

## Rebates for cognitive assessment:

1/ **Private health fund rebates** available for most health funds (dependent on your level of cover).

2/ **Medicare 'Helping Children with Autism' (HCWA) or 'Better Start' items for Assessment and Diagnosis.**

If a cognitive assessment is being undertaken as part of diagnosing a specific disability, Medicare provides a partial rebate (\$83.25) for one session to complete the assessment. A referral must be arranged through your child's paediatrician.

3/ **Medicare 'Helping Children with Autism' and 'Better Start' Medicare items.**

If your child's paediatrician has developed a 'treatment plan' as part of the 'Helping Children with Autism' or 'Better Start' Medicare early intervention items for psychology services, a cognitive assessment may be conducted as part of this.

Medicare then provides a partial rebate (\$83.25) for one session to complete the assessment.

4/ **FaHCSIA HCWA and Better Start** funding covers 100% of the cost of a cognitive assessment



# COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

*Outside the Square Psychology*

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**Cognitive assessment brochure  
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### ***What is a Cognitive Assessment?***

A cognitive assessment is a formal test of your child's thinking, problem solving and reasoning abilities.

### ***What does it involve?***

A cognitive assessment involves the child completing a series of activities presented by a psychologist.

Some of the activities involve the child answering questions and demonstrating their language skills. Other activities require the child to complete puzzles and other tasks which do not rely on language understanding.

Your child receives a score for their responses on each of the tasks, and these scores, and the overall score are then compared to the performance of other children of the same age. This helps to determine whether the child's cognitive abilities are average, below average or above average.

### ***Reasons to arrange a cognitive assessment***

A referral for a cognitive assessment may be made for the following reasons:

- To help determine the child's strengths and weaknesses in thinking, problem solving or reasoning
- To diagnose an intellectual disability or to identify an intellectually gifted child
- To act as a baseline before undertaking some type of treatment or intervention program.

The test can then be repeated to objectively show the gains the child has made in thinking, problem solving and reasoning as a result of the intervention. (**note: the same test can only be repeated after two years**)

- For eligibility for government funding for school support, under the *Program for Students with a Disability* (Department of Education Early Childhood Development)

### ***Which assessment is used?***

The Weschler Preschool and Primary Scales of Intelligence (WPPSI-III) is used for children aged 2 years, 6 months to 7 years, 3 months.

The Weschler Intelligence Scales for Children (WISC-IV) is used for children aged 6 years, to 16 years, 11 months.

### **FEES PAYABLE**

The cognitive assessment will take around one hour to complete with the child. The psychologist will then spend time scoring the test, and completing a formal written report, including recommendations.

The cost for the assessment and report is \$395.00.

A referral is not necessary unless you wish to claim Medicare rebates for the specific schemes listed on the back of this brochure.

To make an appointment for a cognitive assessment, contact:

Outside the Square Psychology on  
(03) 9889 9932