

# ASD Diagnosis



Dr Ward can make a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). At least one in-person appointment is required to consider and make a diagnosis. Multiple appointments are often required.

For patients with **severe** developmental disorders highly suggestive of autism (ie: non-verbal, with stereotypic behaviours and severe social disabilities), the diagnosis of ASD can be made by Dr Ward during a consultation. These patients may also benefit from further psychology and speech pathology assessments.

In all other cases, for Dr Ward to consider a diagnosis of ASD, the patient must meet DSM-5 criteria. This includes having persistent deficits in social communication and displaying restricted, repetitive behaviours resulting in functional impairment.

Please refer to the [CDC ASD criteria](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/hcp-dsm.html) at <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/hcp-dsm.html>.

In order to clarify whether a patient with **mild or moderate** ASD symptoms meets these criteria, the patient must have the following assessments completed:

- a psychology assessment that includes an observational assessment (ADOS)
- a speech and language assessment that includes core, expressive, receptive and pragmatic language assessments
- a functional assessment (such as a Vineland assessment)
- a cognitive assessment (WISC or WPSSI) to exclude intellectual disability.

Dr Ward will provide an opinion as to whether a child meets criteria for ASD based on the patient history, clinical examination and allied health assessments.

Please note: a psychology or speech pathology assessment that concludes a child meets criteria for ASD may not necessarily result in an autism diagnosis being made by Dr Ward.