

ASAT Assessment

On the assessment day you will be asked to attend NECAMHS in Wangaratta for an appointment with members of the ASAT Team. All members of your family will be invited, including your child's brothers and sisters. At this session we will ask for more detailed information and will observe your child's behaviour and social interactions.

The session will take approximately one hour to an hour and a half.

You will be told at the end of the session if other appointments are needed with individual team members for further assessment. You will also be told the date of your feedback session.

ASAT Feedback Session

The feedback session will be held in the month following your ASAT assessment.

At this session you will be informed about the outcome of the assessment, including:

- diagnosis
- treatment & support services available
- recommendations for future management

ASAT Team members will be available at this session to answer any questions or queries that you have in relation to your child.

The assessment will be documented in a report that will be provided to you and other involved agencies or professionals as appropriate.

After Assessment

If your child is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder the ASAT Team can provide information to professionals already involved with the care of your child to enable them to better meet your child's needs. If there is a need to involve other services to assist you or your child, the ASAT team can help with making the needed referrals.

YOUR RIGHTS

The Wodonga Regional Mental Health Service has a range of obligations in relation to consumer and carer rights under the Mental Health Act 1986 and the National Standards for Mental Health Services.

You have rights in relation to:

- access
- information
- privacy
- safety
- decision making
- advocacy
- quality of care
- consent
- confidentiality
- consultation
- participation in research
- participation in training

Refer to our brochure *Your rights and responsibilities* for a more complete description.

HAVE A QUERY OR CONCERN ?

If you have a query, comment, complaint, or just wish to give us some feedback about the care or service provided, we encourage you to raise this immediately either personally or in writing.

If you have a problem or issues you can contact:

- ◇ the NECAMHS ASAT Coordinator
- ◇ the NECAMHS Service Manager

Contact Details

Autism Spectrum Assessment Team - ASAT

c/o NECAMHS - Wodonga
155 High Street, PO Box 1644
Wodonga VIC 3689

Telephone: (02) 6024 7711
Fax: (02) 6024 7611

WODONGA REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

~ ASAT ~

North East

Autism Spectrum
Assessment Team

Information for Parents

The North East Autism Spectrum Assessment Team (ASAT) is auspiced by:

NECAMHS - North East Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service:
155 High Street Wodonga VIC 3690 Tel. (02) 6024 7711 and 23 Dixon Street Wangaratta VIC 3676 Tel. (03) 5722 4837

and is provided in partnership with: Specialist Children's Services
Department of Human Services
Hume Region VICTORIA

The Wodonga Regional Mental Health Service is committed to providing high quality mental health services to adults, children and adolescents.

Public mental health services provide specialist assessment, treatment and ongoing care to people with serious mental health problems. Services are also provided offering support and advice to their families and/or carers.

Public mental health services are funded by the Department of Human Services and are managed through the Victorian Hospital System. Services include:

- ◇ Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- ◇ Adult Mental Health Services
- ◇ Aged Persons Mental Health Services

A variety of statewide services provide treatment for clients with special needs.

Mental health services staff work closely with GPs and other health and community care providers in order to deliver the best possible care.

GENERAL CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

General child and adolescent mental health services are provided by NECAMHS and are available to young people aged up to 18 years with serious psychiatric disturbance or who are at risk of such disturbance.

Referrals can be made either through schools, community health centres, local doctors or by direct family contact with NECAMHS.

NECAMHS operates from Wodonga and Wangaratta, providing community mental health services to children, adolescents and their families who live in the Cities of Wodonga and Wangaratta, and the Indigo, Towong, Delatite and Alpine Shires.

AUTISM SPECTRUM ASSESSMENT TEAM (ASAT)

The Autism Spectrum Assessment Team (ASAT) is a government funded community service provided to children and their families through the North East Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (NECAMHS).

ASAT provides specialist assessment for children in North East Victoria aged six years and under, who show signs of autism and may already be receiving a range of specialist services.

The ASAT meets monthly and comprises professionals who have special skills relating to autism spectrum disorders, including a:

- ◇ Child Psychiatrist
- ◇ Occupational Therapist
- ◇ Paediatrician
- ◇ Psychologist
- ◇ Speech Pathologist

Children with autism spectrum disorders may have a range of developmental problems, including difficulties with:

- communication
- social interactions
- behaviour

The symptoms may present in varying degrees and problems may be identified by a range of people, including:

- parents
- other family members
- maternal & child health nurses
- preschool teachers
- child care workers
- medical practitioners
- early intervention workers

Referral

Referrals to ASAT may come from a variety of sources, including paediatricians, early intervention workers and parents.

Referrals are made by telephoning the receptionist at NECAMHS-Wodonga on (02) 6024 7711 during business hours. You will be put in touch with the duty worker, who is a qualified health professional.

The duty worker will take some details over the telephone and if appropriate, make arrangements for an initial interview with you and your child.

Initial Interview

At the initial interview the NECAMHS intake worker will seek more detailed information about your child and will talk to you about your concerns. The intake worker will also provide you with further information about ASAT and answer any queries you have about the service.

The intake worker will usually ask for your permission to contact other people such as your paediatrician, GP, early intervention worker, maternal and child health nurse, preschool teacher and other agencies that have been providing services to you and/or your child.

Following the initial interview, if appropriate, you will be notified by mail of the date for the ASAT assessment. The referring person, if not already advised, will also be informed of the arrangements for the team assessment.

Prior to the team assessment, individual ASAT team members may contact you to arrange assessments or observations of your child. They may also, with your permission, contact other service providers that have been involved in supporting you and your family to seek further background information. Referrals to other agencies may also be arranged if you are not already receiving appropriate services.

Because of the high level of demand on the ASAT Team, if the service is appropriate, you are likely to be placed on a waiting list. The intake worker will advise you of the estimated assessment date.