

Assessments Information Pack

CHATSWOOD

**The Zenith Building
Level 5, Tower B,
821 Pacific Highway
(access via McIntosh St)**



**autism
spectrum**
AUSTRALIA

Introduction

The following information has been designed to help individuals understand what to expect when attending an assessment for an autism diagnosis. This includes information on how to get there, our facilities, what to bring to the session, how the diagnosis process works and payment details.

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Our location

Our Chatswood Office is located in the Zenith Building, Tower B, 821 Pacific Highway. The entrance to our building is via Railway Street - on the corner of MacIntosh and Railway Streets. Please take the lifts to the 5th floor.



How to get there

The Zenith is positioned in Chatswood and is a major transport hub for rail and buses. Chatswood's railway line links Sydney's northern suburbs to the CBD. Travel time from Chatswood to the city by rail is only 19 minutes. Information about bus and train timetables and Covid safe information is available [here](#).

Travel times

By train from:

- Sydney CBD - 19 mins
- Macquarie - 19 mins
- Parramatta - 1h03 mins
- Sydney Airport - 46 mins

By Car from:

- Sydney CBD - 19 mins
- Macquarie - 19 mins
- Parramatta - 45 mins
- Sydney Airport - 35 mins

Parking on site

Secure parking is available on-site and can be booked through the Secure Parking website - [Zenith Centre Car Park - Secure Parking](#). The carpark opens at 6am and closes at 7pm. These rates are subject to change. Simply locate the blue Secure Zenith Car Park sign, located on McIntosh St., directly below Pacific Highway. You can park in casual parking on either level B3 or B5. Please note to park in a space that is not reserved, i.e. does not have signage.



Access to building

Our building and assessment rooms are wheelchair accessible and there is an accessible bathroom with a baby change table right outside our reception area.

What to expect

There is information on the Aspect website that may help you with your visit to our office, including our short videos on [what to expect when getting an assessment](#). You can even read up on the [types of Assessments](#) to help you understand the differences.

Duration

- Autism Assessments: 10am - 3pm
- Cognitive assessments: approx. 2.5 hrs
- Autism + Cognitive: 10am - 4:30
(can also be done over 2 days)

Break times

There are breaks throughout the day and you have approximately 30-60 minutes for lunch. *Please note we can work with you around timings that suit you best.*

Who can attend

- Both parents or a Support person/Case worker can accompany a participant for the Assessment. It can be a very long day, for this reason, parents should refrain from bringing siblings or extended family in order to give their best focus.



When to arrive

Time

We recommend you arrive 15 mins prior to your appointment time to sign-in to reception and for our staff to familiarise you with the building amenities.

How to register attendance

Every visitor must check-in to the Aspect Office. You will be asked to register your name, the time you arrive and the name of the Aspect staff you are visiting. At the end of the day, you will also be required to register the time you checked out.

Who will meet you

You will be met by the Psychologist who will be performing your assessment.



Aspect Reception

What to bring

Previous Reports

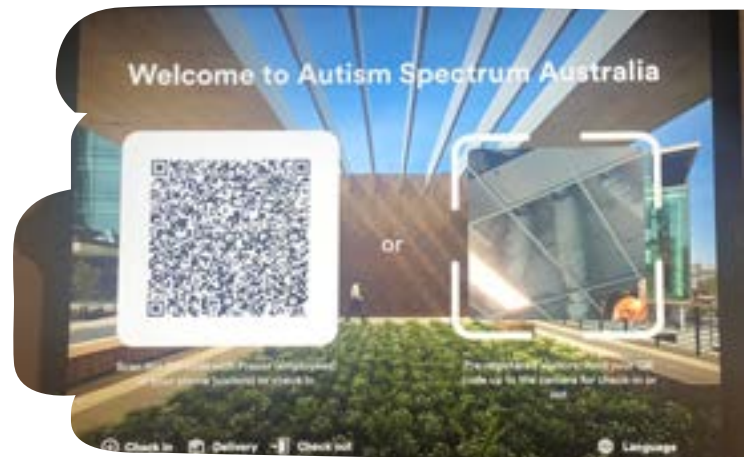
If you haven't already emailed them, please bring any relevant reports with you (e.g. reports from Speech pathologist, Occupational Therapist, Paediatrician, Psychologist or Psychiatrist).

Snacks

It can be a long day, we recommend you bring some snacks and your own lunch although there are a number of cafes located nearby.

Things to occupy

- If you are a parent/carer attending for your child, we recommend bringing some books, games, iPad etc. to occupy your child during breaks and the assessment debrief.
- Reading materials for accompanying person.

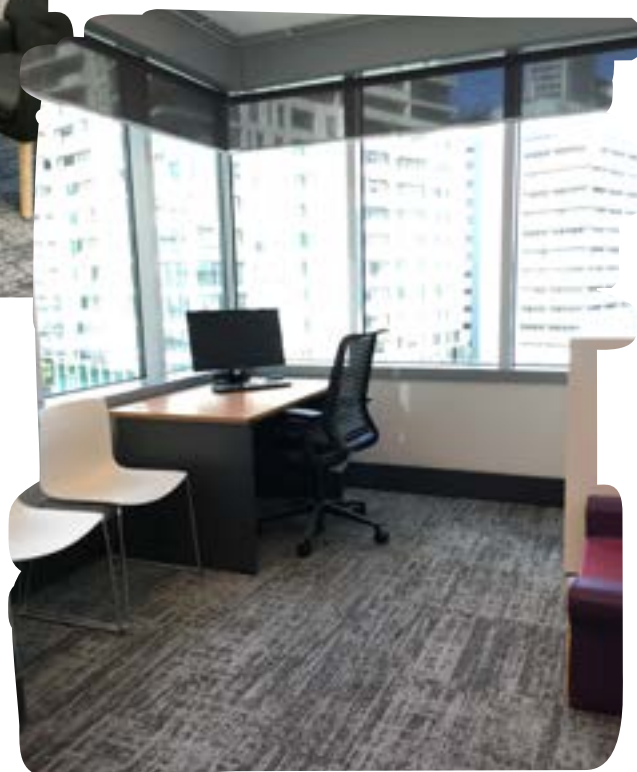


Check-in machine

Facilities

Assesment room

- Each Assesment room has a dedicated waiting area with chairs and a television for anyone accompanying someone being assessed. Wi-Fi is available for Aspect Guests.



Surrounding areas

There are three Café options in the Zenith Building and plenty more food and coffee offerings in the surrounding areas:



Touche Café - located under Tower B with an entrance from the low-rise lifts, they specialise in freshly made sandwiches and wraps and offer a daily hot food selection all made in house.



Mr Peabody - located under Tower A with an entrance off McIntosh St. Serving award winning Campos coffee and freshly made Artisan food.



Styx Café - located within the Atrium of the Zenith providing fantastic ambience. Serving boutique coffee, breakfast options, freshly squeezed juices, smoothies and a lunch menu to suit all taste buds.



Westfield Chatswood Shopping Centre - less than a 5 mins walk and offers of a range of food outlets and shops.

On the day

- The diagnostic process includes assessment of social and communication skills, restricted and repetitive interests and stereotyped patterns of behaviour
- The diagnostic assessment includes:
 - » A comprehensive parent interview using the Autism Diagnostic Interview-Revised (ADI-R)
 - » Formal observation using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule - Second Edition (ADOS 2)
 - » Assessment of adaptive functioning (everyday living skills and independence)
 - » Information from preschool or school staff
 - » A feedback session outlining the assessment outcomes, including an opportunity for questioning and clarification
 - » Recommendations for services that will best serve the individual needs of the person receiving the diagnosis
- Working with an interpreter
 - » If you identified the need for an interpreter when you booked your visit, Aspect will organise an interpreter to be onsite or available via phone
- Report
 - » You will receive a full report within 4 to 6 weeks of the assessment date. The report is sent to the individual or their representative via a password protected word document
- Supports moving forward
 - » At the end of the feedback session, or upon receiving the written report, you may have further questions for the clinician. If this is the case, you should always contact the clinician again, and have your queries addressed. Sometimes it can be hard to take in all of the information provided at once, so don't hesitate to contact the clinician if you need to.



Payment of Assessment

On the day

Now that your appointment has been scheduled, you will receive the invoice (along with the appointment information and the service agreement).

As of January 2024, full payment is due 7 days before the assessment appointment. If payment is not received, the assessment may be postponed to allow further time for the payment to be made.

- If payment is paid within 7 days of booking the appointment, then a 5% discount applies.
- All payment terms are outlined on the invoice, as is how to pay.
- Participants aged under 25 years may be eligible for a Medicare rebate on assessment fees (for diagnostic assessment only). This rebate is claimable after the assessment (i.e. the individual, or their representative, must pay for the assessment in full and then make the claim for the rebate themselves). In order to access this rebate, the individual must have been directly referred to Aspect Assessments by a private pediatrician or child/adolescent psychiatrist prior to the day of the assessment. In addition, the pediatrician or child psychiatrist must trigger the appropriate Medicare item (i.e. 110 through to 131) as part of the referral process.
- After the assessment is completed, the clinician will issue a receipt with the information to claim private health or Medicare (as relevant).
- If you would like to pay by instalments, please use the payment portal details found on your invoice to make regular payments. Please note, full payment is still due 7 days prior to the assessment appointment.

For more information contact
assessments@autismspectrum.org.au
1800 277 328

