



Autism Assessment Teams in Victoria (for Children and Young People)

The following government-funded teams specialise in the assessment and diagnosis of autism.

Contact the team closest to where you live.

Note: C.A.M.H.S. stands for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and C.Y.M.H.S. stands for Child and Youth Mental

Health Services

Locations

[Ballarat](#)

[Heidelberg](#)

[St Albans](#)

[Warrnambool](#)

[Belmont](#)

[Melton](#)

[Seymour](#)

[Wodonga](#)

[Bendigo](#)

[Mildura](#)

[Shepparton](#)

[Clayton](#)

[Moorabin](#)

[Traralgon](#)

[Flemington](#)

[Ringwood](#)

[Wangaratta](#)

Service provider	Contact details	General notes
Alfred CYMHS - Developmental Assessment Service 999 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin	T: (03) 8552 0555	<p>“Alfred CYMHS works with infants, children and young people up to the age of 25 years. Our service is organized into teams / program areas. One of these is the <i>Developmental Assessment and Management Program</i>.</p> <p>Children referred to our service have often been seen by one or more professionals beforehand. The Assessment Program’s role is to work with families where there are a range of complex factors that may be affecting a young person's development and behaviour.</p> <p>Our staff work in a team comprising a speech pathologist, psychologist, occupational therapist, child psychiatrist, social worker, and psychiatric and paediatric registrars.</p> <p>Assessments take place over several weeks. Following this, families attend two feedback meetings and receive a comprehensive report.”</p>
Austin CAMHS - Developmental Assessment Program Austin Health, 145 Studley Rd, Heidelberg	T: (03) 9496 3620	<p>“Assessments are undertaken for children up to the age of 12 years, with the majority being between 3 and 5 years at the time of assessment.</p> <p>A referral from a paediatrician is required although we often receive enquiries from other professionals. A child will not be placed on the waiting list until they have had a paediatric assessment and referral.</p> <p>For school aged children we also require reports of formal cognitive and speech and language assessments before the</p>

		<p>child is placed on the waiting list.</p> <p>A paediatric referral addressed to:</p> <p>The Coordinator ASDAP Program Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Austin Health ...will initiate a response to both the referring doctor and the family.”</p>
<p>Barwon Children's Health Service</p> <p>1 Reynolds Road, Belmont</p>	<p>T: (03) 4215 8600</p>	<p>“Barwon CAMHS offers a specialized multidisciplinary autism assessment service for children and young people 0-25 years of age.</p> <p>Components of the diagnostic assessment include a developmental and family history, observation of the child’s behaviour and interaction, a developmental /cognitive assessment and language assessment. Feedback/recommendations and a written report are provided to parents regarding the outcome of the assessment.</p> <p>Referral for an autism assessment can be made to our Child and Youth Triage team by parents and professionals on 1300 094 187. Referral by a paediatrician for the 0-5 age group is expected.”</p>
<p>Bendigo CAMHS - Autism Assessment Team</p>	<p>T: (03) 5440 6500</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The autism assessment team, ADAS (Autism Disorders Assessment Service) at Bendigo CAMHS is a multi-disciplinary team including a child psychiatrist, speech pathologist, psychologist and occupational therapist. • The age range is from 0 -18 years. • A referral from a paediatrician is required. • Before a child/adolescent is seen by the team a cognitive/developmental and language assessments are required. The length of time on the waitlist can be shorter if these assessments are already completed at the time of referral.
<p>Eastern Health Child and Youth Mental Health Service (EHCYMHS)</p> <p>Maroondah Hospital, Ringwood</p>	<p>T: 1300 721 927 (Option 2)</p>	<p>“We provide tertiary level autism assessments only, for children and young people 0-25 years old who have had an assessment and consensus cannot be reached as to diagnosis. They must be referred by a paediatrician or psychiatrist who will be able to provide long term support.</p> <p>They must have had some assessment already conducted - usually a cognitive and speech pathology, but in some cases we do not insist on this if the referring consultant can make a good case for the child needing a specialised assessment not available elsewhere. “</p>

<p>Gippsland Autism & Related Disorders Assessment Service</p> <p>LRH Mental Health Services, Traralgon</p>	<p>T: 1300 363 322</p>	
<p><u>Goulburn Valley CYMHS - GV Autism Spectrum Assessment Team</u></p> <p>(GV ASAT)</p> <p>Seymour & Shepparton</p>	<p>T: (03) 5832 2160</p>	<p>GV ASAT provide autism assessments for children aged 0-6 years.</p> <p>Referral from paediatrician is required. Many paediatricians are able to coordinate autism assessments and determine a diagnosis, especially in more severe cases.</p> <p>Procedure for autism assessment:</p> <p>Book consultation with paediatrician and discuss perceived need for an autism assessment. The paediatrician refers to GV ASAT.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Triage/intake by GV CYMHS. 2. Allocation to GV ASAT Waitlist. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. During this time, copies of existing assessments are requested/collected: e.g. audiology (hearing), vision, speech/language, sensory-motor, developmental, etc. 3. Multidisciplinary Assessment (involving various appointments over a 2-4 week period): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Observation in a social setting (e.g. childcare, kinder, etc.) b. Developmental or cognitive assessment (depending on child's language ability) c. Parent interview: developmental history and current functioning d. Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS) e. Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) f. Diagnostic criteria g. Feedback to parents 4. Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Assessment Report written.
<p>Grampians Region Autism Assessment & Diagnostic Team</p>	<p>T: (03) 5320 4100</p>	<p>Grampians Regions Autism Assessment & Diagnostic Team provide assessments for children up to 18 years old.</p> <p>A referral from a paediatrician is required, either through the private or public system.</p>

<p>111 Ascot Street, Ballarat</p>		<p>Procedure for autism assessment with Grampians Regions Autism Assessment & Diagnostic Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When a referral is received from a paediatrician, the triage worker contacts the family to obtain additional information about the child, including copies of assessment information already obtained about the child, and the background to the request for assessment. • The child is placed on the wait list. Where possible it's asked that formal assessments of speech and language and cognitive ability or developmental level are completed prior to the assessment. • About 1 month prior to the assessment, the co-ordinator contacts the family to confirm that assessment is still wanted and to schedule this. • Reports of assessments completed in the meantime are collected at this point or if possible, updates of previous reports/assessments requested.
<p><u>Melton Health - Autism Spectrum Assessment Clinic</u></p> <p>Djerriwarrh Health Service, 195-209 Barriers Road, Melton</p>	<p>T: (03) 9747 7600</p>	<p>Autism assessments are provided at Melton Health – Autism Spectrum Assessment Clinic for children between the ages of 0 – 15 years (inclusive).</p> <p>A referral from a paediatrician is required. If families do not yet have a paediatrician involved and live in the Melton/Moorabool Shires, they are welcome to obtain a GP referral to the paediatricians at Melton Health, who provide a free public service. They have a waitlist of approximately 3-6 months, and can make a referral into the Autism Assessment Clinic. The paediatricians will not see families who have seen other paediatricians before, rather families are encouraged to link in again with their previous paediatrician.</p> <p>Following is a brief summary of the procedure to get as autism assessment at Melton Health – Autism Spectrum Assessment Clinic:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-assessment – before children have an autism assessment at Melton Health, they need to have had assessments that will help the team understand their current developmental, cognitive and language skills. If the child is not yet going to school, this will be done at Melton Health. Children who are going to school need to have a Cognitive assessment from a psychologist and a language assessment from a speech pathologist, through their school, as Melton Health is not funded to perform these assessments on school aged children. 2. Autism Assessment – Families and children come in for a half-day Autism Spectrum Assessment. The complete team involves: A paediatrician, a paediatric fellow, a speech pathologist, psychologist and an occupational therapist. The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, 2nd Edition (ADOS 2) is administered to the child by one of the allied health team members, while the other team members, and the family (if the child is older) observe behind a two-sided mirror. Following the ADOS2, the paediatrician and Paediatric fellow conduct a developmental history with the parents, while the allied health staff score the ADOS 2. Following this, a team discussion ensues to determine whether or not there is sufficient evidence that the child meets the diagnostic criteria for autism. We use the current DSM-5 criteria to determine this. Then feedback and recommendations

		<p>are given to the families.</p> <p>3. Post-assessment – Families attend an appointment with a social worker at Melton Health, who provides them with information about funding, supports and services in their local area, and helps to answer any questions the family have following the assessment.</p> <p>An article on Autism Assessment: The Melton Health Model was published at the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, December 2013, which also helps describe the procedure. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jpc.12303/full</p>
<p>Monash Developmental Disabilities Clinic – Paediatrics</p> <p>Monash Medical Centre, Clayton</p>	<p>T: 13 5437 (13 KIDS)</p> <p>F: 03 9594 3698</p>	<p>The Developmental Paediatrics Clinic sees children from birth to 18 years old, who have developmental and behavioural issues, including multidisciplinary autism assessments.</p> <p>Referrals should be to Dr Katrina Harris or Dr Sabine Hannel. Referrals require the named referring practitioner, provider number, patient date of birth and contact details.</p>
<p>North East CAMHS - Autism Spectrum Assessment Team (ASAT)</p>	<p>T: (03) 5723 8900 Wangaratta</p> <p>T: (02) 6051 7900 Wodonga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments for 0-18 year olds. • Referral can be provided by paediatrician, but also schools or GPs. • Client makes contact with either Susan McLees, Psychologist and Co-ordinator at Wangaratta, or Joanna Freudenstein at Wodonga • She accepts referral and does an intake assessment which includes observation. • If it is warranted, they may proceed to full team assessment which includes paediatrician, psychologist, psychiatrist, and occupational therapists. • Between the intake and full assessment, data is gathered regarding any intervention taken in the past. • On assessment day, the family will detail the history of the child. Child is observed in play room with team members. • After lunch, the team decides if diagnosis is warranted. • Followed by feed-back session. • After approximately 2 weeks, report is sent to the school, referrer, and other professionals involved in the ongoing care.
<p>Northern Mallee CYMHS - Autism Spectrum Support & Evaluation Team (ASSET)</p>	<p>T: (03) 5018 7900</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism assessments provided for 0-25 year olds. • Referral by paediatrician or psychiatrist is necessary. The referral can be made from the public or private sector. • Once the referral is received, an initial appointment is completed with the family to discuss the process and determine which assessments (if any) have already been completed.

<p>107 Pine Avenue, Mildura</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referrals are then made for speech and language assessment, occupational therapist assessment and cognitive assessment. • Cognitive assessments are currently completed within the ASSET team (if required). This may involve a play-based developmental assessment if a formal cognitive assessment is too difficult. • Speech and OT assessments are currently outsourced to other services. • Once the assessments have been completed, a diagnostic interview is completed with the family. An observation of the child may also be completed (where indicated). • In most cases, families are then referred to a paediatrician for completion of a 3-Di assessment (involving information provided by the family and school). • A case conference is held with the paediatrician to discuss all of the recommendations outlined in the discipline-specific reports, 3-Di assessment, diagnostic interview and observations. • If there is disagreement about the diagnosis at this point, further assessment (including ADOS) may be indicated. • A feedback session is then held with the family to discuss the diagnosis and recommendations. • A follow-up session is held with the ASSET worker a few weeks following the assessment, followed by a follow-up session with the paediatrician 6 months later. <p>PLEASE NOTE – The above process may vary depending on which professionals and paediatricians are involved, and depending on the individual needs of the family.</p>
<p><u>Royal Children’s Hospital Mental Health Services - Autism Spectrum Assessment Team</u></p> <p>50 Flemington Street, Flemington</p>	<p>T: (03) 9345 6011</p>	<p>Assessments are provided at RCH Mental Health Services for children between the ages of 2-15 years.</p> <p>The process for referring a child for an Autism assessment with the RCH Specialist Autism Team is as follows:</p> <p>The Specialist Autism Team is a tertiary service and we only accept referrals where the paediatrician and associated Allied Health professionals are unable to make the diagnosis.</p> <p>Paediatricians (in consultation with parents) can send written referrals to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Specialist Autism Team Royal Children's Hospital East Building, Level 2 50 Flemington Road Parkville 3052</p> <p>We also require copies of previous assessments (e.g. speech pathology and psychology reports); copies of previous reports or letters from other professionals (e.g. medical); reports from early intervention services (if child is under six year of age). If the child is school age, we need the referrer to indicate if speech and cognitive assessments have been completed and if not, who will be doing these (i.e. has this been requested from the school). Our team will also send out</p>

		<p>questionnaires which are a further requirement before an appointment for assessment can be made.</p> <p>We no longer estimate a wait time, as this depends on receipt on information. An appointment date will be allocated when we receive copies of all relevant information.</p> <p>Face to face intake meetings are offered to assist all ESL clients with completion of forms and for clients where paediatricians identify that parents may have difficulty with completing forms or accessing appropriate assessments.</p> <p>Many children with suspected autism can be assessed and diagnosed within the community. For further information about obtaining an assessment privately, please access Speech Pathology Australia www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au and the Australian Psychological Society www.psychology.org.au/practitioner/resources/autism/ who have listings of professionals who work with children and adolescents with autism.</p> <p>More information is available on the website: www.rch.org.au/mhs/autism</p>
<p>Warrnambool CAMHS</p> <p>Koroit Street, Warrnambool</p>	<p>T: (03) 5561 9100</p>	<p>Warrnambool CAMHS is funded to complete autism assessments for children aged 6 – 18 years. Warrnambool CAMHS accepts referrals from GP's, paediatricians, private counselling practitioners, schools, and parents. All referrals are screened via an initial mental health "Intake Assessment" – with the CAMHS Clinician meeting with the young person and their parents – and which takes place over an hour. The purpose of the intake assessment is to assess for other comorbid conditions that may account for the young person's difficulties e.g.: Major mental health, learning disorder, behavioural disorder, or autism. If autism seems likely, the young person is placed on the CAMHS wait list for an autism assessment.</p> <p>All families are screened within 2 weeks of a referral being made.</p> <p>The Warrnambool CAMHS team is made up of Psychologists, Social Workers, Nurses and Occupational Therapists. The team is headed by the CAMHS Psychiatrist. All CAMHS members are trained in autism assessment. Warrnambool CAMHS are currently utilising the ADOS, ADI-R and 3Di assessment tools. The young person is also required to complete a Cognitive Assessment and Speech and Language Assessment – either facilitated by the school they attend, or privately. The final diagnosis is made by the CAMHS Psychiatrist.</p> <p>All referrals are made by contacting the CAMHS Duty Worker on 03 5561 9100 or can be faxed to: 03 5561 3813.</p>
<p>Western Health, Children's Allied Health Services</p> <p>Sunshine Hospital St Albans VIC 3021</p>	<p>T: (03) 8345 1430</p>	<p>Children who live in Brimbank, Hobson's Bay, Maribyrnong or Wyndham can be referred to Community Outpatients for an autism assessment if autism is a concern. This assessment is completed by a paediatrician, Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist.</p> <p>Before an assessment, as the family of the child needing this service, you will be asked to fill out a Background Information Form to give us some idea about the things you are worried about and a picture of how your child is developing.</p> <p>After the assessment, there are a number of options which the therapists and you can work through together. These</p>

		<p>include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• offering some short term therapy through the Children's Allied Health Service• referral to other specialised and general community services• help with accessing specific funding sources such as "Better Start" and "Helping Children with Autism"• liaison with other services involved in your child's care and strategies for you to help with your child's development.
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