

## **Autism Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Clinic (sits under General Medicine)**

The Autism Multi-Disciplinary Assessment Clinic (AMDAC) clinic is a secondary level consultation/assessment clinic for children whose primary health practitioner (GP) has raised concerns regarding a possible diagnosis on the autism spectrum.

Referrals will also be accepted from Paediatricians who require allied health input to further investigate an Autism diagnosis.

The clinic is staffed by a Paediatrician, Speech Pathologist, Occupational Therapist and Audiologist. Assessment will take place over two weeks. The child will see the Paediatrician and Audiologist in week one then in week two will see the Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist. The team will then hold a case conference and the Paediatrician will provide feedback to the family.

Tertiary level services, such as Developmental Medicine Team 2 or Travancore-Specialist Autism Assessment Team exist within the Royal Children's Hospital. These services offer comprehensive assessment for children who present with multiple and complex problems associated with a possible Autism diagnosis.

After assessment children will be referred for paediatric medical follow up where possible in the community close to home, or to a relevant secondary RCH service. They will also be referred to Early Childhood Intervention Services, support services and/or community allied health services as appropriate and depending on the diagnosis.

If needed, children will be referred to the appropriate tertiary assessment services at RCH.

### **Criterion for Intake**

- Referral from GP with query related to ASD or concerns in the area of communication, social and behaviour problems
- Referrals will also be accepted from Paediatricians who require allied health input to further investigate an Autism diagnosis.
- Age: 0-school entry
- Priority will be given to children living in the North West region of Melbourne.
- This clinic will operate using the Medicare item numbers for Autism assessment.

### **An alternative service may be more appropriate for the following groups of children**

- Significant developmental delay
- Significant physical needs
- Significant social issues or concerns
- Significant mental health issues in child or family
- Complex medical history/needs.
- Previous assessment by an Autism Assessment team-review or second opinion required.
- Formal cognitive assessment is required.