

SERVICE EXPLANATION

At Damien Tuffano Psychology (DTP) diagnosis, assessment and evidence-based treatment are provided for a wide range of mental health difficulties impacting school aged children, adolescents and young adults.

DTP is based in the Sutherland Shire and Principal Clinical Psychologist Damien Tuffano has been working with children, adolescents, and young adults for over 15 years. DTP offers services face to face or via Telehealth.

In order for psychological services to be provided, consent must be provided. This will either occur from an individual providing their own consent or in the case of a child, a parent providing consent.

CONSENT & PERMISSION TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION FORM

Permission to consult / release information is needed if the case requires liaison with any third party (e.g., school staff, medical practitioners, allied health professionals etc.). Written consent for such liaison is essential (except for referrers).

The consent form is accessible on the website and is to be submitted prior to the initial appointment.

The consent of all legal guardians is required. As such, please inform your psychologist if there are custody or legal disputes or court orders. A copy of court orders or related documentation should be provided to the psychologist prior to your initial session. It is the responsibility of the parent to disclose these matters to the psychologist. If this information is withheld, treatment will be discontinued.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All personal data collect during psychological services will remain confidential except under the following circumstances:

1. The information is subpoenaed by a court of law
2. Failure to disclose the information would place the individual or another person at risk of harm.
3. Permission / consent has been obtained to provide or receive information from another professional or agency, such as their school, GP, paediatrician, or legal representative.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Although DTP endeavours to provide high quality assessment, diagnosis, and intervention services there are limitations regarding what the service is equipped to manage. As such, some presentations will not be suitable for the services offered at DTP. These include:



Damien Tuffano Psychology

- ASD Level 2 and 3
- Nonverbal individuals
- Moderate or severe intellectual disabilities
- Children under 6
- Children demonstrating sexualised behaviours.

If you have any queries regarding whether your child may meet exclusion criteria, please get in touch to discuss the presenting issues further.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments are to be booked in advance. A standard consultation is 50-minutes. It is important that you arrive on time for your appointment as late arrival will result in reduced time for your session while the full session fee will still be charged.

The first appointment is typically a parent interview. Please do not bring your child with you to this initial appointment as a thorough background will be taken and being able to discuss your concerns candidly is critical.

Please ensure all intake forms and your referral / Mental Health Care Plan have been completed and either emailed through prior to your session or brought with you on the day.

CANCELLATION AND MISSED APPOINTMENTS POLICY

- Failing to attend an appointment on any day with **less than 48 hours notice will result in 50% of the session fee being charged.** Cancellations **within 24 hours will attract 100% of the session fee being charged.** Further appointments will not be scheduled until the balance has been paid.
- Given the high demand for psychological services, clients that cancel with late notice or miss either 2 consecutive or a total of 3 visits during a course of treatment will be removed from our booking calendar and will be referred to another service.

SESSION FEES

Sessions with a clinical psychologist are \$260 for a 50-minute session and \$230 for a registered psychologist. This fee is prior to a Medicare rebate. Medicare rebates are available with a valid referral from a GP, Paediatrician or Psychiatrist.

Payment must be made at the time of appointment. Future appointments may only occur if existing invoices have been settled. DTP is a cashless practice. If your appointment is via Telehealth, payment can be made via direct deposit to the account below. Please add the client's name and invoice number in the description.

- **BSB:** 062-692
- **Account No:** 7305 1040

An invoice will be emailed following the session. This can then be used to make a claim through Medicare to receive a rebate.

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