

# Neurodivergence & CF (Children)

Neurodiversity is a term used to describe how some people see the world and process things differently. Children with CF who are neurodiverse may be diagnosed with disorders like attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

There is growing evidence that ADHD rates are higher in children with CF than in the general population and anecdotal evidence suggests ASD rates are also higher in children with CF. More research is required to understand neurodiversity in CF and explore any potential links between CFTR function and neurodiversity



## Developmental Delay

If you are concerned your child is not meeting their milestones, it's important to see your GP for assessment. You may be referred to the [WA Child Development Service](#) (approx. 3 year wait) or a private paediatrician. Your child may benefit from being reviewed by a speech pathologist, occupational therapist (OT), social worker or psychologist. Please ask your GP for a mental health care plan when seeking this support. Wait lists are extremely long in both the public and private systems. [Perth Kids Hub](#) have information on the availability of paediatricians in WA.

If your child has been assessed as having developmental delay – you can apply to the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) (NDIS) for OT, psychology, social work, physiotherapy and other therapy providers. [Wanslea](#) have more information.

## ASD

If you think your child may have traits of ASD, three professionals need to agree on the diagnosis. A paediatrician/child psychiatrist, a psychologist and a speech pathologist. [The Autism Association WA](#) also offers diagnostic clinics at a subsidised cost for people under 18.

Due to the long wait list for paediatricians in WA, NDIS will provide funding if there is a report from a speech pathologist and a psychologist with an autism diagnosis.

## ADHD

If you are concerned your child may have ADHD, please see your GP for a referral to a paediatrician or child psychiatrist.

## CFWA Support

CFWA's psychosocial team can offer general support and guidance. We also have mental health gap funding available. Read more [here](#).