

Autism Assessment Clinic at Pinarc

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disability that affects the way people communicate and interact with the world. Characteristics generally appear in early childhood and will be present, in some form, for life (Amaze; 2019-2021).

Autistic people may have:

- challenges with communicating and interacting with others
- repetitive and different behaviours, moving their bodies in different ways
- strong interest in one or two topics or subjects
- different reactions to what they see, hear, smell, touch or taste
- preferences for routines and dislike change (Amaze; 2019-2021).

The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule- Second Edition (ADOS-2) is a standardised assessment of communication, social interaction, play and imagination for individuals who have been referred by a Paediatrician with possible autistic traits. The ADOS-2 consists of a standardised set of activities that allow the examiner to observe behaviours that have been identified as important to the diagnosis of Autism at different developmental ages, these may include, however are not limited to:

- verbal communication skills- echolalia, intonation, stereotype or idiosyncratic use of words, conversational skills
- social Interaction- use of eye contact, facial expressions, nonverbal communication (gesture), shared enjoyment.
- imagination- functional and symbolic play skills.
- behaviour- stereotyped or restricted interests, sensory behaviours, hand and finger mannerisms, anxiety.

An ADOS-2 assessment does not formally diagnose an individual with Autism, however, is one tool in the process of receiving a diagnosis. The formal diagnosis should come from the Paediatrician or Psychiatrist supporting the individual.



The full Pinarc assessment process involves:

1. Initial interview at the clinic with a carer and the therapist to discuss your concerns, observations and background information. A sensory profile assessment may also be completed if needed. The child is not present for this appointment.
2. The ADOS-2 assessment at the clinic with your child, an occupational therapist and a speech pathologist. A carer is required to be present for the full assessment.
3. Report writing by the therapist.
4. Finally, a feedback session at the clinic with a carer and the therapist. The child is not present for this appointment.

How much does it cost?

\$2200 per assessment
(Payments of \$750 at the beginning of each of two assessment sessions, and \$700 prior to feedback session)

How do I register?

Please contact Pinarc on 5329 1300 or visit our website www.pinarc.org.au

