

Independent medicolegal assessments for solicitors and insurers

Information for solicitors, insurers and referrers



BeWell provides independent psychiatric, psychological and occupational therapy assessments for personal injury, workers' compensation, motor vehicle injury, insurance and capacity matters. Our assessors are senior practitioners who remain active in clinical practice, so their opinions are grounded in current treatment and real-world functioning rather than assessment work alone; you can read their qualifications and experience on the [Our Providers page](#). Every report is quality reviewed before it is released, which means it answers the questions you ask directly, shows its reasoning and is clear about where the evidence runs out.

Who we assess for

- Plaintiff and defendant solicitors in personal injury and compensation matters
- Workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers
- Motor vehicle injury claims, including matters involving the Insurance Commission of WA
- Life, total and permanent disability and income protection insurers
- Matters involving capacity, guardianship and estate questions

Assessments we provide

- **Psychiatric** – diagnosis, causation, prognosis, treatment needs, capacity for work and, where requested, assessment of permanent impairment.
- **Psychological** – psychological injury and its impact, cognitive assessment, symptom validity and the effect of injury on daily functioning.
- **Occupational therapy** – functional capacity, activities of daily living, care and support needs, and work capacity evaluations.
- **File reviews and supplementary reports** – responses to further questions, comments on other experts' reports and second opinions.

Because our psychiatrists, psychologists and occupational therapists work in the same practice, we can coordinate assessments when a matter needs more than one discipline, and keep the timing and communication in one place rather than across several providers.

● Independence and the duty to the court

Our assessors understand that their overriding duty is to the court, not to the party who engages them. In line with the Harmonised Expert Witness Code of Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of Western Australia, every report we prepare:

- acknowledges the code of conduct and the assessor's duty to the court;
- stays within the assessor's area of expertise, and says so when a question falls outside it;
- distinguishes clearly between facts, assumptions and opinions;
- considers the evidence in a balanced way, including material that does not support a conclusion; and
- states when the information available is insufficient to reach a firm opinion, and what further information would help.

● What our reports include

- The questions asked, answered in order and in plain language
- A summary of the documents reviewed and the history obtained
- Findings from interview, mental state or functional examination, and any standardised measures used
- Diagnosis or functional findings, with the reasoning that supports them
- Opinions on causation, prognosis, treatment and capacity, as requested
- The assessor's qualifications and the code of conduct acknowledgement

Quality review

Every report is quality reviewed before it is released. The review checks that each question has been answered, that the documents relied on are listed accurately, and that the report is clear, complete and internally consistent. The opinions remain the assessor's own. The review never changes an assessor's conclusions, which is as it should be given their duty to the court.

● Timeframes

We usually offer an appointment within four weeks of receiving a complete brief, and deliver the quality-reviewed report within ten business days of the assessment. If a matter has a hearing or limitation date, tell us when you refer and we will confirm before booking whether we can meet it.

● For the people we assess

We understand that being referred for an independent assessment can feel daunting, and we work hard to make it easier. Our professional, objective and friendly specialists will explain who they are, why you have been referred and how the information will be used, and you are welcome to ask questions at any point.

Your appointment may be in person at our Nedlands rooms, via telehealth or at your home. Wherever it is, our goal is to make the process smooth and easy, with as little worry as possible.

If you are planning to attend with a third party – such as a support person, guardian or interpreter – or have any other particular needs, please let us know beforehand so we can discuss this with you and make any practical

arrangements.

Our [What to expect page](#) explains how appointments run.

● How to brief an assessor well

A clear brief is the single biggest influence on a useful report. Before you refer, it helps to have:

1. The specific questions you would like answered, numbered.
2. The relevant legal tests or definitions the assessor should apply, if any.
3. Relevant medical records, treating practitioner reports and previous assessments.
4. Any surveillance, statements or other material you intend to put to the assessor.
5. Key dates – the incident, claim, hearing and any limitation dates.
6. The client's contact details, any interpreter or accessibility needs, and who should receive the report.

● Fees

Fees depend on the type of assessment, the volume of material to review and the questions asked, and are quoted exclusive of GST. We provide a written quote and our engagement terms, including cancellation terms, before an appointment is booked, so there are no surprises for you or your client.

● Supporting your client

Many people feel anxious about an independent assessment, and a little preparation makes a real difference to how the day goes. Our [What to expect page](#) explains the process in plain language, and you are welcome to send it to your client.

Make a referral

Send your brief through our [Make a referral page](#), email info@bewellco.com.au, or call **1300 451 494** if you would like to discuss a matter before you refer.

Sources

- Supreme Court of Western Australia – Notice to Practitioners, 6 May 2024: Practice Direction 4.5.2.1, Harmonised Expert Witness Code of Conduct. www.supremecourt.wa.gov.au/_files/Notice_to_Practitioners_6_May_2024.pdf
- District Court of Western Australia – Notice to Practitioners: Expert Witness Code of Conduct. districtcourt.wa.gov.au/_files/Notice_to_Practitioners_Expert_Witness_Code_Conduct.pdf