

Child Development Unit

How to make referral to CDU most effective

To assist patients receiving the best possible collaborative management, we are always happy to discuss CDU referral directly with referring paediatricians by phone or email. This clarifies what CDU assessment is most relevant, what timing is most appropriate and what other management might occur while awaiting CDU assessment. This enables us to prioritise resources to those children and families who most need tertiary assessment.

CDU provides a tertiary multidisciplinary diagnosis and assessment, and where relevant, consultant paediatrician opinions; we are unable to provide isolated psychometric assessment services. School students at Public Schools are able to access psychometric and academic assessment via the school counsellor. Access to these assessments for Students enrolled in Independent and Catholic Education School may vary between schools and it is important to liaise with the school principal to discuss what might be available. Psychometric assessment is available privately or through the University Clinics.

Preschool children should be referred to their local diagnostic and assessment centre in the first instance.

Other information available on <http://www.chw.edu.au/prof/services/CDU>

Before referral to CDU please consider:

- Referring for specific allied health assessment and intervention e.g. speech therapy , occupational therapy or clinical psychologist
- Where the clinical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder has been made, to refer to the Autism Advisor to lodge application for the Helping Children with Autism package, and allow for early intervention to commence while waiting for developmental assessment
- Formal hearing and vision assessment
- Where laboratory investigations are indicated, to include the recommended genetic testing i.e. DNA for Fragile X and on a separate form request array CGH following appropriate informed consent. This allows for Medicare rebate for both of the genetic tests.

Essential information to accompany referrals before intake proceeds includes:

- Referral letter from paediatrician to named consultant (Dr Silove, Hutchins or Bennett)
- Completed CDU Referral form (see below)
- Information of other services involved
- Copies of available previous and current assessments and reports.
- For school age children, essential information includes school reports, teacher descriptions of strengths, vulnerabilities and specific support strategies, assessments of academic, cognitive and behaviour skills and comments on your discussion with school

We trust that helps achieve optimum outcomes for our patients. CDU intake staffs are available if you wish to discuss further.

It is essential to complete Referral Form; you may wish to share it with the family doctor