SA INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY HEALTH SERVICE (SAIDHS)

Service Information

The SA Intellectual Disability Health Service (SAIDHS) is a state-wide, specialist health service funded by SA Health which provides medical, mental health and Allied Health assessment and consultation for adults with intellectual disabilities and complex needs.

What is an Intellectual Disability?

Intellectual disability is a lifelong condition that originates between birth and age 18 that affects a person's ability to learn, communicate, retain information, and undertake everyday activities. A person's intellectual disability may be classified as mild, moderate, severe, or profound based on the intensity of support they require.

A person with mild intellectual disability can usually live independently with minimal supports and have their health needs met by mainstream health services. A person with a severe or profound intellectual disability is likely to require extensive daily support for things like communication, personal care, preparing meals, and managing money. Their health needs may require support from a specialist health service such as SAIDHS.

WHO DO WE SEE AT SAIDHS?

SAIDHS provides comprehensive health assessment and planning for adults with moderate, severe or profound intellectual disabilities *and* complex care needs to support ongoing care by mainstream health services.

For consumers with mild intellectual disabilities, SAIDHS are able to advise on where to access appropriate health services and can provide clinical advice and support to clinicians working within mainstream health services if required.

Please note that SAIDHS does NOT provide the following services:

- Emergency or crisis service
- Ongoing medical or psychiatric management
- IQ assessments
- Case management
- Assessment/medication advice for Autism or ADHD in the absence of other referral criteria

WHAT DO WE DO?

SAIDHS works as a multi-disciplinary team comprising Rehabilitation Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry, Nursing and Allied Health clinicians. By working closely with the consumer, families, mainstream health services, carers and disability service providers, SAIDHS will provide health consultation, assessment and planning to support ongoing care by mainstream health services. Short term follow-up may be provided by SAIDHS if required. Services are generally provided in an outpatient clinic based at Ingle Farm. Home visiting services and telehealth appointments may be organised based on patient need, staff availability and service demand.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CLINIC?

An initial appointment at SAIDHS will usually take 60 – 90 minutes and should be attended by the patient, their legal guardian (if appointed) and a support person with a good knowledge of the persons care needs. At the first appointment, the SAIDHS clinician will ask questions about the person's current health, the reason for referral to SAIDHS, previous healthcare experiences or supports they have received, and any challenges they are experiencing. The assessment may involve a physical examination and blood tests if required. SAIDHS will only perform these assessments if the patient is comfortable to do so.

Depending on the patient's care needs, they may need a review appointment, or referral to see another SAIDHS clinician. This will be discussed at the end of each appointment.

A detailed report including assessment and management suggestions will be sent to the referring doctor after an assessment has been completed (this may take more than one appointment). Copies of the report may be shared with other parties by mutual agreement.

DO I NEED A REFERRAL?

Yes, patients require a referral to be seen at SAIDHS. Referrals should be made by a GP or other health/disability care provider. If the person with intellectual disability is unable to access a GP service, please contact SAIDHS on 8257 7300 to discuss alternate referral pathways.

GETTING TO SAIDHS

SAIDHS is located at: **GP Plus Super Clinic Gillies Plains**

1 Gillies Crescent, Hillcrest SA 5086

Accessible parking is available in the visitor's carpark directly in front of the centre. The SAIDHS entrance is located at the far side of the GP Plus Super Clinic.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SA Intellectual Disability Health Service
GP Plus Superclinic Gillies Plains
1 Gillies Crescent, Hillcrest SA 5086

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Government of South Australia

Health
Northern Adelaide
Local Health Network

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