

Areas of Speciality in Psychology

Forensic Psychology

Forensic psychologists apply psychological knowledge, theory and skills to the understanding and functioning of legal and criminal justice systems, and to conducting research in relevant areas. They often work in criminal, civil and family legal contexts and provide services for litigants, perpetrators, victims, and personnel of government and community organisations.

Skills and competencies of forensic psychologists

- Collecting and reporting (both in written reports and oral) evidence of a psychological nature for use in legal and quasi-legal proceedings.
- Psychological assessment and report writing.
- Psychological formulation and diagnosis.
- Psychological intervention (psychoeducation; individual, group and family psychotherapies; rehabilitation).
- Program evaluation.
- Forensic interviewing.
- Research.

Clinical Neuropsychology

Clinical neuropsychologists provide assessments and treatment recommendations for people experiencing difficulties with memory, learning, attention, language, reading, problem-solving, decision-making or other aspects of behaviour and thinking abilities. Clinical neuropsychologists have advanced skills in the assessment, diagnosis and treatment planning of a range of disorders and contexts across the lifespan. Neuropsychologists are trained to understand the cognitive, emotional and behavioural effects of a wide range of conditions, including:

- Developmental
- Neurodegenerative
- Substance Abuse and Toxic poisoning
- Neurological disorders
- Psychiatric conditions
- Trauma

Clinical neuropsychologists' skills are underpinned by knowledge of brain structure, function and dysfunction, and the effects of multiple factors on cognitive, behavioural and emotional functioning.

Forensic Neuropsychology

This is a highly specialised field combining forensic psychology and clinical neuropsychology.

*"The primary responsibility of the forensic neuropsychologist is to provide **information based on scientifically validated principles and clinical methodology that is pertinent to the forensic question at hand...To best answer the forensic question, the neuropsychologist must use a methodology that has been scientifically validated on brain-impaired individuals, and can distinguish various brain conditions from each other as well as from normal variation. The methodology must be able to determine whether any dysfunction found is, in fact, the result of a neurological condition as opposed to non-neurological, psychological, or even factitious disorders"** (Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology Hom, 2003, p.826).*

Taken from: <http://www.psychology.org.au/public/psychology-types/>