

# Neuropsychological Assessment

Comprehensive evaluation of brain-based thinking, learning, and behaviour.



## Clinician

Dr Elissa Klaassen is a Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Neuropsychology Registrar.

She provides evidence-based assessments for adults and older adults presenting with difficulties with their memory and thinking.



## What Reports Include

Neuropsychological reports provide:

- **Diagnostic clarity** – identifying the likely source of memory and/or thinking difficulties
- **Functional recommendations** - educational supports, workplace adjustments, care needs, and strategies to optimise daily functioning
- **Clear communication** – written in plain language for multidisciplinary teams and family members
- **Follow-up guidance** – eligibility for supports, next steps for intervention, rehabilitation or re-assessment

## CONTACT

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# Overview of Clinical Neuropsychology

Neuropsychology examines the relationship between brain function and behaviour.

A neuropsychological assessment provides an objective profile of cognitive strengths and weaknesses across domains such as attention, memory, processing speed, problem-solving, and emotional regulation.

It assists in:

- Diagnostic clarification
- Treatment and support planning
- Educational and placement recommendations
- Monitoring recovery or progression over time

Assessments are evidence-based and tailored for children (6 years +), adolescents, adults, and older adults.



## When to Refer

Referrals are appropriate when cognitive, behavioural, or learning changes suggest neurological or neurodevelopmental involvement.

Common referral reasons include:

- **Neurodevelopmental:** prenatal alcohol or substance exposure, ADHD, intellectual disability, developmental delay, neonatal complications.
- **Neurological:** traumatic or acquired brain injury, stroke, epilepsy, tumour, or other medical conditions affecting cognition.
- **Psychiatric:** differential diagnosis where psychosis, mood, or trauma-related disorders may be affecting thinking and daily functioning.
- **Neurodegenerative:** suspected mild cognitive impairment or dementia.

Neuropsychological assessment is particularly useful when the presentation is complex, multifactorial, or when symptoms appear inconsistent with educational, behavioural, or medical findings.



## Referral Requirements

Referrals may be initiated by:

- GPs, paediatricians, psychiatrists, or neurologists
- Psychologists, allied health professionals, or Department of Communities caseworkers

Referrals should include:

- A clear referral question (e.g., cognitive profile of strength and weaknesses, diagnostic clarification, or reason for review).
- Relevant background or medical information
- Copies of prior assessments, reports, or imaging if available

Assessments typically include:

- Background interview
- Standardised cognitive testing
- Emotional/behavioural screening if indicated
- Integration of findings and feedback session