

## Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

Extensive support materials are available on the SDQ developers' website, including copies of the various versions of the instrument, background information and scoring instructions. See <http://www.sdqinfo.org>. There are six versions (parent-report and youth-self report) currently specified for NOCC reporting with an additional four versions (teacher-report) that may be of use at the clinical level (see appendices).

The "1" versions are administered on admission and are rated on the basis of the preceding 6 months. The "2" follow up versions are administered on review and discharge and are rated on the basis of the previous 1 month period. The versions specified for NOCC reporting are:

- PC1 – Parent Report Measure for Children aged 04-10, Baseline version;
- PC2 – Parent Report Measure for Children and Adolescents aged 4-10, Follow up version;
- PY1 – Parent Report Measure for Youth aged 11-17, Baseline version;
- PY2 – Parent Report Measure for Youth aged 11-17; Follow up version;
- YR1 – Youth self report measure (11-17), Baseline version; and
- YR2 – Youth self report measure (11-17), Follow up version.

Please note that the item numbering in the SDQ versions is deliberately non sequential because it covers all items in all versions, both to indicate item equivalence across versions and to assist data entry, especially of translated versions. The table below indicates the items that are included in each version, the rating periods used and the broad content covered by each item.

	Informant	Parent				Young Person	
		4-10		11-17		11-17	
		Baseline	Followup	Baseline	Follow-up	Baseline	Followup
		6 months	1 month	6 months	1 month	6 months	1 month
Items	Item Content	Version					
		PC1	PC2	PY1	PY2	YR1	YR2
1-25	Symptoms	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Overall	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27	Duration	✓	x	✓	x	✓	
28-33	Impact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34-35	Follow up progress	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓
36-38	Cross-Informant information	✓	x	✓	x	x	x
39-42	Cross-Informant information	x	x	x	x	✓	x

In addition to the measures listed above, the SDQ has four 'teacher' versions, not specified for NOCC reporting, but which have considerable clinical utility in the assessment and treatment of children and adolescents. These are similar to the Parent-report versions, but do not contain "cross-informant" items. These measures are included here for information only:

- TC1 –Teacher Report Measure for Children aged 04-10 on initial contact with service (Admission);
- TC2 - Teacher Report Measure for Children and Adolescents aged 04-10 on follow up contact with service (Review & Discharge);
- TY1 - Teacher Report Measure for Youth aged 11-17 on initial contact with service (Admission); and
- TY2 - Teacher Report Measure for Youth aged 11-17 on follow up contact with service (Review & Discharge).

**Please note:**

- The various versions of the SDQ, whether in English or in translation, are copyright documents not in the public domain. Australian jurisdictions have entered into contractual arrangements with the author, Dr Robert Goodman, who holds copyright for the SDQs, to permit each jurisdiction to use the adapted SDQs and supporting resources in public mental health services. For further information about use of the SDQ, go to the [Youth in Mind website](#). This resource is for use in AMHOCN training activities.

**Interpreting SDQ scores**

<b>PARENT VERSIONS</b>	'This score is close to average - clinically significant problems in this area are unlikely'	'This score is slightly raised, which may reflect clinically significant problems'	'This score is high - there is a substantial risk of clinically significant problems in this area'
Total Difficulties Score	0-13	14-16	17-40
Emotional Symptoms Score	0-3	4	5-10
Conduct Problem Score	0-2	3	4-10
Hyperactivity Score	0-5	6	7-10
Peer Problem Score	0-2	3	4-10
	'This score is close to average – clinically significant problems in this area are unlikely'	'This score is slightly low, which may reflect clinically significant problems'	'This score is low - there is a substantial risk of clinically significant problems in this area'
Prosocial Behaviour Score	6-10	5	0-4
<b>SELF COMPLETED VERSIONS</b>	'This score is close to average - clinically significant problems in this area are unlikely'	'This score is slightly raised, which may reflect clinically significant problems'	'This score is high - there is a substantial risk of clinically significant problems in this area'
Total Difficulties Score	0-15	16-19	20-40
Emotional Symptoms Score	0-5	6	7-10
Conduct Problem Score	0-3	4	5-10
Hyperactivity Score	0-5	6	7-10
Peer Problem Score	0-3	4-5	6-10
	'This score is close to average - clinically significant problems in this area are unlikely'	'This score is slightly low, which may reflect clinically significant problems'	'This score is low - there is a substantial risk of clinically significant problems in this area'
Prosocial Behaviour Score	6-10	5	0-4

Note: This broad classification is based on information from the <http://www.sdqinfo.org/> web site © R Goodman and is derived from British norms. It is used with permission and is intended to provide a general reference range only, while more detailed clinical interpretations are being developed with Dr. Goodman. It is anticipated that Australian norms will become available.

See <http://www.sdqinfo.org/> for more information.