

How to seek an ASD assessment via a:

3. Private Clinic or Clinician:

You can directly phone a private clinic or clinician that does ASD assessments, and ask to book an appointment for either a dual (or multi-disciplinary) assessment, or a single assessment. You should **not require a referral from your GP or other healthcare professional** in order to book an ASD assessment with a private clinic or clinician.

Once you have booked an ASD assessment for your teenager with a private clinic or clinician, they will usually send some information and forms to you. This will usually include detailed questionnaires for you (the parents) and your teenager's teachers to complete and return before the ASD assessment appointment.

The waiting time for an ASD assessment appointment with a private clinic or clinician varies between different private clinics or clinicians. However, from the time you phone to book an ASD assessment appointment for your teenager, the waiting time is likely to be:

4 – 9 months.

The cost of an ASD assessment with a private clinic or clinician varies between different private clinics or clinicians. However, it will be approximately in the following range:

- Dual (or multi-disciplinary) assessment: **\$1,200.00 - \$1,800.00.**
- Single assessment: **\$600.00 minimum.**

These are reasonable fees for the service provided.

If you have private health insurance, it might cover some of the cost of an ASD assessment. You will have to contact your private health insurance provider to check.

It is my understanding that, for a teenager over the age of 13:

- Medicare will only pay \$128.40 towards the cost of an ASD assessment (if anything). To obtain this rebate, you would have to ask your GP to prepare a Mental Health Care Plan (MHCP) for your teenager that includes an ASD assessment.
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) will not pay for an ASD assessment.

There are many private clinics and clinicians that do ASD assessments. The only one I can recommend personally is:

- **HeadStart** (Website: **headstartis.com.au**)

HeadStart has two locations:

1. Gawler:

21-23a Twelfth Street, Gawler South SA 5118 – **Ph: 8522 2621**

Email: **gawler@headstartis.com.au**

2. Wayville:

Wayville Village

43-51 Goodwood Road, Wayville SA 5034 – **Ph: 8373 4531**

Email: **admin@headstartis.com.au**

The Autism SA website contains a list of private clinics and clinicians in South Australia that do ASD assessments and provide ASD therapies.

To access this list:

- On the Autism SA website home page (autismsa.org.au), up the top, you should see some headings. Click on the heading called “Autism and Diagnosis”. This should bring up a new page;
- On this new page, scroll down to the tile called “Diagnosticians Directory”. Click on this tile to bring up a list of private clinics and clinicians in South Australia that do ASD assessments and provide ASD therapies;
- To the left hand side of this list, you should see a list of filter options you can select to narrow down the list of clinics and clinicians to ones that are more likely to be appropriate for your teenager.

When seeking a private clinic or clinician to assess your teenager for ASD, I would strongly recommend that you ask the clinic or clinician if they have expertise and/or experience in diagnosing teenagers with ASD. This is important, because some clinics or clinicians only have expertise and/or experience in diagnosing young children.