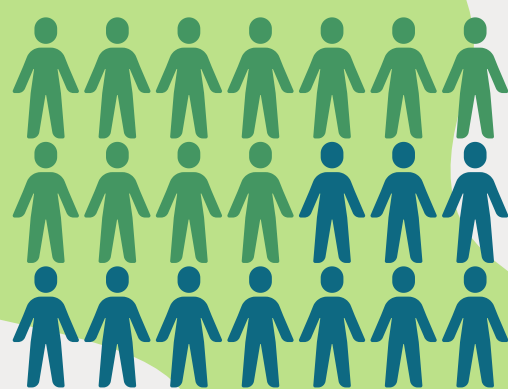


Traumatic brain injury & concussion

Why clinical neuropsychologists are needed

Traumatic brain injury (TBI)

is the **most common cause of disability** in young people in Australia. Up to 30,000 Australians are hospitalised each year with TBI.



Over \$8.6 billion

is the total annual cost of TBI in Australia. The annual per-case cost of severe TBI is higher than most comparable health conditions.



50%

Over half of TBI survivors have cognitive impairments

including in memory, attention, and speed of thinking.

Emotional and behavioural changes including depression, anxiety and poor impulse control are also common.



These "hidden disabilities" majorly impact quality of life

and capacity to participate in work and social relationships.

Mild TBI or **concussion** can also result in persisting difficulties.

Clinical neuropsychologists

are specialists in assessment, diagnosis and rehabilitation of the cognitive, emotional and behavioural consequences of brain conditions like TBI. They can:

- Identify **cognitive, emotional and behavioural** difficulties & their causes through comprehensive neuropsychological evaluation
- Determine **capacity** to work, make decisions about support needs and finances, and participate in meaningful activities
- Guide **treatment planning**
- Use **psychoeducation** and **counselling** to assist with resolution of post-concussion symptoms
- Provide **support and interventions** for cognitive, emotional and behavioural difficulties

CALL TO ACTION!

Many people with a brain injury do not have access to or funding for these neuropsychology services. There is an **urgent need** for state and federal governments to provide more funds and resources to universities to train more clinical neuropsychologists, and to health services to employ an adequate clinical neuropsychology workforce across metropolitan, regional and rural areas.