne.

After hours & Saturdays

If your appointment is 6:00pm or later on a weekday or any time on a Saturday, please wait inside the front lounge of the Grand Hyatt at 123 Collins St, Melbourne. If you arrive at the Russell St entrance of the Grand Hyatt, take the escalator up to the Collins St lounge. We will meet you here because it is close to our head office which is locked after hours. Please leave your mobile phone on. We will come and meet you and take you to the office. So you know who to look out for, please check the clinician photos at www.psyax.com.au/people

How do I get to PsyAx?

Catch the train to Flinders St or Parliament stations in the city then walk for 10 minutes or catch a tram. By tram, take the number 11, 12, 48 or 109 tram along Collins St and get off at the "101 Collins Street" stop (stop 7).

Do you have wheelchair access and disabled toilets?

The PsyAx head office is wheelchair friendly and has accessible toilets.

Need help? More questions?

Call 1300 455 677 or email info@psyax.com.au if you have any questions.