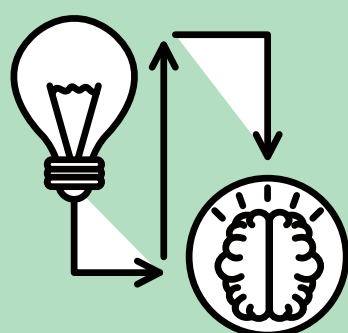


CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS AND STROKE



One in two survivors of stroke have cognitive impairments, including in memory, attention, thinking speed, planning and problem solving. Emotional changes including depression and anxiety also occur much more frequently post-stroke than in the general population.



One in four people in the world will have a stroke in their lifetime.

\$32B

In 2020, the estimated cost of stroke in Australia was \$6.2 billion in direct financial impact, and a further \$26.0 billion in mortality and lost quality of life and wellbeing.

QUALITY OF LIFE

These cognitive and psychological consequences have a major impact on survivors' quality of life and capacity to participate in meaningful roles such as work.



UNMET NEEDS

Cognitive and emotional consequences of stroke are also the greatest areas of long-term unmet need post-stroke. One major barrier is access to clinical specialists who can assess and treat these conditions.

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGISTS



Clinical neuropsychologists are specialists in assessment and rehabilitation of the cognitive, emotional and behavioural consequences of brain conditions like stroke.

The Stroke Foundation recommends that all stroke services should have access to clinical neuropsychologists. Yet in their 2020 National Stroke Audit, **over 50% of stroke services reported no access to a neuropsychologist**. This creates unnecessary inequality and disadvantage, and prevents stroke survivors fulfilling their potential to contribute productively to the community.

There is an urgent need for state and federal governments to provide funds and resources to universities to train clinical neuropsychologists, and to health services to employ a clinical neuropsychology workforce across metropolitan, regional and rural areas to meet the needs of people with brain conditions such as stroke.

